

# The Bridge The Bridge

Luzerne County Community College Alumni Newsletter



*"...to continue to carry out the vision of our founders to make learning available for all members of our community."*

Patricia C. Donohue, President  
Luzerne County Community College



## CREATING THE FUTURE OF LCCC

by Patricia C. Donohue, Ph.D., President

submitted for "The Bridge" Alumni Newsletter, Revised February 25, 2004

Since 1967, Luzerne County Community College has been the leader in higher education in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Fortunately, in the years preceding 1967, a group of visionary leaders had the foresight to embrace the community college concept of making education and training available for all members of the community, allowing each the opportunity to achieve his or her academic and career goals. Out of that vision and foresight LCCC was born, and the same vision continues as the guiding philosophy of our College to present day. However, we must continually supplement that vision with strategic planning to ensure that we are not only making education and training available to all, but doing so in the most effective and efficient manner that best meets the needs of the community.

Currently, Luzerne County Community College is developing a Strategic Plan to guide LCCC as it evolves and grows as a Learning College over the next five years. We are grateful to faculty and staff and many other stakeholders of the College, including our own Alumni Association, for providing us with extensive valuable input to help identify the renewed vision for LCCC that builds on our past successes. By identifying this positive core, we have built a plan that will steer the College as we continue to play an increasingly essential role in providing learning in Northeast Pennsylvania and training a skilled workforce to aid in the economic and community development of our region.

Visions statements that identify the top ten areas of focus for the College in the upcoming years comprise the central element of the Strategic Plan, with goals, objectives, and operational planning in support. LCCC will continue to place learning first, engaging learners as full partners in the learning process and ensuring that education is provided through methods that address all learning styles. We will assess our success as a learning college to ensure that our students' learning goals are met and that we are providing the appropriate skill training to ready the workforce for entry, re-entry or advancement in their careers, and the appropriate academic foundation in preparation for further learning.

Strategies to enhance programs and courses constitute another central theme in the plan. For example, the College will continue to establish itself as the region's leading Public Safety education and training provider. Already credit and non-credit courses have been added or updated, and a pole tower and smoke maze station are being constructed for credit and non-credit courses. This project, based upon the recommendation of fire, law enforcement, EMS and business representatives who gathered to discuss public safety training and facility needs, is supported by our State Representatives, the Luzerne County Fire and Rescue Association (representing 72 departments in Luzerne and surrounding counties), the District Attorney and EMS community. Enhancing opportunities for stakeholders to assist in program and course development is another goal supportive of this vision.

Allied health curricula will also continue to play a significant role in program development initiatives. LCCC graduates the largest number of registered nurses in the region. Even so, the region (like the nation) is experiencing a shortage of nurses and teachers of nursing which has prompted LCCC to seek several grants and collaborative partnerships to address the need for additional nursing professionals. For example, we received a PHEAA grant for nursing tuition that is helping us to expand our nursing class in Elk Lake. Likewise, our Dental Hygiene and Dental Assistant programs are the primary supplier of these dental health professionals in the area. Our Alumni Association's contribution toward their continuing education is exemplary of the type of programming LCCC will be developing and expanding. Similar to our other allied health fields, our advisors report that Respiratory Therapy graduates are in high demand now, and the need for Surgical Tech grads is continually increasing.

Efforts to build partnerships and expand outreach to the community, another lead vision of the Strategic Plan, will advance the College's mission of providing training and education that meets the needs of the community and makes learning available and accessible throughout our service region. Business and industry and workforce partnerships and continuing education strategies will be even more productive as they are coordinated under the newly appointed vice president of workforce and community development, Peter Balsamo, Ph.D.

Focusing on serving the varied needs of our students, strengthening faculty and staff development, and continuing to maintain a leading edge in instructional and administrative technology represent three additional focal points in the Strategic Plan. Improving the culture and communication channels on campus, maintaining and upgrading physical facilities to serve our constituents, and enhancing marketing efforts are also central themes.

At a time when community colleges are experiencing stagnant budgets from funding sources in the face of increased students and workforce needs, many initiatives will hinge upon our success in developing strategies to increase the College's outside resources and revenue, another area of concentration in our five-year plan. While we will continue to prioritize our funding needs and identify cost-saving strategies internally, our external efforts will increase as we build an aggressive grant program, develop a planned giving program, create strategies to build the College endowment, and look to our Alumni Association, which has been a great source of support in the past, to increase giving.

As we create the future of LCCC and identify strategies to continue to provide excellence in education, I hope we can count on you to help us continue to carry out the vision of our founders to make learning available for all members of our community.

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## FOUNDATION BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Foundation Board recently appointed new board members to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Shown are, from left, first row – Megan Kennedy, Mountaintop, Executive Director, First Federal Bank Foundation; Dr. Patricia C. Donohue, President, LCCC; and Kathleen Dunsmuir, Hudson, Assistant Vice President and Trust Manager, PNC Bank. Second row – John L. Augustine, III, Kingston, Director, Operations and Entrepreneurial Development, Innovation Center at Wilkes-Barre; Brian Rinker, Forty Fort, Senior Vice President, Health Delivery, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania; James F. Burke, Clarks Summit, Vice President, Commercial Loans, First National Community Bank; Leonard V. Shimko, West Pittston, President, LCCC Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors and President and CEO, Cross Valley Federal Credit Union; Jeff Stewart, Bear Creek Township, Owner/Operator, Alden Manor Complex; and Thomas A. Scappaticci, West Wyoming, Manager, Customer Services, PG Energy.



## FOUNDATION BOARD NEW OFFICERS 2004

Shown are, from left – Leonard V. Shimko, West Pittston, President and CEO, Cross Valley Federal Credit Union; Thomas E. Pugh, Hunlock Creek, CEO, Allied Services John Heinz Institute; Sandra A. Nicholas, Kingston, Executive Director, LCCC Foundation, Inc.; Michael Kehoe, Mountaintop, Alliance Asset Management; and Anthony Palermo, Pittston, NC Advisor and Immediate Past President, LCC Foundation, Inc.

Absent from photo is Anna Cervenak, Forty Fort, Director, External Affairs.



## LCCC FOUNDATION PRESENTS FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Four faculty members were recently awarded The LCCC Foundation Board of Directors' Faculty Excellence Award. The award is sponsored by the LCCC Foundation, Inc., and supplements funding for full or part-time faculty members to attend conferences or seminars to enhance their respective areas of expertise.

The 2004 recipients are Dr. Murali Panen, Gail Marshall, Karen Droms and Edward Gurtis. Dr. Murali Panen attended the American Society for Horticultural Science Centennial Conference in Providence, Rhode Island. Gail Marshall attended the The Transformative Learning Conference at Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York. Karen Droms attended the National Educational Computing Conference in New Orleans. Ed Gurtis attended the ACSM's 8th Annual Health & Fitness Summit & Exposition in Orlando, Florida.

Shown at presentation ceremonies are: from left are Dr. Murali Panen, Coordinator, Horticulture Program; Gail Marshall, Associate Professor Nursing; Karen Droms, Instructional Technologist; LCCC's President Dr. Patricia Donohue, Sandra Nicholas, Executive Director, LCCC Foundation, Inc.; and Dr. Dana Clark, Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs. Absent from the photo is Edward Gurtis, Associate Professor and Chair, Health and Physical Education.





## BRANDON FRITZ RECEIVES OUTSTANDING ADULT LEARNER AWARD

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Brandon Christian Fritz, Shamokin, received the 2004 Outstanding Adult Learner Award at LCCC. Brandon also received a scholarship in honor of the award sponsored by Mr. Allan Allan, Wilkes-Barre.

The Outstanding Adult Learner Award is presented annually in conjunction with College Misericordia, King's College, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, Wilkes University, and Luzerne County Community College. One recipient is selected from each institution and is honored at an award ceremony sponsored by the Luzerne County Council on Adult Higher Education.

Brian is a full-time student enrolled in the Social Science Curriculum. He was on the college's Dean's List for the Fall 2002 semester and the President's List for the Fall 2003 semester. Brian is a student assistant and tutor at the LCCC Shamokin Campus and a member of the PSI Beta National Honor Society in Psychology for Community Colleges. Brian is a reservist in the United States Marine Corps and a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

*These donors truly live the words of the prophet Mohammed: "A man's true wealth is the good he does in this world."*

## TWO ENDOWMENT FUNDS CREATED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

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The LCCC Foundation was the recipient of two newly endowed scholarship funds created in memory of Angela M. Parrella and Sylvia A. Senyk. Both endowments will generate funds to provide scholarship aid to deserving LCCC students.

**Angela M. Parrella, RN**, was a graduate of the Pittston Hospital School of Nursing and worked for many years as a Night Supervisor at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital until her retirement. She also did private duty nursing and worked for the American Red Cross Mobile Blood Program. An active and dedicated volunteer throughout her life, Angela served as president of the Pittston Hospital Alumni Association and an officer of the Pennsylvania Nurses Association, District 3. She was an original member of the Pittston Business and Professional Association.

Angela will be remembered for her nursing skills and her years of dedication to nursing and loving care of the sick. She was also well known for her gardening expertise. In her memory, her niece, Rosella Fedor, donated her Estate Executrix fee to establish the endowment base, with numerous family members and friends who also contributed memorial gifts to the fund. Ms. Fedor honored her aunt's lifelong commitment to others by establishing a fund that would carry on this legacy by helping deserving LCCC students improve their lives.

The Angela M. Parrella Scholarship is awarded each year to a second year adult learner with first preference being given to students majoring in Nursing and who exhibit a strong work ethic and commitment to caring for others.

Develop



The **Sylvia A. Senyk** Endowed Memorial Scholarship was established in 2003 by Basil Senyk, Professor Emeritus at LCCC in memory of his wife. Mrs. Senyk was a native of Scranton who dedicated her life to her family and the community. She volunteered for many community and civic organizations, serving as a Sunday School teacher, a volunteer in Girl Scouts and was also a leader in church activities.

She and her husband were particularly moved by the plight of orphans in the former Soviet Union after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Having visited Russia twice and seeing first hand the absolute need of the orphans, Mr. and Mrs. Senyk began to help several orphanages, one just east of Moscow in the town of Kaluga. Mr. Senyk continues this support to this day.

The Senyk Scholarship is available to LCCC students who have completed 30 credits toward a business related degree at the College in one of the following areas: Paralegal, International Business, Health Care Administration, or Purchasing in either the Business Administration or Business Technology curriculum.

# LCCC FORMS CONSORTIUM WITH AREA ORGANIZATIONS ON NANOTECHNOLOGY GRANT

**Streamlined program will allow students to complete a four-year degree with seamless transfer of credits.**

Luzerne County Community College was the lead applicant for a nanotechnology grant from the PA Department of Economic and Community Development, which provided \$300,000 and the opportunity for students to move seamlessly from high school to the baccalaureate level.

Wilkes University, LCCC, Crestwood Area Vocational Technical School and the Hazleton Area Career Center have formed a consortium to develop and implement the nanotechnology program. High school students will be able to transfer credits earned through a secondary "Tech Prep" program into the new Associate's Degree program in Nanotechnology at LCCC, and then transfer to Wilkes University for the Bachelor of Science Degree in General Engineering. The program started in the spring of 2004, and will improve the supply of potential employees to jobs that have been made more technical by the rapid advancement of technology.



*Shown from left, First row: Jeff Pierontoni, technology instructor, Crestwood School District; David Wells, director, Division of Engineering, Wilkes University; Jacqueline Stash, program director, NEPA Tech Prep Consortium; and Susan Spry, associate dean, Workforce Development, LCCC.*

*Second Row, from left: Joan Bush, director, Counseling and Academic Advising, LCCC; Debora Boyson, counselor, Counseling and Academic Advising, LCCC; Mark Rutkowski, coordinator, Innovative Technology, LCCC; Rich Duffy, assistant superintendent, Crestwood School District; and Joe DeSanto, chairperson, Engineering and Trade Technologies Department, LCCC.*

# LCCC AWARDED GRANT FOR PILOT PROGRAM THROUGH ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

LCCC was awarded a \$357,500 grant from the PA Department of Health through the Robert Wood Johnson State Action for Oral Health Access Grant. Pennsylvania is one of only six state grant recipients from a pool of 36 states for funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This grant will fund a pilot demonstration program at LCCC to improve access to oral health care for the underserved by broadening the provider network.

A regionally based team of organizational partners consisting of Luzerne County Community College (LCCC), Sun Area Career and Technology Center (Sun Votech), the Northcentral Pennsylvania AHEC (NCPA AHEC), Pennsylvania College of Technology (PCT) and six safety net dental clinics in Northcentral Pennsylvania propose to work together in order to improve the quantity and distribution of the Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) workforce in the region, especially in underserved areas, and to improve the prevention and early detection of oral disease, especially in children. The service area of this project, which begins September 1, 2004, will include twelve rural counties in Northcentral Pennsylvania.

The project will develop and expand an EFDA training curriculum, establish a new EFDA didactic training site and up to six new EFDA clinical training sites, and, develop and implement a dental continuing professional education program that teaches dental professionals the EFDA scope of work and how to utilize the EFDA in a dental practice.

## LCCC AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS GRANTS



Shown are, from left, first row - Peggie Rood, Shavertown, director, ALTA program, LCCC; Carmen Sanchez, Anny G. Castillo, Thelma Henriquez, Nadia Veras, Roberto Aliaga, and Santo Mateo, all ALTA students from Hazleton.

Second row - Vilma Martinez, Birmania Hernandez, Jesus Chuta, Elisa Lopez, Marcelino Tineo, Maria Isabel Munoz, and Yadira Moreno, all ALTA students from Hazleton.

Third row - Jannette Cruz, Airriana Suarez, Isaura Pine, Antonella Torino, Robert Peia, Casudo Medrono, Edalys Mendez, Myrtadaly Mendez, Mercedes Maldonado, all ALTA students from Hazleton; Eileen Kane, Wilkes-Barre, ESL coordinator, ALTA program, LCCC; and Susan Roman, White Haven, ESL instructor, ALTA program, LCCC.

### Verizon Foundation Supports LCCC Workforce Training Project

LCCC was one of only five community colleges in Pennsylvania to receive awards under the Verizon Workforce Development Initiative. "These grants will expand the educational opportunities for students and improve the ability of Pennsylvania's community colleges to serve their communities," said Daniel J. Whelan, president and CEO of Verizon Pennsylvania.

LCCC received a \$50,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation to help establish a wireless, portable computer lab for the online General Equivalency Diploma (GED) connection at the College's Hazleton Center and the downtown Wilkes-Barre Center.

The online GED connection is designed to help the Adult Learners Training and Assistance Program address the needs of Hispanic and other minority populations in these communities.

Each proposal in the competitive process was evaluated based on how the use of technology could benefit students and teachers; what the project's impact would be on the community; how it would demonstrate collaborations to improve organizational efficiency; and how results would be measured.

"The Verizon Foundation promotes partnerships in technology with organizations serving the needs of diverse communities, people with disabilities and the economically and socially disadvantaged," said Anna Cervenak, External Affairs Representative for Verizon. "I am so pleased that LCCC was ready, recognized a need in the community and partnered with Verizon to address that need. The College was up against some topnotch competition and rose to the top" she said.

The grant will provide computer support for both the GED and Adult Learners Training and Assistance (ALTA) programs.

## LCCC PARTNER IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY GRANT

**Program will provide students with the opportunity to move from high school to a four-year school with ease.**

The Information Technology Security Pipeline Program grant provided \$298,614 to Luzerne County Community College, the West Side Area Vocational Technical School, and College Misericordia, the lead applicant.

Starting in the spring of 2004, the aforementioned consortium will provide the opportunity to transfer credits from a secondary program to the four-year level. Students can begin with a "Tech Prep" program in computer maintenance/technology or computer programming, transfer into LCCC's new Associate's Degree in Cyber Security Administration, and then transfer to College Misericordia's Bachelor of Science Degree/Certificate in IT Security. Companies need to protect their information and information systems from loss of integrity, authenticity, and confidentiality, and the pipeline program will help them meet their goals.

# FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leonard V. Shimko  
*President*

Thomas Pugh  
*First Vice President*

Anna Cervenak  
*Second Vice President*

Mike Kehoe  
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Annette Morris

Lisa Owens

August J. Piazza

Brian J. Rinker

Patrick J. Salmon

David Sawicki

Thomas A. Scappaticci

Midred Slocum

Jeff Stewart

Rose Tucker

- President, LCCC  
Patricia C. Donohue, Ph.D
- Immediate Past President,  
LCCC Foundation  
Anthony Palermo
- Executive Director  
Sandra A. Nicholas

## YOUR GIFT IS IMPORTANT

Your gift to the Luzerne County Community College Foundation provides a "Bridge to the Future" not only to traditional students, but also to our entire community. Approximately 75% of our graduates remain in Northeastern Pennsylvania to live and work, contributing to the strength of the region. LCCC students represent all segments of the community: traditional students planning on transferring to a four year institution; students receiving technical training or career education; non-credit life-long learners; single mothers preparing to enter the workforce; or displaced workers moving on to a new career; are all part of LCCC's constituency. Large portions of our student body attend classes in the evening and work full time to support their families. We provide a second chance for many people to succeed in life.

That is why making a gift to the Foundation is tremendously important to LCCC. Gifts to scholarship help people start their future or improve their lives and the lives of their families. Gifts to the Annual Fund touch all facets of the College's operation, providing resources we need for operating expenses, such as financial aid, information technology and modern equipment.

Like many colleges today, LCCC faces increased demands on its operating budget. The cost of other essentials, such as new technology and library materials, is also escalating.

With government funding decreasing, we can no longer simply increase tuition to meet these added expenses. Instead, the College has made every effort to control costs and streamline operations. But to meet the needs of our students and the region in the future, we must rely on gifts to the College from alumni, parents and friends.

## WAYS TO GIVE

### Cash

The easiest way to give, cash gifts offer a tax deduction for the full amount of the gift in the year it is made. Pledges may be paid over a period of three to five years. Your company may match your gift to the college with an equivalent gift of its own.

### Stocks or Securities

Much like cash, gifts of stock are tax deductible at full fair market value. The donor is not taxed on long-term capital appreciation.

### Personal Property

Assets related to the educational mission of LCCC (books, art, scientific or historical collections, etc.) generate tax deductions equal to the fair market value of the gift. Gifts of property unrelated to the college's purpose are deductible on the basis of cost to the donor.

### Wills and Trusts

Bequests may be made of entire or partial estate after other inheritance intentions are honored.





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON AUGUST PIAZZA



In 1967 there was a great deal of excitement in Luzerne County with a new Community College being established to educate the people of northeastern Pennsylvania. The original campus was located in the Hotel Sterling Annex in Wilkes-Barre and it officially opened its doors on October 2, 1967. This new educational opportunity gave hope to young people who were unable to afford tuition at a four-year institution or were unsure of their career options while they were in high school. For the students, faculty and administration it was a brand new learning facility on the banks of the Susquehanna River in an exciting college town that was full of life with numerous department stores, specialty shops, unique eateries and movie theaters.

One young man who opted to continue his education at LCCC was August "Augie" Piazza. One day, Augie received a phone call from his high school coach and math teacher who told him about the new College. At the time Augie was a student at King's College and was struggling to afford the price of books and tuition. He checked into LCCC and based on its low tuition of just \$12.50 a credit he was convinced this was a great chance for an affordable college education.

As Augie reflects back on the fond memories at LCCC he remembers College staff members Jim Atherton, George McCutcheon, Marge Campbell and David Duncan who touched the lives of so many students through their sincere and caring daily guidance. As for his professors, he remembers many, not just because they taught English or Science, but because of the passion they had for the subject. There were so many caring people on campus who fostered the spirit of cooperation including the President, the secretaries, the faculty, and even the maintenance staff. This cooperative spirit formed the foundation that molded Augie's professional views and philosophies.

As President of the Student Government Association, Augie, on occasion, met with College President Guy V. Ferrell. Dr. Ferrell always had an open-door policy and truly cared about the students. Augie remembers that the members of the College staff were people that you knew in the community and who were now part of the new Community College. In those days, as it is today, it wasn't just academia but friendship.

The first graduation ceremony was held on June 12, 1969 at the Irem Temple in Wilkes-Barre, with Congressman Dan Flood giving the principle address. Nearly 200 students received degrees that evening. Many of these graduates continued on together to earn their bachelors' degrees at four-year colleges. Friendships that were fostered during the early days of LCCC are still strong today.

After receiving his Associate Degree from LCCC, Augie transferred to Mansfield State College to pursue a degree in Education. He feels his first two years at LCCC prepared him well for the challenge of a four-year institution. He earned his bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Mansfield in 1971; and returned to his hometown to begin teaching kindergarten in the Wyoming Valley West School District. At that time, he was the first male kindergarten teacher in the district and one of only ten in the state. While teaching, Augie continued taking courses at Wilkes University and in 1975, received his M.S. in Education.

Over the next twenty-six years he served in numerous roles within the school district including: football coach, head teacher, department chair, detention monitor, history day judge, instructional support specialist, assistant Principal and Principal. He also continued his professional education at Temple University earning his Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility in 1999. In 2001 he was named Superintendent of the Wyoming Valley West School District where he still serves in that capacity.

Augie is very involved with both professional and social organizations in our community. He serves on the Pittston Area School Board, the Wilkes-Barre Area Vocational Technical School Board, and the Board of Directors of the Luzerne County Community College Foundation. He is Past President of UNICO, Wilkes-Barre Chapter and he helps to raise funds for children with special needs. He is a third degree member of the Knights of Columbus, Pittston Chapter and an adjunct faculty member at Wilkes University where he teaches graduate courses in Education.

Augie lives in Jenkins Township with his wife Corine. They have two children Maria, a sophomore at Bloomsburg University, and Jeffrey, a Bloomsburg alumnus and a successful entrepreneur/part owner of *Gelpia's* a well known restaurant in Kingston.

# PROVIDING TRAINING THAT WORKS

*Courtesy of the Times Leader*

*by Bonnie Adams*

*badams2leader.net*

**NANTICOKE** – When sheet metal worker Walter Johnson and shift supervisor Martin Yanchunis lost their jobs, they seized the chance to return to college and learn new occupations.

Fifty years old at the time, Johnson chose Luzerne County Community College because of its two-year computer information program and emphasis on work force training.

Many two-year colleges such as LCCC now stress work force development and tailor their on-and-off campus training to businesses' needs and opportunities.

"It really reflects a national trend in community colleges," said Susan Spry, LCCC associate dean of work force development unit since 1998.

President Bush identified community colleges as a key to the nation's prosperity in a recent state of the Union address. He wants to provide \$250 million in grants to community colleges to train workers for industries creating the most new jobs.

Spry said about 85 students in the work force development program are people such as Yanchunis and Johnson who have lost their jobs. "I keep thinking this is going to slow down," she said.

Johnson, of West Wyoming, was laid off in October 2002 after eight years with InterMetro Industries. He entered LCCC three months later. "Going back and doing algebra is always a challenge," he said.

Johnson, a father of a 5- and an 8-year-old, expects to graduate in May, as does Yanchunis. "I'm persistent. I'm working hard," said Johnson, 51.

Yanchunis, 36, was a shift supervisor at Flextronics Enclosure Systems in Kingston, where he worked for five years before the company moved its operations.

He said the "gold watch" days of an employee spending a career with one company are gone, but, he added "I want to find a job that's going to stick around for awhile."

Yanchunis is training to repair a variety of communications and other types of electronic equipment. "If it blinks, I can probably fix it," he said.

The Luzerne man has two children and is an electronics engineering technology major at LCCC. "Work was a lot easier. I'm buried in homework," he said.

LCCC designs curriculum to meet current and projected work force needs in more-traditional as well as newer fields.

Spry said the health-care field is a large employer here, so LCCC trains nurses, dental hygienists, surgical technicians, respiratory therapists and others. But the college also offers high-tech offerings in fields such as automation and nanofabrication manufacturing technology. Nanotechnology refers to making and using things of extremely small size such as in the semiconductor industry.

"We look at future needs," said Mark Rutkowski, LCCC associate professor of engineering technology. He helped write a state educational program grant that LCCC recently received.

The college was awarded \$300,000 for its Advanced Manufacturing Education Program with Crestwood and Hazelton Area school districts and Wilkes University. The state grants established to build future employees' skills in manufacturing, information technology and other areas.

Rutkowski said LCCC looks at national employment trends to meet future needs. "What's here today may not be here tomorrow."

Like many  
2-year schools,  
LCCC tailors  
programs to  
businesses' needs,  
opportunities...

## ALUMNI BOARD LEADERSHIP

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New Officers and Board Members were recently nominated for the 2004-2006 term. Shown at the dinner are: seated from left Elaine Flanagan '98, secretary; Lisa Owens '96, Alumni Association president; LCCC President Dr. Patricia Donohue; Jennifer Pawlowski '88, treasurer; Russell Keeler '91, vice president.

Standing from left: Melissa Taney-Williams '03, Robert W. Lange '81, Gloria Migatulski '88, LCCC Director of Alumni Relations Bonnie Lauer '87, Melissa Szafran Jones '94, Carol Dean '91, and Edward Hennigan, III, '95.



## CAREER PLANNING & PLACEMENT SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALUMNI

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The Office of Career Planning and Placement invite alumni to use the various services available to them. Job Fairs are offered at various times throughout the year with schedules listed on the website. In addition the Career Planning & Placement Office offers the following services for alumni:

- Interest Inventories (i.e. Career Assessments)
- Use of the career library (Books, videos, cd's, web resources on companies and careers)
- Registration with our job placement service
- Assistance with resumes, cover letters, and interviewing skills
- CLEP testing Monday-Friday

Visit the CP&P website at [www.luzerne.edu/students](http://www.luzerne.edu/students)

*The Career Planning & Placement Office welcomes its new director and staff:  
Mary E. Ghilani, Director (740-0456); Janet Kaczmarczyk, Secretary (Job Placement, CLEP Testing 740-0450);  
and Paula Bowman, Secretary (740-0485).*

## REMEMBER WHEN?

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This photo was taken at the Spring Formal Dinner Dance which was held at the Holiday Inn, Wilkes-Barre.

Shown seated from left are Patricia Pagnotti, Michael Nardone, Charles Valites, Marlene Mikula, Mrs. Rita Schneider. Standing from left: Dr. & Mrs. Byron Rinehimer, Mr. & Mrs. George McCutcheon and Dr. & Mrs. David Duncan.



# CLASS NOTES

**1969**

August Piazza (General Studies) is a member of the College's Foundation Board of Directors. He is superintendent of Wyoming Valley West School district and resides in Jenkins Twp.

**1970**

Mary Beth Lesko (Commercial Art) recently retired as director of volunteer resources at the White Haven Center, where she worked for 30 years. She was recently highlighted as the "Artist of the Week" in the Times Leader newspaper. Mary Beth is president of the Pennsylvania District Chapter 115 of the Colored Pencil Society of America. She is married and has two grown daughters.

**1972**

H. Allen Bellas (Mechanical Drafting and Design Technology) was named to the Luzerne County Community College Board of Trustees. Allen is an engineer with the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority and resides in Kingston.

**1974**

Mary Dolon (Education) recently joined the staff of Luzerne County Community College as the Grantswriter Specialist. She earned her bachelors degree in political science from Kutztown University and an MBA from the University of Scranton. Mary resides in Hazleton.

**1980**

Robert Malloy (Commercial Art - Graphics Design) was recently named Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center's employee of the month for September 2003. Robb has worked as the medical photographer at Geisinger for three years. He also earned a bachelor's degree in industrial / scientific photography from Brooks Institute of Photography, Santa Barbara, CA.

Neil Oberlo (Hotel and Restaurant Management) was named 2003's "Outstanding Italian-American of the Year" by the Sons of Italy Lodge 1043, Hazleton. He is the executive director of Hazleton's Catholic Social Services since 1995 and has been working and volunteering in the social service field for the past 24 years. Neil earned his bachelors of arts degree from Borromeo College, Wickliffe, OH and a MS degree from the University of Scranton. He is a national Board Certified Counselor and licensed as a professional counselor. He and his wife, Meralea, have four daughters.

**1981**

Brian J. Rinker (General Studies) recently joined the Luzerne County Community College Foundation Board of Directors. Brian is the senior vice president for health delivery at Blue Cross of NEPA. He is also a board member for Junior Achievement of NEPA and serves as both an advisory board member and adjunct faculty member at the University of Scranton.

Albert R. Sunday (General Studies) was recently promoted to the rank of Major in the United States Air Force. His duty assignments include combat

rescue, Republic of Korea; Space Shuttle Rescue, Florida and airlift support in Tokyo, Japan as the chief pilot. He has been assigned to be an exchange pilot flying Puma helicopters with the Royal Air Force in England. He and his wife, Lisa, have four children.

**1984**

Paul Halsey (General Studies) was appointed to the Luzerne County Community College Board of Trustees. He is a pharmacist with CVS and resides in Wilkes-Barre.

**1988**

Thomas Leighton (Real Estate Management Technology) was recently elected to a four-year term as Mayor of Wilkes-Barre City. Tom also holds a Business Administration degree from King's College and is a Real Estate/Insurance Broker and Certified Residential Appraiser.

**1990**

Dwight Nunemacher (Criminal Justice) was recently promoted to captain of the Kingston Fire Department. He has been a career firefighter/EMT with the Kingston Fire Department since 1990. Dwight is a PA State Certified Fire Instructor and holds a PA State Fire Fighter II certification. He resides in Kingston with his wife Joan and two children, Drew and Dana.

Donna Yuscavage RN (General Studies) is the Certified Diabetes Educator on staff at Triangle Pharmacy in Mountaintop and founder of the Mountaintop Diabetes Support Group. She received her BS degree in Nursing from Graceland University in Iowa and is a member of the Northeast Association of Diabetes Educators of Pennsylvania. Donna and her husband have three grown children.

**1992**

Michael J. Stachowski (Broadcast Communications Technology) has been named PC systems support assistant at The Pennsylvania State University's Wilkes-Barre campus. Michael is pursuing a degree in Information Sciences and Technology at Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

**1995**

Sherry Kott (Education) and Robert Onder '97 (Business Administration) were recently united in marriage. Both Sherry and Robert are employed by Regency Thermographers, Hazleton. She is a customer service representative and Robert is a purchasing agent. Robert is also pursuing a degree from Penn State University.

**1996**

Michael R. Woosman (Motorsports Technology) recently married Rachel McGlynn. Michael is self-employed at M.R. Woosman's Auto Exchange in Hallstead. The couple resides in Dallas.

Kellie Van Wert (Dental Hygiene) married Mark Laskowski in October 2003. Kellie is a quality review for CIGNA Healthcare. The couple resides in Dunmore.

**1998**

Vince Iacavino (Motorsports Technology) and Josh DeBickes '00 (Motorsports Technology) are owners of Budz Motorsports, in Plymouth Meeting, PA. They specialize in rebuilding a variety of race engines.

**2000**

John J. Pusti IV (AS/400 Application Development & Operations) recently graduated from Simmons School of Funeral Services, Syracuse NY. He was awarded the Mu Sigma Alpha Award with pendant for having achieved the highest grade point average in the class. John has successfully passed the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards and is affiliated with his family's business, the John J. Pusti Funeral Home.

**2001**

Zachary Banbury (Broadcast Communications Technology) and Lisa Cole '03 (Journalism) were recently married. Zachary is a specialist with the PA National Guard at Fort Dix, NJ awaiting deployment to Iraq.

Amber Hess (Commercial Art - Graphic Design) and Chad Diatterick were married in October 2003. Amber is employed by Ideaworks Marketing Design as a graphic designer.

Adele Perez (General Studies) and Joe Piasta (Journalism) were married in April 2003. Adele is a substitute teacher and working for Deliver USA Inc, in Jessup, MD. Joe is an assistant manager for JC Penney. They live in Columbia, MD.

Alicia Suchoski (Commercial Art - Graphic Design) earned an associate's degree in fashion design from the Art Institute of Philadelphia. She aspires to break into the fashion industry in New York City.

**2003**

Patrick Brady (Criminal Justice) was recently hired as a police officer by the Honesdale Police Department. He worked for the department as an intern while completed his degree from LCCC.

Brian Kuruts (Electrical Construction Technology) is sole proprietor of Kuruts Electrical of Forest City. Brian started the business a month after enrolling at LCCC in 2001. He is also a licensed journeyman electrician, master electrician and Leviton certified for the city of Wilkes-Barre. He plans to expand his company and open a store front in Forest City.

Eva Pogash (Health, Physical Education & Movement Sciences) recently opened Serenity on the Mountain Wellness Center, an enrichment center for the mind, body and spirit. Eva is continuing her education at College Misericordia studying psychology and is a Yoga teacher at LCCC.

## LCCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION UPCOMING EVENTS:

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**May 25, 2004** Graduate Reception, Campus Center, 7:00-9:00 pm

**June 19, 2004** Atlantic City Bus Trip

**October 16, 2004** 15th Annual Craft Festival, 10:00 – 4:00 pm, main campus.

*Please contact us if you would like to know more about these events or would like to be added to our mailing list.*

## LCCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DISCOUNT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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### **Continuing Education Courses:**

Graduates of the College are eligible for a 15% discount on non-credit courses taken through LCCC's Continuing Education Department. To receive the discount you must present your mini diploma, or another form of ID when registering in person. If registering online or by phone please mention the "Alumni Discount" program. Some exclusions apply and this offer is nontransferable. To learn more about the vast array of courses currently being offered, contact the Continuing Education department at 740-0496 or online visit the website at [www.luzerne.edu](http://www.luzerne.edu).

### **LCCC Bookstore:**

Graduates of the College are eligible for a 15% discount on purchases from the LCCC Bookstore. Textbooks and confectionaries excluded. To receive the discount you must present your mini diploma or other ID when paying.

### **Alumni are also welcome to use the following College services:**

Career Planning & Placement services are available and include:

Resume enhancement, job listings for local companies, and other professional services. Call 740-0450 for more information.

### **Cross Valley Federal Credit Union:**

Graduates of the College are eligible for membership in the CVFCU. Their many services include Share Draft / Checking Accounts, MAC / PLUS ATM cards, VISA check cards, PAL account access; direct deposit & payroll deduction, savings & investment accounts and loans made easy! The CVFCU has two offices in Wilkes-Barre and a branch in Hazleton. For more information or a membership application contact the Credit Union at 570-823-6836.

*For more information on the LCCC Alumni Association please call 740-0734 or email: [alumni@luzerne.edu](mailto:alumni@luzerne.edu).*

## RETIREE'S LISTED:

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:

Dr. Jane Brown  
Susan Capece '91  
Theodosia Castagna  
Coleen Cooper  
Louise Durako  
George Elias  
James Farrell\*  
Margaret Fitzgerald  
Jean Hrobak  
Robert Hrobak  
Maryann Hughes  
Robert Janosov  
John Robert Kelleher  
Gerald Kivler  
Edward Kobesky  
Janice Kolbeck '88  
Dr. Nancy Kosteleba  
Bernard Lankowski '83  
Esther Liuzzi  
Mary Claire Manganiello  
Ann McAlpin  
Eleanor Miller  
Mary Ann Morrissey  
Leonard Paczkowski  
Roy Pipher  
Dorothy Powers  
Vincent Prushinski  
John Sammon  
Basil Senyk  
Jeannette Sherman '82  
Dr. Sheldon Spear  
Sylvia Tomczak  
John Wills  
Veronica Witt '79  
Bonnie Yanick  
Donald Zlotek

\*deceased

## M

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

- Jan P. Aurand '74 (Social Science)
- Jeffrey A. Beach '83 (Nursing)
- Rosemary McNulty Berchem '92 (Nursing)
- John K. Brennan '88 (Business Administration)
- Paul L. Chapman '90 (Architectural Engineering Technology)
- James Chase, Jr. '84 (Hotel and Restaurant Management)
- Margaret Cinchok '76 (Nursing)
- Deborah Hegedus Clark '87 (Emergency Medical Services)
- Scott T. Conner '90 (Respiratory Therapy)
- Robert J. Coyle '00 (Social Science)
- Francis Kevin Danaher '82 (Hotel and Restaurant Management)
- Barbara E. Daubert '69 (Food Production Management)
- Sr. M. Amadeus De Freitas '75 (Nursing)
- Ann DeNoia '80 (Child Development)
- Charles J. Dombroski '90 (Building Maintenance)
- Linda Dougherty '70 (General Studies)
- Mark S. Dreisbach '85 (Mechanical Drafting and Design Technology)
- Lynn J. Drozd '02 (Building Maintenance)
- Sharon Thomas Dyson Felock '99 (Office Management Technology)
- Michele E. Elston '89 (Criminal Justice)
- Theresa M. Ely '97 (Hotel and Restaurant Management)
- Michael G. Evanko '79 (Mechanical Drafting and Design Technology)
- John F. Falvello '85 (Business Administration)
- Patricia Sue Falvello '85 (Child Development)
- William M. Feldman '99 (General Studies)
- Ann Marie Fontaine '71 (Social Science)
- William T. Ford '69 (Hotel and Restaurant Management)
- Richard Allen Frey '76 (Real Estate Management)
- John Evo Ginocchetti '86 (Emergency Medical Services)
- Agnes Gorski '83 (Real Estate Management)
- Sherri L. Harvey '93 (Criminal Justice)
- Mark Hollock '75 (General Studies)
- Timothy M. Hospodar '81 (Fire Science Technology)
- Frank J. Hynes '75 (Nursing)
- Thomas C. Ives '96 (Criminal Justice)
- Deborah Kayfield '71 (General Studies)
- James A. Keating '83 (Business Administration)
- James S. Keiper '75 (Social Science)
- Lisa S. Loisselle '91 (General Studies)
- Catherine R. McKeown '91 (Nursing)
- Edward Mithelavage '81 (Banking)
- Joseph W. Murphy '85 (Hotel and Restaurant Management)
- Christine Nicholson '88 (Word Processing Specialist)
- Edward Opet '77 (Hotel and Restaurant Management)
- Anthony D. Ranieli '96 (General Studies)
- Carol L. Rogers '88 (Accounting)
- Nancy Romanoski '88 (Nursing)
- Joseph John Serafin '96 (Broadcast Communication Technology)
- Janet Smith '86 (Office Management Technology)
- Carl G. Snyder '92 (Nursing)
- Gerald Thomas Soroko '96 (General Studies)
- Barbara A. Suffrinko '87 (Office Management Technology)
- William Swanson '80 (Criminal Justice)
- Jane Morgis Taney '74 (General Studies)
- Michael P. Troyan '72 (Business Administration)
- John Ruth Verhanovitz '71 (Electrical Engineering Technology)
- Patricia Ann Walsh '94 (Computer Graphics)
- Joseph Nicholas Yasenchak '82 (Accounting)
- Concetta Young '97 (Banking)



**Luzerne County Community College**  
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## CHECK OUT OUR NEW ALUMNI WEBSITE

Check out our new Alumni Website and Guestbook at [www.luzerne.edu/alumni](http://www.luzerne.edu/alumni). The website has the latest information on the Alumni Association activities; and, while you're there why not take a few minutes to sign our guest book!