

Fall 2007

# The Bridge

Luzerne County Community College

Alumni Magazine

We're  
**40**

A look back  
at LCCC's  
history

Interview with  
*Hell's Kitchen*  
finalist and  
alumna,  
Jen Yemola '02

A Country Girl  
Takes on  
Buckingham



**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
1967-2007

FOUNDATION & ALUMNI

2006-2007

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
of GIFTS

# WE'RE 40!

Leading the 40th Anniversary Celebration...

The 40th Anniversary Co-Chairs are no strangers to Luzerne County Community College.

August "Augie" Piazza, class of 1969, was a member of the College's first graduating class and served as the first student government president of Luzerne County Community College.

Augie has over 36 years of education experience. He graduated from Mansfield University with a Bachelor's Degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Education from Wilkes University. He also holds his Principal's certification and Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility from Temple University. Prior to his retirement, Augie was Superintendent of Wyoming Valley West School District. Augie is currently serving as Interim Superintendent at the Berwick Area School District and is also an adjunct professor at Wilkes University.

Augie also serves as a member of the Luzerne County Community College Foundation Board and Board of Trustees as well as the Co-Chair of the College's 40th Anniversary Committee.

Augie attributes much of his success to the first-rate education he received at Luzerne County Community College. "It is exciting to be involved with Luzerne County Community College. As a Board of Trustee member and Foundation member, it gives me the opportunity to give back to the school that had a positive impact on my life."

Augie resides in Jenkins Township with his wife Corine. They have two adult children, Maria and Jeffrey.

Rebecca Shedlock-McCaffrey '91 spent two years on the sidelines of the recently named James T. Atherton Gymnasium cheering the Minutemen through two winning basketball seasons. "One of my most fond memories was being a part of the team spirit and family-oriented approach Coach Jim Atherton established by including the cheerleading squad as part of his team."

After graduating from Wilkes University with both a Bachelor's as well as a Master's degree in education and spending five years in higher education development in New York City, Rebecca has returned to Luzerne County and is a member of the College's administration. Serving as Assistant to the Vice President of Workforce and Community Development and 40th Anniversary Co-Chair, Rebecca has the unique opportunity to partner with the community and local business leaders to develop and enhance their skills while promoting the College and its programs.

"Some people say you can't go home, I disagree," stated Rebecca. "Coming back to Luzerne County Community College has given me the opportunity to re-experience all the College has to offer, but from a different perspective. To witness its growth and promise for the future is why I do what I do everyday."

Rebecca resides in Dallas with her husband Matthew.

The 40th Anniversary celebration will continue through the Spring of 2008. For the latest information on the celebration, visit [www.luzerne.edu/anniversary](http://www.luzerne.edu/anniversary).



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# THEN AND NOW

BY THOMAS P. LEARY, PRESIDENT

On October 2, 1967, Luzerne County Community College opened its doors for the first time. Our official opening followed extensive research, discussion, and planning completed by a group of visionary community leaders who recognized that the key to enhancing economic development and quality of life in and around Luzerne County was to make education and training accessible and affordable for everyone in the community. From their vision and their commitment to serving their community, Luzerne County Community College was born.

These individuals laid the foundation from which we could build and grow, and from which we continue to build and grow today.

Our founders collaborated with community partners and obtained funding to establish a home for our College on River Street in Wilkes-Barre. Forty years later, we are following in their footsteps, collaborating with our partners

in the community to obtain funding for our latest facility developments: a Public Safety Training Institute and the relocation of our Health Sciences and Culinary Arts programs to downtown Nanticoke.

Early in our College's history, we developed programs such as Industrial-Mechanical Technology to meet business and industry need for a trained workforce with the related skills. Today we are creating programs in Nanotechnology and Cybersecurity Management with the same goal: ensuring a skilled workforce that meets the needs of business and industry and supports the region's economic development.

When our College opened, our creators saw the need for locating our facilities in downtown Wilkes-Barre. Later, when our leaders realized the benefit of locating our campus in the central part of the Luzerne County, we moved to a larger, 122-acre permanent site in Nanticoke. Years later, our leaders would recognize the need for room to grow, when they accepted land adjacent to the College graciously donated by the Earth Conservancy.

They further recognized the need to provide dedicated services to our students in key locations throughout our service region, and as a result, today we offer courses in 12 locations, including dedicated sites in Berwick, Hazleton, Kulpmont, Northumberland and, once again, in downtown Wilkes-Barre at our Corporate Learning Center.

The decision to develop dedicated sites in these locations was made in the same way as the decision to locate our first facility in Wilkes-Barre. Our founders established the baseline for planning and growing that we still use today.

Every advancement we have made, every new facility we have built, every new program we have developed, has simply been a continuation of the original efforts of our founders. Every step forward we take parallels the very first steps our founders took back in 1967.

Luzerne County Community College has so much to celebrate, and we owe so much of that to the tradition established by our forefathers and mothers, and carried on by our leaders of today.

These leaders have contributed to developing LCCC as the College we are today and have supported the successes of our students and graduates, such as conducting research for the Naval Laboratory; preparing for and taking GED tests; excelling academically while also realizing leadership, athletic, community service and other extracurricular skills and accomplishments; producing *The Outlook* and broadcasting through LCTV and WSFX; participating in Phi Theta Kappa or one of our other Honor Societies; or preparing for CDL licensure through Continuing Education.

Luzerne County Community College students and graduates are out in the community serving as shining examples of the positive outcomes of our academic program. Our graduates are working here at LCCC, and working in the community as CEOs and vice presidents, teachers and superintendents, lawyers, pharmacists, doctors, business owners, architects, and legislators. Our alumni have continued their education at the outstanding colleges and universities in our region and across the country, including Harvard, Temple University School of Pharmacy, University of California, Berkley, and Hershey Medical School.

Most importantly, our students are guiding our College into the future, marking the way for the many who will follow in their footsteps, and who will be part of the new LCCC of the future.

On the occasion of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Luzerne County Community College Board of Trustees and staff rededicate our commitment to making quality education and training available and accessible to all citizens of Luzerne County and our surrounding service area throughout northeastern Pennsylvania. We look forward to the achievements and successes of our future students and graduates.

*Thomas P. Leary*



# LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF LEARNING

It all started with a bold idea: create a higher education institution whose mission is to provide affordable and accessible education for all who desire to learn, regardless of wealth, heritage, or previous academic experience. Legislators drafted bills to establish the nation's first community college system. The Community College Act of 1963 authorized local communities to petition the Pennsylvania State Board of Education to sponsor and establish community colleges in the Commonwealth.

Each college needed a local sponsor, which may be a city, county, individual school district or consortium of these entities. Luzerne County Community College became a reality on December 15, 1965 when the Luzerne County Commissioners adopted a resolution agreeing to act as sponsor of a two year-college.

The commissioners appointed the County Board of School Directors to survey the needs of high school students and local employers. On September 15, 1966, the Pennsylvania Board of Education, on information presented by



the commissioners, approved the plan for the college.

And so Luzerne County Community College formally began operations on October 2, 1967. The first class of 836 students began attending classes in two buildings in downtown Wilkes-Barre located near the Sterling Hotel. The college offered 11 programs at the time with tuition at only \$12.50 per credit.

The College couldn't have arrived at a better time. As the coal industry jobs in northeastern Pennsylvania faded away, the area became a hotbed of various new businesses and industries that needed employees well trained in new technologies and trades. LCCC offered the education companies needed for their employees. With an open admission policy, low tuition, numerous academic and technical programs, and the commitment to provide a quality education to anyone who had the desire to pursue a higher education, the idea quickly caught on.

"In 1967, I was a young man with a great deal of ambition but limited financial means," said Leonard V. Shimko. "It wasn't easy getting my Associate Degree in Accounting. I held down a full-time job as well as



being a full-time student. Earning my degree and becoming a member of the first graduating class of LCCC was one of the greatest moments of my life." Shimko currently holds the position of CEO and President of Cross Valley Federal Credit Union, the largest credit union in the Wyoming Valley.

LCCC's athletic teams, Minutemen and Minutemaids, participated in swimming, basketball and wrestling at the YMCA.

Class size nearly doubled the second year. By the fall of 1968, enrollment totaled 1,500 and in 1969, the first 210 students graduated. Congressman Daniel J. Flood delivered LCCC's first commencement speech.

Dr. Sheldon Spear, professor emeritus at LCCC remembers the College's first graduation. "It was held in the unairconditioned Irem Temple on Wilkes-Barre's North Franklin Street on an unseasonably muggy evening. We sat there, students and faculty, in our caps and gowns (worn, in the case of men, over buttoned jackets and fastened neckties), while several administrators and band members droned on endlessly. Fortunately, the guest speaker was Congressman Dan Flood who, after quickly praising the graduates, exclaimed: 'It's hot. Now let's get the hell out of here!' And we did."



*Leonard Shimko '69*



Brooke Yeager was hired in the Fall of 1968, as a biology professor to a new concept in higher education — a community college. “The idea of a community college was quite a bit different,” Yeager says. “We were the new kid on the block.” Yeager started out at the College’s original Wilkes-Barre campus, next to the Hotel Sterling. “Most of the faculty were quite young in their late 20’s and early 30’s. It was a different world then.” Yeager reflected, “The Vietnam War was going on, registration was done using manila cards, and there were no computers, copy machines, or voice mail.”

During its first five years, LCCC served more than 5,000 students. Quickly outgrowing its headquarters in Wilkes-Barre, LCCC embarked on a plan to find a permanent location. The College wanted a space for expansion that was conveniently located for all residents of Luzerne County.

In January 1974, the college moved to its permanent 122-acre campus in Nanticoke. The campus consisted of nine buildings designed with the latest technology and ample classroom space to handle the rising student population.

“When I was in high school, I had an interest in construction and architecture, but wanted to understand it better before I devoted my entire life to it,”

said Charles Consagra ‘74. “I enrolled in the Architecture Program at LCCC and learned a tremendous amount about the work involved in the field. I continued my education after LCCC and received my degree in Architecture from Boston Architectural College. My LCCC teacher even helped me find my first job.” Consagra is a principal with Highland Associates in Clark Summit.

By the end of the decade, LCCC offered Associate’s Degrees in 13 Liberal Arts programs and 15 Technical-Career programs.

LCCC’s athletic teams excelled throughout LCCC’s history. A huge crowd greeted the women’s basketball team at the airport on its return home from Overland Park, Kansas after competing in the NJCAA National Tournament in 1978. The team, under the direction of Ruby Steele Carmon, finished in 5th place after beating teams from Wyoming, Kansas, Arizona, and Texas.

The campus continued to expand in the 80’s to meet the increased educational needs of the area. With the addition of an \$8 million, 85,000 sq. ft., Advanced Technology Center in 1988, the college offers an array of high-technology programs such as robotics, engineering, automotive, motorsports, broadcast communications and laser-electro optics. An Educational Conference Center was constructed shortly after to meet the needs of business and industry and offer additional space to hold continuing education classes. The College’s Dental Clinic opened to the public for the first time in 1981. Veteran men’s basketball coach Jim Ather-ton won his 500th career victory in 1989.

During the early 1990’s, telecollege classes were offered for the first time on WVIA and the Alumni Association held its first Craft Fair.

Enrollment in 1992 reached an all-time high of 7,450 full and part-time credit students and 8,000 full and part-time credit-free students.

Barbara Struckus ‘72 began her career at Luzerne County Community College following graduation.





*Dr. William D. Camp in 1969*



*Dr. Camp in 2007  
Dr. Camp has been teaching at  
LCCC since 1968*

Struckus held worked as the principal secretary to the assistant of the president, Wesley Franklin and, later, with academic dean, Byron Myers. She worked with the Displaced Homemaker Program and also in the finance of- fice with the YETP program. In 1983, she moved to personnel and held the position as Employee Compensa- tion and Benefits Technician. In 1999, she was promoted to her current position in administration as a human resources associate.

Struckus says that computers have made everything more efficient. "I am so busy now and I wonder how we would get everything done without the computer." She said that benefits and attendance were all recorded by hand on cards and "there wouldn't be enough time in the day to keep up with it now."

Luzerne County Community College began a large scale expansion and remodeling project in the late 1990's. A 13,000 sq. ft. addition to the Advanced Technology Building was completed to house the Commercial Art De- partment, including studios, lecture rooms, computer labs, and photography studios and darkrooms. The new Business and Computer Center took over the previous student center in Building 7. The Library received a new look and new technology. And a new \$8 million Campus Center opened in the Fall of 1998 housing the bookstore, a fitness center, student lounge, cafeteria, student activities, counseling services, support services, and the President's office. The number of buildings at the Main Campus is now fourteen. A new logo was introduced in 1998 changing the College colors changed from red, white, and blue to teal and navy. LCCC sports teams changed names from the Minutemen to the Trailblazers.

LCCC acquired additional property in the late 90's along Prospect Street, where the new Public Safety Training Institute is currently being built, bringing the total acreage to 167-acres.

In addition to Luzerne County, the College has expanded its coverage area with off-campus sites at area high schools and new dedicated sites throughout northeast- ern Pennsylvania. Off campus sites are currently located in Berwick, Elk Lake, Kulpmont, Hazleton, Honesdale, Old Forge, Pittston, Scranton, Shamokin, Susquehanna, and

Wilkes-Barre. Over two years ago, Luzerne County Community College dropped its telecollege video courses in favor of distance learning classes offered over the Internet. Each year, the distance learning enrollment has increased double digits.

When Mary Ellen Mudzik started working at the College in 1970, she never thought she would be here for over 35 years. "Believe me the time has flown by," said Mudzik.

Mudzik began her career at the College as a secre- tary in the admissions department. Today, she works in data processing in the Registrar's Office.

She has seen many changes while working in the registrar's office, especially with the evolution of computers. Before registration became computer- ized, the College held "arena registration," which only gave students the opportunity to register over three to four days. Now that everything is done by computers, it allows the College to have ongoing registration three to six months in advance of the upcoming semester. "It has made registration a lot easier for the student," said Mudzik. "They can go on-line to register and take courses on-line besides the traditional classroom setting."

*"40 years" continued on page 20*



*LCCC's Northumberland Regional Higher  
Education Center in Shamokin*





August J. Piazza '69

# REFLECTIONS FROM LCCC'S 1ST SGA PRESIDENT & THE CURRENT PRESIDENT



Nicole Meloro '09

"There was a lot of excitement in 1967," August "Augie" Piazza '69 recounts. "The amazing influx of students were googly-eyed at this new college in downtown Wilkes-Barre." Piazza says the affordable tuition was an initial reason he was interested in LCCC. Once he started at the College, Piazza said he and his fellow classmates were very impressed by the professors. "They were very caring and helpful in making sure we truly learned from their class," Piazza said. "Even when I visit LCCC now, that caring and friendly attitude is still there."

Being downtown, Piazza said most of the students spent a lot of time shopping and at the YMCA. "We'd go get hot dogs in the Sterling Hotel and picnic in Kirby Park," says Piazza.

LCCC quickly indoctrinated activities and sports into its higher education culture, including establishing a Student Government Association (SGA). "The College asked for nominations from the student body for officers of the newly established SGA, so I put my name in. I was previously president of my class in Swoyersville High School. I spent a lot of time getting to meet with students to support my nomination." Piazza became LCCC's first SGA president that year. The Student Government office was set up in the Snowdon Funeral Home, one of LCCC's two downtown buildings at the time.

Piazza had to speak in front of hundreds of incoming freshmen at just age 19. "Speaking before those crowds of students gave me a boost of confidence that has helped propel me in all my future endeavors."

Piazza talked with many of LCCC's first students to learn what their needs were and how the SGA could advocate for them. He met with Dr. Guy Ferrell, LCCC's president at the time, on a monthly basis. He also visited other student government groups at other colleges. "We held a Fall dance; had formals and semi-formals and many other events to keep students active." Piazza said they cranked out flyers of events on ditto machines. "The ink from those machines would land on my feet and eat the leather off my shoes."

LCCC's newest Student Government Association president, Nicole Meloro '09, feels the pressure.

"It's a high title on campus," Meloro says. "But LCCC students like to get involved and I have been receiving a great deal of support from both students and staff."

Meloro, like Piazza, likes to talk with students and listen for what their needs are. "I want to help everyone," she says. "The Student Government Association's role is to address student concerns and to encourage our students to be active members of the College. I expect to do just that."

Meloro is a Health, Physical Education, and Movemental Science major at LCCC. Her ultimate goal is to become a physical education teacher. She enjoys the college environment at LCCC. "The campus is always bustling," Meloro says. "The professors are passionate about teaching and helping students. I'm proud to be a student at LCCC."

"College seems to be a lot more stressful these days for students," Meloro reflects. "Most students are holding down full-time jobs in addition to attending classes. It's difficult to get involved with sports and clubs when you are trying to balance work and academics." Meloro is amazed, however, how many students are active in both sports and activities on campus. She is glad to see this trend and, as a physical education major, to see students using the fitness center.

"We're a very technology focused generation," she says. "Many students are using their laptops in the remodeled student lounge, they are bringing PlayStations and Xboxs to play on the TVs, and three out of five have a MySpace page." Meloro, too, upkeeps a MySpace profile. She is glad to see the high amount of technology that is incorporated into the curriculum by LCCC faculty.

"It's great that faculty use PowerPoint and other technology in the classroom, but only as an aid to teaching and not as the only teaching method. The teachers are very interactive with the students."

Meloro is very involved in Breast Cancer awareness raising \$1,700 through a campus walk she helped organize last semester at LCCC. She is hoping to raise twice as much with a future expanded fundraiser on campus.

# TO Hell AND BACK

BY ROBERT BOGDAN  
**E**reality T.V. show? One graduate and adjunct faculty member here at LCCC received the chance of a lifetime when she joined Fox TV's Hell's Kitchen. World-renowned chef Gordon Ramsay puts 12 new would-be restaurateurs on the chopping block for a chance to win the ultimate culinary prize — the coveted title of "Head Chef" of a new fine Italian restaurant at the Green Valley Ranch Resort and Spa in Las Vegas. The contestants endure Ramsay's hellishly intense culinary boot camp. Each week Ramsay will grill the ambitious hopefuls as they attempt to prove they have what it takes to run their own restaurant.

Last season, Jen Yemola '02 used to watch *Hell's Kitchen* every Monday with her mother at their home in Hazleton. "I was entranced at how brutal Chef Gordon Ramsay was," Yemola exclaims. "My Dad would tell me I wouldn't be able to stand up to the hardship and pressure on the show. I was always one that if someone tells me I can't do it, I do it."

"I wanted to be on that show."

During the second to the last episode last season, Yemola went to Fox Broadcasting's website and filled out an essay for Hell's Kitchen. Shortly after she went out to the open casting call in New York City. "Bazillions of people were there," she says. "They were all wearing their chef whites and holding photos and resumes," she recalls. "I wore casual clothes and jeans." Yemola says she had two minutes to tell her story...

“At age 14, I took a job washing dishes in a small restaurant. While there, I watched the chefs work. They had great speed and coordination and passion with their craft. It was beautiful to watch. I became hooked. I feel at home in the kitchen. I decided this was to be my career so I put myself through college and worked hard to pay for my education. I chose Luzerne County Community College for many reasons. LCCC had one of the best cooking programs in the area. I didn't want to go to a large school, and it was affordable for me to attend.

I loved coming to lab. I wanted desperately to learn the craft. I had a lot of ideas and my professors kept telling me I had talent at this. I worked with Dave Pembleton, Sal Shandra and Jim Phillips; all these guys became my mentors. The program was hard, but my



professors, Jim especially, pushed me toward success. I was in the pilot program for the Pastry Arts program. I graduated in 2000 with an Associate Degree in Culinary Arts and a certificate in Pastry Arts in 2002. I continued my studies at Walnut Hill College in Philadelphia where I completed my Bachelor's Degree in Pastry Arts. I

knew I would go somewhere if I kept trying.

In Philadelphia, I worked for well-known chefs for free and held a job at the Ritz Carlton for three years, but couldn't get promoted fast enough to stay in the area. So I returned back to Hazleton.

I worked at small mom and pop restaurants and was struggling to get my career off the ground. I called Chef Phillips at LCCC to supplement my income by teaching a Pastry Arts class. Finally, I landed a great job as pastry chef at the Inn at Turkey Hill in Bloomsburg. It is a wonderful restaurant where I could do something I enjoyed.

That was Yemola's story up to this point. The casting people told her she would be contacted within two weeks with their decision. Twelve days later, Yemola received the phone call that would change her life. "I was told to go to a private place to talk," she recounted. "They said 'We would love for you to come out and join the cast of Hell's Kitchen.' I was so excited!" Yemola had to be very discreet with what



*Yemola and cast members await  
Chef Ramsay's instructions*



she could say about the show. She had to tell her boss that she would have to leave for several weeks to film the show. She also had to miss her last two LCCC Pastry Arts classes of the semester. Within two weeks of learning she would be a cast member on *Hell's Kitchen*, she was in Los Angeles.

Yemola was thrilled to walk onto the set of *Hell's Kitchen* for the first time. "I was dressed up and in heels and eating Gordon's food for the first time," she said. Ramsay immediately ordered them to each cook their own signature dishes. The men and women got to work under the gun, frantically putting together the food.

"I was looking around and getting to know my competition, but not getting too close," Jen said of her initial strategy. "I always stayed out of the drama. I wanted to win because I was good and not because I screamed at someone. I wanted to be honest to myself."

Yemola endured and outlasted each week through successes and failures as others around her were sent off the show by Chef Ramsay. The cast was divided between the Blue Team – all the male chefs, and the Red Team, the female chefs. The Red Team won most of the competitions which offered such rewards as going out to Vegas, being in a magazine photo shoot, a deep sea fishing trip, a helicopter ride, and even dining out in a completely-darkened restaurant.

Much of the drama from the show came as the teams competed to execute meals to customers in the Hell's Kitchen restaurant while Chef Ramsay wielded his verbal lashings at the struggling chefs. Several times, Ramsay shut down the kitchen due to the large number of mistakes. Yemola's most difficult experience on the show occurred when she threw out a pot of spaghetti by accident, then retrieved it to reboil when the pasta was needed immediately. She put herself up for elimination that episode, but was spared by Chef Ramsay. "He saw



*Jen's Pastry Arts class at LCCC shows off their culinary creations*

how devastated I was by the mistake," Yemola explained. "He told of the many mistakes he had in his early career and told me this would not destroy my culinary career." Yemola quickly rebounded after the experience and made her way into the final three. "I thought to myself, this is so real, I could win this," Yemola recalled of the last three episodes.

The final contestants included herself, Rock, an executive chef, and Bonnie, a nanny and cook. "I really thought that between me and Bonnie, I would have been in the final two." Chef Ramsay, however, chose Bonnie. "I felt crushed," Yemola says. "I wanted to keep competing, I wanted to win." In retrospect, she said, she went out on a high note. "My goal was to get into the top three and I did. I was happy I got that far and had the experience of a lifetime."

Yemola's favorite part of the show occurred when the contestants had to cook meals using particular ingredients for some special customers, who turned out to be the toughest critics of all, their mothers. "I was so happy to see my mom," Yemola beamed. "I felt such a sense of comfort from her and I needed to talk to someone at the time who really knew me." Yemola beat out the competition and was treated to a \$1,000 shopping spree with her mother at a culinary shop.

Since the show finale, Yemola has been using her celebrity status to help with various charities in the area. "People will walk up to me at the grocery store and ask my advice on how much poultry to use in their recipes," Yemola says. She recently became engaged to Matt Revak, the head chef at the Inn at Turkey Hill and still teaches a Pastry Arts class at Luzerne County Community College.

My goal is to inspire people who have a dream to go for it," Yemola says. "Never live life in regret or fear, you can accomplish anything when you have spirit, drive, and hope."



*Cast of Hell's Kitchen*

# A COUNTRY GIRL CROSSES THE BIG POND

*LCCC gives alumnus opportunity to study in England*

BY ROBERT BOGDON

Christine Stevens-Slacktish '90 knew she wanted to go to college, but felt it would be difficult to afford. "I'm a country girl," she says. "I started working on the family farm at age 8 and we had to work hard for every cent," she recalls. "I even sold sweet corn to help buy my school clothes."

Slacktish was always interested in law and believed her career path would be in that field. "Law can be applied to everyday life, and at the time I didn't know exactly where it would take me," she says. Her choice took her from her family's farm in Mehoopany all the way to England and back again to the Wyoming Valley.

As she started to look for a college, Slacktish quickly found Luzerne County Community College to be the school she needed. "It was affordable and LCCC gave me the start I needed to find my direction and earn my degree," she says. "I loved the college," Slacktish remarks. "The professors were so easy to talk to. I wound up working in the English Department with Mr. Hanify and Mr. Wills as a work-study student. English wasn't my strongest subject, but the faculty assisted me and gave me an appreciation for the subject," she adds.

Slacktish became involved in cross-country and also joined the softball team. "Coach Jim Atherton was my cross country coach and I loved being part of the team," she notes. "I have a great deal of respect for Mr. Atherton both as a person and a coach," Slacktish adds.

But it was her involvement with the Student Government Association (SGA) that really changed her life. She was nominated as vice president of the SGA and worked closely with then President, Tom Moran. "I was helping with college orientation," Slacktish recalls. "The president of the SGA was supposed to speak before the freshmen and wasn't able to attend so I had to give the speech.



*Christine Slacktish poses in front of her company, Heritage Mortgage Group, Inc.*

I recounted my experience in choosing a college, how the professors are here to help the students, and how much I enjoyed my education at LCCC." President Moran told Slacktish that he enjoyed her speech and she began to discuss with him her plans for continuing her education, possibly at Susquehanna University or Wilkes University. Moran successfully nominated Slacktish for the Rotary International Ambassador Scholarship, which selects one student as a representative from 17 local colleges and universities.

At the same time, Slacktish was finishing her two-year Paralegal degree at LCCC and was ready to pursue her Bachelor's Degree. Her role with the Rotary scholarship was to attend a college in a foreign country and educate various Rotary Clubs and students about America. She chose to enroll at the University of Buckingham and states; "I enjoyed traveling around the country and attending school with people from 70 different countries. I learned how students and faculty from other countries saw America from the outside."

Slacktish stayed an extra year in England to earn her Bachelor of Law degree and then returned to the United States. She started working as a paralegal and took a position as an administrative assistant

with the Rosenn, Jenkins and Greenwald Law Firm, later moving up into human resources management. Slacktish moved on to CTSI and began working on her goal to reach a vice president position.

Today, Slacktish resides in Dallas with her husband, Michael, their daughters, Madison and Bailey, and their horse, Jade. Michael Slacktish owned Heritage Mortgage Group and Christine started working with him when they married. Working together at the company made it easier to balance family and work, Slacktish says.

Michael later bought Century 21 Signature Properties, and Christine took over her husband's business. "I've been here two years now as owner and president of Heritage Mortgage Group and we are growing customer by customer," Slacktish says. Keeping with her love of the country locale, the business is located along a rural stretch of Route 309 in Dallas.

Slacktish graduated from LCCC in 1990 with a Legal Assisting (Paralegal) degree. She always speaks highly of LCCC noting, "Luzerne County Community College gave me some of the best years of my life."



*Keeping it country, Christine still enjoys the rural lifestyle. Here, she spends time with her horse, Jade.*

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES ABIGAIL M. GEORGE AWARD WINNER



*Shown at the award presentation are, from left — Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87, director, alumni relations; Thomas P. Leary, interim president; Lisa Owens '97, award recipient; and Sandra Nicholas, executive director, LCCC Foundation, Inc.*

Lisa Owens '97, has been named as the recipient of the Abigail M. George Outstanding Service Award presented by the Luzerne County Community College Alumni Association.

The award, which recognizes dedicated service to the College, was established in 2000 in memory of Abigail M. George '72, a member of the College's Alumni Association. Abby was a dedicated member of the Alumni Association and instrumental in the establishment of many of the events that are still conducted today including the Phonathon and the Craft Festival.

The award was presented at the Alumni Association's officer installation dinner held recently at the College's Educational Conference Center. Owens is the immediate past president of the LCCC Alumni Association. Past recipients of the award include Francis Curry '71, Gloria Migatulski '88 and Leonard Shimko '69.



# WRITING IS EVERYTHING

*LCCC prof discusses importance of writing skills and the College's theater program*

When you stop into Robert Kroll's office, the first thing you will notice are the posters of Shakespeare and other great literary giants plastered on the walls.

"People need to be able to write," Kroll says. "No matter what career choice students go into, they will still have to write proposals, resumes, letters, newsletters, e-mails and much more. Potential employees are often evaluated on how well they communicate."

Kroll has been teaching at LCCC for 25 years, ten years as a full-time instructor. He teaches Technical Writing, Advanced Composition, American Literature, World Literature, and Shakespeare. Kroll also instructs World Literature online through LCCC's Distance Learning program. His background includes teaching for high school and working through Luzerne County Human Resources. "I worked with people in the community on how to find jobs and careers in the area," he says. "I know what the real world is expecting of our students and I try to relay that in my classes."

"Students get honesty in my class," Kroll states. "I tell it like it is. In class, I try to build their desire to know more about the world around them and realize the importance of writing well for their careers and home life. One way I do this is by engaging the student in topics he or she wants to know more about." Kroll says there are many unique aspects of teaching at LCCC. "Students that come here from other colleges are struck by how good and yet how difficult our courses are," Kroll relates. "Also, there is a wonderful mix



**Robert Kroll**  
*Assistant Professor of English*

of young students just out of high school and older adults returning back to school. "It's a great dynamic in the classroom." Kroll also pointed out that Luzerne County Community College is developing a theater program.

"We have found a lot of students are interested in theater," Kroll says. "We offered two courses last semester, Introduction to Theater and Acting 101. People are starting to come out of the woodwork to participate in our theater productions and classes," Kroll says. The College will be offering Script Analysis in the Spring semester along with the current classes and have expanded theater courses to LCCC's Hazleton Center.

"We are exploring a 2-year program for theater at LCCC. The courses we've developed are transferable to other colleges and universities with 4-year theater programs."

LCCC will be offering three One-Act Plays by famous writers at the LCCC Conference Center on April 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The college held open casting calls in November for LCCC students interested in acting parts or related stagecraft for the plays.

Kroll also pointed out that each year, the National Players perform at Luzerne County Community College. National Players has performed for the public in 35 states and 10 foreign countries performing live performances of classic plays. They are made up of young professionals from the best college drama programs in the country. This year at LCCC they will be performing *Call of the Wild* and Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

*National Players troupe visits  
LCCC each year.*



## LCCC GRAD ELECTED CHAIR OF 'THE COLLEGE BOARD'

**J**ay Tucker '77, Counseling Department Chairperson in the Delaware Valley School District and Luzerne County Community College graduate was recently elected Chairperson of the Middle States Regional Council of The College Board. Tucker was introduced as the newly elected Chairperson of this prestigious board by Gaston Caperton, President and CEO of The College Board at the Middle States Regional Forum which was recently held in Baltimore, Maryland. Caperton was the former Governor of West Virginia and served from 1989 through 1997 before becoming the President and CEO of The College Board.

The Middle States Regional Council oversees the operations of The College Board in the following states/regions: Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Puerto Rico, Washington D.C. and the Virgin Islands.

Tucker was first elected to serve on the Middle States Regional Council in 2003 by the delegates from 1,100 Middle States member institutions of The College Board. He was subsequently elected by the 27 members of the council to serve a three year term as their Chair-Elect, Chairperson and Past-Chair. He is one of only nine members of the 27 member Middle States Regional Council to represent the Counseling and College Admissions sub-assembly. The members of the Middle States Regional Council consist of University Provosts, Professors, Directors/Deans of Financial Aid and Admissions, as well as Superintendents, Secondary Counselors and Administrators. Also, one of the main responsibilities Tucker will have in his role as Chair-Elect will be to serve as Chairperson of the Middle States Regional Forum of The College Board which will be held in February 2008. The Forum usually attracts 800 to 1,000 educators from colleges, universities and secondary schools in the Middle States Region.



*Jay Tucker, Chairperson of the Counseling Department in the Delaware Valley School District, is seen being congratulated by Gaston Caperton, President and CEO of The College Board.*

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the nationwide association is composed of more than 5,200 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT, and the Advanced Placement Program (AP). The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns.

Tucker resides in Milford, Pa. with his wife, Elaine (Kerchusky) Tucker and their three children Jason, Joshua and Ashley. Tucker is a Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist in the Delaware Valley School District.

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## TWO LCCC BENEFACTORS WIN AFP AWARD

The Luzerne County Community College Foundation successfully nominated two of the benefactors to receive recognition at the National Philanthropy Day awards ceremony for their support of the College and other regional organizations. Sponsored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), the awards program acknowledges and honors the generosity and spirit of philanthropy of individuals, volunteers, corporations and foundations throughout the nation on this special day.

The Central Susquehanna Community Foundation received the Outstanding Foundation award which recognizes exemplary commitment through financial support of community projects by a private foundation. Since 2003, the Foundation has contributed over \$6 million to over 60 community based organizations throughout the Central Susquehanna region.

One of Central Susquehanna's primary areas of support includes health and safety projects and the College was a recipient of a major gift to the LCCC Public Safety Training Institute currently under construction on the main campus in Nanticoke. The Institute will serve the training needs of emergency first responders throughout a ten county region.

First National Community Bank, NA received the Outstanding Corporation Award for demonstrating a leadership role towards philanthropy and community involvement. FNCB provided significant support to the Public Safety Training Institute as well as maintaining substantial support of the scholarship program at LCCC.



*Shown from left are — Sandra Nicholas, executive director, LCCC Foundation, Inc.; Thomas P. Leary, president, LCCC; Jerry Champi, Executive Vice President, First National Community Bank; Eric DeWald, Chief Executive Officer, Central Susquehanna Community Foundation; Barbara Wilson, Committee Chair, Philanthropy Day, Director of Development, Wyoming Valley Chapter, American Red Cross; Kathleen Matthews, AFP President, Greater Pocono Northeast Chapter, President, Junior Achievement of NEPA, Inc.*

FNCB is active in supporting the community through financial donations as well as employee involvement in over 100 non-profit organizations throughout North-eastern Pennsylvania. Organizations such as Make A Wish, Volunteers of America, Penns' Northeast, Friendship House, and Allied Services have benefited from the Bank's commitment to serving the community.

## ALUMNI CALENDAR

**January 30, 2008:** 21st Annual Alumni vs. Students Basketball Game 6:00 pm, James T. Atherton Gymnasium

**January 30, 2008:** Alumni Association Meeting, Campus Center, second floor, Alumni room (#214)

**March 11, 2008:** Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 pm Campus Center, second floor, Alumni room (#214)

**April 15, 2008:** Application deadline for Alumni Association Scholarship and Abigail M. George Scholarship

**April 21-30, 2008:** Alumni Association Phonathon, Educational Conference Center

**May 3, 2008:** 9th Annual Alumni Flea Market & Collectible Show, Educational Conference Center Parking Lot, 8 am - 2 pm

**May 3, 2008:** Dr. Lori, Fine Antiques & Art Appraiser, Educational Conference Center, 11 am - 2 pm

**May 13, 2008:** Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 pm Alumni Room, Campus Center

**May 16, 2008:** Dental Health Alumni Day, Educational Conference Center, speaker / topic TBA

**May 20, 2008:** Graduate Reception, Educational Conference Center, 7:00-9:00 pm

**May 22, 2008:** College Commencement, Wachovia Arena

**June 1, 2008:** Antique Automobile Club of America Car Show, main campus, portion of proceeds benefit LCCC Alumni Association

**September 9, 2008:** Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 pm Alumni Room, Campus Center

**October 18, 2008:** 19th Annual LCCC Alumni Association Craft Festival, 10 - 4 pm, main campus



## RETIREES

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

Charles Aten  
Security Guard  
32 years of service

Ed "Skip" Brosh  
Administrative Systems Manager  
25 years of service

Bob Carson  
English Faculty  
38 years of service

Carol Conaway  
Learning Support Specialist  
26 years of service

Dennis Farrell  
History / Social Science Faculty  
34 years of service

Dan Gorgan  
Physical Plant Director  
30 years of service

Richard Koflanovich  
Security Guard  
11 years of service

Delphine Lazur  
Custodian  
17 years of service

Janet Mullery '90  
Admissions Secretary  
16 years of service

Mary Anne Owens  
Surgical Technology Coordinator  
30 years of service

Fred Walters  
Reference Librarian  
25 years of service

Steve Wilmoth '05  
Housekeeping Administrator  
16 years of service

# Your *Gift* is Important

Heartfelt thanks go out to our alumni, friends and community businesses, faculty and staff who have made gifts to LCCC. Thanks to your philanthropy, LCCC continues to make life better for current 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 Spring 2007.**

*Jamie Sue Anderson '00 (General Studies)*

*John Aston '81 (Business Administration)*

*Esther Burakiewicz '77 (Nursing)*

*Thomas Bzdil '70 (General Studies)*

*Dominic Condusta '74 (Education)*

*Ann Marie Kaiser (Nursing Faculty)*

*Jacqueline Diehl Montz '93 (Travel / Tourism Management)*

*Alice Evans '00 (Human Services)*

*Mary Flaherty '93 (Nursing)*

*William Gearhart '01 (Business Administration)*

*Linda Ginthner '76 (Nursing)*

*H. Dorothy Hoban '84 (Nursing)*

*Suzanne Kanasky '73 (General Studies)*

*Michael Loughney '71 (General Studies)*

*Catherine Martincek '96 (Human Services)*

*Erin McHale Neely '85 (Computer Information Systems)*

*Stanley Rolek '76 (Hotel & Restaurant Management)*

*Michael Slusark '77 (Hotel & Restaurant Management)*

*Carl Waters '73 (General Studies)*

*Frank Wineski '81 (Electronic Engineering Technology)*

*Steven Wolfgang '94 (Electronic Engineering Technology)*

# ALUMNI AND FOUNDATION HONOR ROLL

JULY 1, 2006 - JUNE 30, 2007

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 John Kashatus  
 Alicja Kaszubski '83  
 Laura Katrenicz  
 Kathy Kairo Katsak '83  
 William Katsak '79  
 Doris Keeler '80  
 Karen Kellan '78  
 Judith Keller '97  
 Thomas Kelly '90  
 Patricia Kemmerer '77  
 Alice Keyock '97  
 Kingston Rotary Club  
 Deborah Kirkwood '92  
 Casey Kisel  
 Maureen Kissinger '04  
 Carmelita Klatch '91  
 Joseph Kleback '80  
 Edward Klein '79  
 Susan Klein '86  
 Brenda Kline '88  
 Mary Ann Kline '97  
 Lawrence Klug '78  
 Marlene Kluger '02  
 Bruno Kolodgie '72  
 Anthony & Janet Konieski  
 Edward Kopec '75  
 Robert Kopec '71  
 Helen Kopec  
 Leo Kopetz '92  
 Daniel Kopko '90  
 Joseph Kopko '78  
 Carl Kosch '72  
 Kelly Kostanecy '99  
 Scott Kostician '01  
 Donna Kotansky  
 Kevin Kovach '87  
 Maryann Kowalewski '81  
 Kevin Kratzer '91  
 Jewel Kravich '85  
 Michael Kreisher  
 Gale Kresge '71

## LCCC ALUMNI & FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS

Joseph Krizauskas '99  
 Diane Krostag '79  
 Eric Kubasek '03  
 Linda Kuboski '81  
 William Kuklewicz '71  
 John Kulick  
 Catherine Kull-Trainor '06  
 Cheryl Kundrat '86  
 Beverly Kuprionas '79  
 Lawrence Kupsho '00  
 Toni Kusiak '78  
 Angela Kwiatkowski '99  
 George Lacey '85  
 Mary Laputka '84  
 Nanci Larnerd  
 Thomas & Linda Lastowka  
 Timothy Latshaw '01  
 Florence Lauth  
 Patricia Lauver '87  
 Patricia Lavan '84  
 LCCC English Department  
 LCCC Faculty Association  
 Sandra Leggieri '92  
 Leslie Leibman '96  
 Thomas '88 & Ann Marie Leighton  
 Kathleen Lenahan '77  
 Mary Lenahan '86  
 Edward Lewko '73  
 Anthony Liene '71  
 Lisa Ligi '99  
 Christine Likowski '84  
 Katherine Liotta '99  
 Ronald Lipinski '73  
 Pat Lizza  
 Roxanne Love '92  
 Deborah Luchetti '91  
 Scott Luchi '80  
 Harry Lyons '00  
 Kathleen Lyons '97  
 Helen Macareo '87  
 Joan Malishchak '77  
 James Mallon '75  
 Terrence & Fran Malloy  
 Patricia Maloney '82  
 Christine Manganiello '05  
 Richard Marchetti '70  
 Marlene Marriggi '83  
 B. Gail Marshall  
 Dotty Martin  
 Judith Martin '96  
 Michael Martine '74  
 Diane Martinez '94  
 Cathy Martinson '84  
 Todd Materna '02  
 Colleen Matthey '92  
 Linda Mattioli '87  
 Judith Matulewski '90  
 Gail Matushoneck '99  
 Brenda May '91  
 Ronald May '90  
 Michelle Mazzoni '89  
 Nancy McBride '92  
 Rebecca McCaffrey  
 Mildred McCall '77  
 Nicki McCarthy '78  
 Martin McCarthy  
 Bonnie McDonald  
 Valerie McDonnell '98  
 Catherine McElroy '84  
 James McGill '71  
 Patrick McHale '74  
 Thomas McLaughlin '05  
 Susan McNichols '01  
 Patricia McNulty '80  
 Patricia Meadus '96  
 Eugene Mehalshick '89  
 Donna Menn '79  
 Fr. Gary Mensinger '89  
 Dr. John Menzel '70  
 Thomas Merlie  
 Jean Michaels '88  
 Kathleen Micklasavage '89  
 Genevieve Mihalick '72  
 Glenn Millard '93  
 Ann Marie Miller  
 B Richard Miller '86  
 Charlene Miller '84  
 Cynthia Miller '94  
 Dr. Eugene Miller  
 Kami Miller '03  
 Leona Miller '00  
 Lisa Miller '92  
 Joanie Minor '01  
 Pat Minsavage  
 Martha Mishanski '81  
 Florence Mokris '83  
 David Molinaro '80  
 Michael Molnar  
 Deborah Monelli '94  
 Barbara Montante '83  
 Walter Moore '84  
 Deborah Morgan '86  
 Diana Morgan  
 Fran Moriarty '07  
 Robert Moskal '70  
 Richard Moss '00  
 Gary Mrozinski  
 Diane Mucha '79  
 John Mudrian '05  
 Mary Ellen Mudzik  
 Judith Mullen '82  
 Janet Mullery '90  
 Darlene Murawski '06  
 Michael Murphy '76  
 Elaine Murray '86  
 Beth Musselman '82  
 Michael Mussoline '82  
 Maria Musto '00  
 Marilyn Namey '80  
 William Nash '72  
 Mario Naticchi '06  
 Christine Naugle  
 Beth Nelson '87  
 Jacqueline Nicolardi '79  
 Gilbert Noll  
 Karen Noss  
 Judith Novak '92  
 Linda Novak '77  
 Paul Novak '95  
 David Nutaitis '87  
 Susan Obaza '97  
 Beth O'Boyle '73  
 John O'Brien '97  
 Margaret Obuhosky '02  
 Robert Obuhosky '94  
 Roseann O'Connor  
 James O'Donnell '96  
 Bryan Olson  
 Alex O'Malia '76  
 James Opet '83  
 Marie Orlando-Wills '94  
 John Ormando '69  
 Amanda Ozchoski  
 David Pahl '78  
 William Palmer '93  
 Debra Paradis '80  
 Andita Parker-Lloyd  
 Bruce Partches '03  
 Jennifer Pawlowski '88  
 Stacey Pellegrino '03  
 Reese Pelton  
 Richard Pendolphia '74  
 Ray Perry  
 Sandra Person '77  
 Richard Pesotski '85  
 Karen Peters '90  
 Patricia Peters '99  
 Thomas Petlock '05  
 Phyllis Petrochko  
 Michael Petroski '97  
 James Phillips '84  
 Joseph Pluskey '76  
 Anthony & Mary Podczasy  
 Michael Podskoch '85  
 M. Jay Pope  
 Kenneth Popeck '87  
 Marie Poplawski '00  
 Dottie Powers  
 Susan Pozaic '80  
 Jacqueline Pramick '72  
 Marjorie Pratt '83  
 George Price '88  
 James Price '83  
 Jean Profka '78  
 Joseph Prushinski '79  
 Richard Pshar '88  
 Frank Pugliese  
 Michael Purcell '78  
 Debbie Puzio '78  
 David Pyskoty '06  
 Joseph Quather '74  
 John Quinn  
 Vera Radice '78  
 Betty Rafalko '88  
 Gloria Rawls '86  
 Marisue Rayno  
 Blaine Readler '74  
 Margaret Reino '77  
 Mary Reynolds '70  
 Edward Richard '96  
 Dawn Richie '93  
 Frank Rinkevich '80  
 Carol Risch '89  
 Joseph Ritz '71  
 Paulette Roberts '90  
 Marie Robine  
 Jane Rogers '79  
 Christopher Romanowski '81  
 Susan Rood '01  
 Rosalie Roote '94  
 Frank Rosenn '76  
 Edith Ross '77  
 Joseph Rowker '76  
 Lisa Rowley '89  
 Carol Ann Royer '77  
 Lynn Ruggiero-Darrach '73  
 Stepheny Rush '95  
 Connie Ryan '99  
 Lauren Sabol '88  
 Jennifer Sabulski '80  
 Mary Rose Salvo '79  
 Geraldine Samselski '76  
 John Sandstrom '86  
 Nicole Saporito '89  
 Daniel Sarosky '99  
 Edward Sartin '93  
 William Saunders '84  
 John Savitski '71  
 Barbara Saxe '80  
 Ross Scarantino  
 Kurt Schaich '95  
 Ronald Schell '93  
 Roger Schoch '96  
 Donna Schuetz '80  
 Gregory Schumacher '83  
 Salvatore Sciandra '97  
 Judith Scoble '82  
 Lois Scott '75  
 Laurie Selecky '86  
 Ralph Seltzer '85  
 Elizabeth Senczakowicz  
 Patricia Sentigar '91  
 Basil Senyk  
 Richard Sepela '85  
 Jean Serafin '70  
 Joy Sewell '84  
 Anna Shabelski '70  
 James Sheridan '89  
 Christopher Shewack '06  
 Eric Shewack '05  
 Lawrence Shewack '72  
 Andrew Shiner '76  
 Betty Sikora '83  
 Michael Sillup '78

Carol Silver '82  
 JoAnn Sittler '87  
 Daneen Skladzien '99  
 Marilyn Sladon '88  
 Paul & Mildred Slocum  
 Sandra Slosky '70  
 Barbara Smith '06  
 Linda Smith '89  
 Melanie Smith '88  
 Neil Smith '81  
 Robert Smith '88  
 Kathleen Socha '80  
 LCCC Social Science Dept.  
 Robert Watkins '86  
 Tammy Watkins '97  
 Marianne Wazenski '84  
 Sheryl Weaver '88  
 Ramona Wech  
 Phyllis Weissman '84  
 Dean Welch '71  
 Karin Wellings '98  
 Barbara Wende  
 Bethann Whilden '91  
 Christopher White '77  
 Diane White '88  
 Robert Whitmire '84  
 Stanley Wielgopolski '93  
 Michael Wilchinski '76  
 Norma Wildoner '94  
 Janet Williams '81  
 Jean Williams '88  
 Mary Williams '78  
 Patricia Williams '91  
 Timothy Williams '84  
 Janis Wilson-Seeley  
 Melanie Wojak '76  
 Betty Wojcik '71  
 Kathi Woronko  
 Carmela Worrall '97  
 Deborah Wruble '82  
 Nan Xander  
 Priscilla Yacoboski '89  
 Matthew Yarmel '88  
 Julie Yoder '06  
 Lori Yonchik '85  
 Lori Yost-Cotrone '89  
 Cheryl-Ann Young '89  
 Ann Zaffuto '85  
 Kathleen Zambotti '94  
 Joseph Zamulinsky '74  
 Barbara Zardus '84  
 Chester Zaremba '79  
 Gail Zaykoski '86  
 Donna Zbiek '86  
 Sandra Zbierski '94  
 Charles Zeisler '95  
 Dale Zeisloft '93  
 Bonnie Zisko '74

Karen Zmijewski '84  
 Christine Zuber '94  
 Leo Zynel

### IN KIND DONATIONS

The Beer Deli  
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 Barbara Dobrowalski, Longaberger  
 Independent Branch Leader  
 Dough Company  
 Gerrity's Supermarket  
 Dr. and Mrs. William Grossman  
 Elaine Flanagan  
 Ground Round  
 Joe & Sue Hand  
 FM Kirby Center  
 Bonnie Lauer  
 LCCC Literary Arts Society  
 LCCC Bookstore  
 Marianna's Gift Shop  
 Gloria Migatulski  
 Old Country Buffet  
 Outback Steakhouse  
 Lisa Owens  
 Jennifer Pawlowski  
 R Kids 2 Yours Consignment Shop  
 Red Robin  
 Ruminski's  
 Verizon  
 Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins  
 Wilkes-Barre Scranton Pioneers

### MATCHING GIFTS

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 Entergy  
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 MetLife Foundation  
 P&G Fund  
 PPL  
 Prudential Financial  
 Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc.  
 UBS Foundation  
 Verizon Foundation  
 Xerox

## LCCC FOUNDATION HOLDS 15TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH DINNER



*Comedian Mike Eagan entertained the crowd*



*Jen Yemola '02, received the first LCCC President's Alumni Achievement Award*



*Elizabeth Kimble with president, Thomas P. Leary*

The Luzerne County Community College Foundation, Inc. held its 15th Annual Community Outreach and Scholarship Donors' Dinner November 8, 2007 at the Woodlands Inn & Resort.

Comedian Mike Eagan provided entertainment for the 315 people that attended this year's event. Elizabeth Kimble, an LCCC student enrolled in the Honors curriculum thanked donors on behalf on all the 230 students who received scholarships during the 2007/2008 school year.

Proceeds from the annual dinner provide scholarship funding, upgrades to instructional technology, emergency book funds, and supports areas of greatest need not funded through other sources.





*Dental Labs 2007 (above), Dental Class 1978 (right)*

*“40 years” continued from page 5*

Today, the college boasts more than 23,000 degree-bearing alumni. LCCC currently offers 16 degree programs in the Liberal Arts & Sciences; 47 Technical-Career Programs; 33 certificate programs; and 14 diploma programs. The College’s top programs in terms of enrollment are General Studies, Education, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Business Management Technology, Business Administration, and Computer Information Systems. Plus, LCCC offers hundreds of credit-free programs, making it the largest supplier of credit-free education in the area.

Luzerne County Community College is the largest college in northeastern Pennsylvania and continues to expand and adapt to the educational needs of the residents and business and industry in the Wyoming Valley. The staff and faculty of LCCC will always continue our dedication to the students and alumni of northeastern Pennsylvania as we have over the past 40 years.



*LCCC Graduation Class of 2005 at the Wachovia Arena (above)*

*LCCC’s Campus Center (right)*



# NEW ALUMNI OFFICERS NAMED

The Alumni Association recently elected a new board of directors for the 2007-2010 term.



**RUSSELL KEELER '91** is the new Alumni Association President. He has been active with the organization during the past decade, serving as secretary, vice president and co-chair of the Craft Festival. "It is a great honor to be the new Alumni Association President. I have an opportunity to give back to a College that gave me a chance to excel in all my educational endeavors. As graduates, we have a great chance to watch the College grow in many new directions, and become a great force in education in the 21st century." Russ is an operations manager at Diamond Manufacturing Company, Wyoming. He and his wife, Ann Marie, live in Kingston with their two daughters.



**GLORIA MIGATULSKI '88** is the new Alumni Association Vice President. Gloria has been involved with the Alumni Association since she graduated nearly 20 years ago. She has served in many capacities and is the co-chair of the Craft Festival. Gloria brings with her many years of experience and a historical knowledge of the organization having seen the Alumni Association and College grow during the past two decades. Gloria is employed by Luzerne County Children & Youth Services, Wilkes-Barre. She and her husband, Bob, have two sons and live in Pittston. Her son, Bob, is a 2005 LCCC graduate.



**ELAINE FLANAGAN '98** is the Alumni Association's Treasurer. Elaine served as Secretary since 2001 and is actively involved with the Craft Festival, Phonathon and the Flea Market & Collectible Show. She is a senior paralegal at the Guard Insurance Group, Wilkes-Barre. Elaine and her husband, Lee, are the parents of two sons and live in Larksville. Her son, Shawn, is a 1990 graduate of LCCC and lives in Texas.



**MELISSA TANEY '03** is the Alumni Association Secretary and has the important task of keeping track of all the Association's business. She has been involved with the Alumni Association since she graduated from the College. Melissa works at LCCC and is a secretary in the Marketing and President's office and previously worked at our Berwick site. She and her husband, Jason, live in Berwick with their 2 year old daughter, Mallory.

## 2007 – 2010 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Russell Keeler '91, President  
 Gloria Migatulski '88, Vice President  
 Elaine Flanagan '98, Treasurer  
 Melissa Taney '03, Secretary  
 JoAnn Chukinas '02  
 Carol Dean '90  
 Edward Hennigan III '95  
 Melissa Szafran Jones '94  
 Robert Lange '80  
 Lisa Owens '97  
 Jennifer Pawlowski '88

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ross Scarantino, Ed.D., Chair  
 Paul Halesey, Vice Chair  
 Gregory A. Skrepenak, Secretary  
 Charles S. Adonizio  
 August J. Piazza  
 Michael Tigue  
 Judith A. Ellis  
 Mahmoud H. Fahmy, Ph.D.  
 Paula Conahan DeJoseph, J.D.  
 Joseph M. Lombardo, M.D.  
 Robert T. Panowicz, Esq.  
 Thomas P. Pizano  
 Joseph Rymar  
 Elaine Curry  
 Thomas O'Donnell, Ed.D

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Augustine	Thomas E. Pugh
Michael S. Bean	Brian J. Rinker '81
Mark Bufalino	Thomas A. Scappaticci
James Burke	Conrad Schintz
Anna Cervenak	Roxanne Schulman
Jerry Champi	Leonard Shimko '69
Dana Clark, Ed.D.	Jeffery P. Stewart
Laura Dennis, Esq.	Robert Tamburro
Kathleen Dunsmuir	Susan Unvarsky
Stephen J. Grubbs	
Mike Kehoe	
Megan Kennedy	
Frank Kowalski	
Thomas P. Leary	
Michael Lombardo	
Kathy McLaughlin Coslett	
Sandra Nicholas, Executive Director	
Lisa Owens '97	
August Piazza '69	

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Names, birth years of children \_\_\_\_\_

Post LCCC education \_\_\_\_\_

Program & completion date \_\_\_\_\_

Name & address of employer \_\_\_\_\_

Present Position and job responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Recent accomplishments/ points of interest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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



# REMEMBER...THE INFAMOUS PIE EATING CONTESTS?



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