

# The Bridge

Fall 2009

Luzerne County Community College

Alumni & Friends

**Anthracite Exhibit • Helping LCCC "Go Green" in New Way • PSTI Phase II**

# Growth

**LCCC Expands to Downtown Nanticoke**



**LUZERNE**  
County Community College

**Annual Report of Gifts  
2008-2009**

# Community Colleges recognized

The American Graduation Initiative recently proposed by President Obama's administration puts community colleges in their rightful place on the scale of important contributing factors for our country's economic recovery – right at the top.

For the first time in the history of community colleges, these institutions are receiving the recognition they deserve for the positive impact they have on building the economy of their service regions.

Community colleges over the years have provided more opportunity for those who are not financially well-off, and help many in our community gain the skills needed to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Included in this population are future plumbers, lawyers, nurses, business leaders, psychologists, chefs, teachers, law enforcement personnel, and other professionals our region needs if we are to grow and truly strengthen our economy.

This segment of our population can be a key factor in our country's recovery, but only if they are given the chance to get the education and training they need to train for high demand, high priority careers or obtain the academic foundation they need to continue their education at four-year institutions.

The President is asking that community colleges focus not only on making education available for these students, but also on developing and implementing plans for them to succeed, so that they are able to overcome the work, family, financial, academic preparedness and other obstacles that can sometimes create barriers to their success. In fact, President Obama's plan includes a 2020 goal of increasing the number of community college graduations by five million.

The President's plan calls for community colleges to refine focus on policies and procedures that make student success a priority and increase retention and graduation rates. Naturally, these goals carry ongoing importance in community college planning and operations. However, doing so requires additional funding for staffing, program development, and other associated costs. Financial limitations can affect the ability of community colleges to implement such programs, especially during a time when they are experiencing both dramatically increased enrollments and serious budget cuts.

LCCC has already started to increase its focus on such initiatives as a result of a five-year, federal Title III grant received earlier this year. The Title III grant will support enhanced student support services and professional development programs at off-campus locations to increase retention of students.

Thanks to serendipitous good timing, LCCC is also currently in the process of conducting its Middle States Commission for Higher Education self study, through which methods for enhancing programs and services are also being identified.

The College is in prime position to place strategic priority on retention and student success support programming. With the funding necessary to implement these programs, LCCC will demonstrate that President Obama has placed his higher education priority where it will have the most impact – with community colleges.

LCCC will proactively pursue federal funding through President Obama's proposed program as well as other resources to fund these programs. Private donations will also play an important role in ensuring LCCC's ability to meet these new challenges.

Giving community college students enhanced opportunity for academic success and career growth will not only serve to carry out the American Graduation Initiative, it will also build our community, strengthen our workforce, and help many more in our community to find satisfying, self-sustaining employment. It's a win-win situation for everyone.



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Cover Photo:  
Hospitality and Health Science  
Programs at LCCC will be expanding  
into in Downtown Nanticoke.

# 20th Anniversary of the Craft Festival

The Luzerne County Community College Alumni Association hosted its 20th annual Craft Festival on October 17. The event featured a wide variety of artisans and vendors selling handmade crafts, holiday decorations, jewelry, candles, soaps, photography, stained glass and more. Students from the Pastry Arts Program conducted their annual bake sale under the direction of faculty member David Pembleton '95.

The Literary Arts Society, Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene students also participated by selling used books and providing crafts and activities for the children. LCCC's Continuing Education Department conducted Lego Mindstorms Robotics demonstrations to promote their upcoming summer camps. Tux, of the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins, and our own mascot, Blaze, entertained the young and old alike throughout the afternoon.

In addition, on the lower campus, the Kiddie Rydes Car Club held its 10th annual Droptoberfest with nearly 100 cars participating. The local chapter of the SCCA also held a Solo II Autocross competition that participants could compete in for their best time. Several vendors, including the US Army, set up displays and games for the attendees to enjoy. Despite the wet weather, 1,500 people were on campus to enjoy the festivities of the day. All proceeds from the event will benefit student programs.



## LCCC partners with Medical College and Wilkes University on Pipeline Program

Luzerne County Community College, The Commonwealth Medical College and Wilkes University have joined forces to develop the region's first "Pipeline to Careers in Medicine program." In its initial stages, the pipeline program will focus on serving rural, disadvantaged, women, minority and first generation students in Luzerne County, especially those residing in Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton.

The Pipeline to Medical Colleges initiative is a national pilot project to encourage community colleges, four-year colleges and universities and medical schools to coordinate efforts to identify and support community college students from the targeted population in their pursuit of a medical degree.

This project was inspired by the College Board, a not-for-profit membership association, that supports enhanced opportunities for student success and opportunity. The Board asked institutions in Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Maryland to collaborate on programs to increase opportunities for earning a medical degree for students who may otherwise not be able to pursue this career goal. The program will not only serve previ-



*From left are: Robert D'Alessandri, president and dean of TCMC; Maria Suarez, special assistant to the president for diversity and community affairs at Wilkes University; Tim Gilmour, Wilkes University president; Ida L. Castro, vice president of social justice and diversity for TCMC; Thomas P. Leary, LCCC president; Dana Clark, LCCC vice president of academic affairs; and Ronald Williams, a vice president of the College Board.*

ously underserved populations, but also responds to the future need for doctors, especially in rural areas.

The Pipeline to Careers in Medicine program will provide LCCC students with a gateway to continuing their education and realizing their academic and career goals. For more information, contact LCCC's Academic Affairs Office at 740-0378.

# "Always look for a challenge"

Thomas Druby had choices.

As a member of the Abe's Hot Dogs family, Druby could have gone into the family business. Instead, his affection for electronics and gadgets led him to a career in computer information systems at Blue Cross of Northeastern PA.

The Wilkes-Barre native is responsible for the strategy of information technology needs of Blue Cross; which includes anything from infrastructure and security to the proprietary applications used in daily operations. He also handles contracts and negotiations with vendors. Representing over 140 employees, Druby helps build morale and leads team building efforts.

Druby credits his success to his education at Luzerne County Community College where he graduated in Electronics Engineering Technology.

"I originally thought that LCCC would merely be a stepping stone for me in my educational and professional future," Druby said. "However, LCCC provided me with the education and experience that has allowed me to grow... not only in my original profession of electronics technology, but to enable me to become the vice president and chief information officer of a national health services company."

Druby's career began in the electronics engineering field and grew into the computer programming field. He continuously worked his way through multiple management roles to the executive level after successfully completing a CIO Executive Development program through Perot Systems.

Before working for Blue Cross, Druby spent eight years working as an engineer and consultant for medical and commercial jet engine equipment manufacturers.

"Most of us who graduated from LCCC in electrical engineering went directly into employment," said Druby, who landed a position as an electronic technician in Lansdale for five years.

"I always look for a challenge," Druby says. "You should always take the risk to better yourself." Druby and his wife left Lansdale in 1988 to return to northeastern Pennsylvania. In 1993, he was hired as a programmer analyst at Blue Cross of Northeastern PA

Druby credits the faculty who helped to mold him into a passionate electrical engineer. He specifically pointed out two people at LCCC who made a major impact on his life, Alvin Topfer and Joseph DeSanto.

"These two really influenced me," Druby said. "They had such an enthusiasm and interest about electronics that I also became caught up in my fascination of the field. Both Topfer and DeSanto were always there to answer any questions I had and opened my eyes to the career opportunities out there. They were truly my early mentors."



*Thomas Druby, '80 meets with staff in his office at Blue Cross of Northeastern PA. Druby credits mentors and education at LCCC for paths he has taken in life.*

Druby stayed faithful to the College because he saw that professors at LCCC take an interest in their students.

"The College's environment is perfect for the first two years of anyone's higher education goals and it is right in your own backyard," Druby said. "I think there are too many people that look outside the area for their education and overlook the value and quality that LCCC has to offer."

The education Druby earned at LCCC not only secured him a satisfying career, but he also served on several technology boards including The Great Valley Technology Alliance, The Innovation Center at Wilkes-Barre and the Penn State University IST Advisory Board, and LCCC's CIS Advisory Board.

Druby is actively involved in the United Way where he has served on the board as well as chairing multiple allocation committees. He also currently serves on the LCCC President's Alumni Advisory Council.

He has been participating in LCCC's Job Shadowing program where he hosts students in the CIS program. Numerous students have experienced valuable "hands-on" learning opportunity at Blue Cross through the guidance of Druby.

Druby's advice to students entering the technology field: "Learn people skills. Understanding computer programming and network skills in the field is important, but technology people need to build relationships and communicate well with other individuals in an organization to truly be successful."

*"The College's environment is perfect for the first two years of anyone's higher education goals and it is right in your own backyard."*

# PSTI begins Phase II

The Public Safety Training Institute has been very busy since opening its new facility at LCCC's Main Campus. Since its beginning in 2003 the PSTI has grown from rostering 15 courses with 410 students to more than 300 courses and 5,219 registrations. This is a 40% increase over last year in registrations and a 62% increase in courses offerings. The Public Safety Training Institute provided over 105,000 hours of training in the 2008-09 year and now has over 300 adjunct instructors.

The College held numerous focus group meetings with instructors and community firefighters, police, and EMS personnel to finalize design and recommended specific props for Phase II of PSTI construction.

Phase II of construction will include the addition of road and off-road courses, driving simulators, skid pad for emergency driver training and skid control, helipad (approved by the FDA), four-lane highway simulation, and confined space and trench rescue props. A new access road will be created directly across from the College's entrance on Prospect Street.

The Walk of Honor, sponsored by the Foundation and Alumni Association, will be located along this access road.

The project will be completed in November 2010.

The College received tremendous support for this program from local and state legislators. LCCC received a Congressionally Selected Award under the U.S. Department of Justice's Edward Byrne Program for the Public Safety Training Institute to purchase a firearms simulator. Several vendors have come on-site to demonstrate their simulators to area police officers for evaluation. Input from area officers will be considered in the selection and purchase of this equipment. This is the second U.S. Department of Justice award for the PSTI. The driving simulator and Skid Card system will be purchased with the first award.

Phase II will add additional flexibility to LCCC offerings and enhance the truck driving program which also experienced a 22% increase in enrollment this past year.



## Become a part of LCCC History!

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

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

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

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

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

Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87  
Director, Alumni Relations  
(800) 377-5222 ext. 734 or  
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# Branching out to educate

## Couple's commitment to LCCC continues to grow with arboretum

by Janine Ungvarsky '03

Reprinted with special permission from *The Times Leader*

Brooke Yeager has filled many roles in his life – coach, teacher, arborist – but it was his unofficial role as chauffeur that really sank his roots at Luzerne County Community College. It was in driving the neighborhood carpool from south Wilkes-Barre to the college that he met his wife of 28 years, Libby, and created a bond that led both Yeagers to want to do something lasting for the college that means so much to them.

Back in the late 1970s, Brooke Yeager was already about 10 years into his teaching career at LCCC. “Before I knew Libby I taught her sister and I would bring her and even the college president’s assistant to school. Libby decided to take a summer course and her sister told her I would give her a ride, too,” Brooke recalled. Libby said they quickly became friends. “Yes, we were friends, and soon we were ‘a thing,’” Brooke said.

From that “thing” bloomed a relationship that has produced four daughters and nearly 70 combined years of service to the college. And though Brooke Yeager is officially retired, the Yeagers commitment to LCCC continues. The couple has provided an endowment that will allow the school to create an arboretum as a living classroom for both students and the public.

“If you were one of Brooke’s students in Bio 121, for your first lab he took you for a walk around campus,” Libby said. The walks got milder as his May 2009 official retirement approached, she said, but in the early days it involved tromping over fallen trees to see greenery all over the campus.

“When she was young, our daughter convinced her fourth-grade teacher that her dad could replace one of their field trips,” Libby said, and for the next 10 years, fourth-graders from Kistler Elementary would walk the campus with the Bio 121 students, learning to identify native Pennsylvania trees and shrubs as part of their Pennsylvania history curriculum.

“The original plantings here were all native plants,” Brooke said. “You can learn a lot about Pennsylvania plants by touring the campus. I want to make that continue so future generations can learn, too.”

The Yeagers intend their endowment to help the school maintain existing plants, plant new trees and shrubs and label some of the significant specimens. Brooke’s students in an arbiculture night class are choosing 20 noteworthy trees and shrubs to be included in a brochure that will be available to people who wish to take a self-guided tour of the campus greenery.

“It’s important to learn how to appreciate and distinguish the diversity of the trees and shrubs around us. Is it important to know an oak tree from any other tree? Yes, if you don’t want to be picking up acorns in the fall,” Libby said. “It’s important to pick the right tree for the right place, and the college campus is a great place for people to learn that.”

Libby knows what she’s talking about. Though she has a science background, her appreciation and understanding of trees grew along with her relationship with her husband, to the point where she once insisted that a commemorative tree being planted on campus wasn’t the right tree — and she was correct.



“We were planting a tree in remembrance of 9/11,” said Libby, who now works in the college’s curriculum and planning office. “It was supposed to be a Dawn Redwood but I looked at it and said, ‘That’s not a Dawn Redwood.’ The shape wasn’t right. I do pay attention when Brooke talks.” Turns out the tree in question was actually a Bald Cypress — also a beautiful tree, but not the Dawn Redwood Libby had favored.

The memory prompts Brooke — always the biology teacher — to explain the difference between trees that drop their leaves and those that don’t. It’s something he began learning as a young boy on Hanover Street in Wilkes-Barre, where a neighbor’s beautiful garden inspired his love of plants. During high school and college, Brooke owned a lawn cutting and gardening business. As he pursued a biology degree at then Wilkes College, his love of all things green grew. But it wasn’t biology that brought him to LCCC in the school’s second year of operation. “I had teaching credentials so I was hired as a biology teacher, but I was the school’s first wrestling coach. I coached for four years and had a national champion,” he said.

He later coached at Nanticoke High School and as an assistant at Wilkes, but continued teaching at LCCC. And while he’s still active in wrestling as an official — as is Libby — what he once thought would be a stop on his wrestling coach career became home for more than half his life.

“The college is special because through it I met Libby, who’s a little bit special to me, too,” he added with a smile.

“A few years ago, our bishop asked us this question: Are you a blessing?” Libby said. “We realized we are blessed and started looking for opportunities to be a blessing, and when we started looking for ways to make a difference, LCCC came to mind.” Given Brooke’s affinity for trees and plants and the couple’s shared love of science — Libby’s degree from King’s College is also in biology and her first job at LCCC was in the science department — doing something with the campus greenery was a natural choice.

That love of plants also inspired Brooke to move from the front of the classroom and become a student himself. “About 15 to 18 years ago, my wife talked me into not teaching summer school and taking courses at Longwood Gardens at Kennett Square,” he said. The return to the gardens he had visited as a child was something he “enjoyed immensely,” but not all the time.

“I struggled with the Latin names,” the teacher admitted.

“He would call complaining about it. He sounded like one of his students,” Libby said with a chuckle. But the work paid off when Brooke qualified earlier this year as a certified arborist with the International Association of Arborists. It brought other benefits as well. “Being on the other side of the desk, I learned different teaching methods, testing and motivation besides the class material. It was a good experience.”

And even though he officially retired last spring after 40 years in the school’s biology department, Brooke Yeager once again stood at the front of the classroom when the college opened in the fall, teaching three first-year experience classes and a night class. “I wanted to teach the night class,” he said. “The other ones were on my ‘honey-do’ list,” he said.

“I knew he would enjoy teaching those because it’s all the things he always wanted to teach more of in his science classes and didn’t have enough time for,” Libby said, ignoring her husband’s teasing accusation. She said her husband always tried to incorporate things like methods for studying and memorizing material into his classes, and that is exactly the point of the seven-week, one credit first-year experience class.

“With ‘No Child Left Behind,’ they focus on studying for tests, not lifelong learning,” Brooke said. “Those times tables you learn in third and fourth grade you really need to know in college, and if you don’t keep up on these things, you lose them.”

That’s part of why the couple wants to provide a means for people to learn more about the world around them through the study of plants and trees. “Knowing about trees isn’t going to make you a lot of money,” Brooke said, “but a knowledge and appreciation of trees will add value to your life.

“There’s a tree in my neighbor’s yard. I planted it and I



# We're Going Downtown

## *LCCC expanding to Main Street in Nanticoke*

**L**uzerne County Community College is moving forward with two exciting expansion projects that will provide the College with a presence in the heart of downtown Nanticoke.

The Health Sciences Center will move LCCC's health sciences programs to a newly renovated and expanded space formerly known as the Kanjorski Building. A new, state-of-the-art Culinary Institute will house the Culinary Arts/Pastry Arts and Hospitality Business Management Programs.

These projects will make possible needed expansion for two of the College's fastest growing programs, and also serve as a catalyst for much-needed revitalization of the downtown.



### Health Sciences Center

The LCCC Health Sciences Center, proposed in the 2006-2012 Master Plan, will enhance LCCC's ability to meet the expanding health care educational needs of the region. As the nationwide struggle to meet the need for health care professionals intensifies, this facility will enable LCCC to educate and place more qualified professionals into the health care workforce.

The shortage of health care professionals is reaching critical proportions. LCCC has been approached by area hospitals to increase the number of health care graduates, and to train them in the newest technology. A feasibility study was conducted by an independent consultant to assess the need for such a facility, and the results identified this project as a top priority.



The College has entered into an agreement with the Nanticoke General Municipal Authority to lease the building located at 42 East Main Street in downtown Nanticoke. The College will relocate all Health Science programs to the 42,000 square foot, three-story structure, and will add approximately 7,000 square feet to the rear of the building for faculty offices. The lease term is seven years, after which the College will purchase the building for a nominal cost.

The first floor will house the dental clinic, with 22 dental chairs and associated labs, offices, conference rooms and support area. In addition, X-ray and

darkroom areas will be located on this floor.

The second floor will support two, 50-chair classrooms with dividers, computer labs, respiratory therapy, lung function, surgical tech and prep labs. The third floor will house nursing classrooms, Simman and Simbaby labs, two 40-chair classrooms, and additional lab, office, and conference areas. The three-story addition will provide for ten faculty offices, a kitchenette, and a conference area on each floor.





A meeting with the Redevelopment Authority and the City was held to coordinate College construction activities with the city streetscape project, which will provide 260 parking spaces and street beautification. The College is targeting a Spring 2011 occupancy.

“The new Health Sciences Center will provide the College with the opportunity to update its educational facilities for the health sciences programs that prepare students for high priority, high demand careers in healthcare,” notes Dr. Dana Clark, LCCC provost and vice president of academic affairs. “The new facility also will allow the College to continue to address the need for healthcare workers and training that is essential to area hospitals and health care providers.”



## Culinary Arts Institute

The Culinary Arts Institute will provide students with updated lab facilities in all food service/hospitality programs as well as bringing the Hotel/Restaurant Management programs together to gain synergy among the programs and students. The new facility will also allow for the expansion of existing programs and the creation of new programs and majors, such as casino operations.

“Teaching in the updated facility will help us to continue to meet the need for food service workers and training expressed by representatives from area resorts, hotels and restaurants,” notes Sal Shandra, chairman of LCCC’s hospitality business management/culinary arts/pastry arts management.

The Culinary Arts Institute will be located in a new 22,000 square foot, state-of-the-art building and will house the hospitality business management, culinary arts, pastry arts management programs. Mark Development was selected to build the two-story building on the corner of West Main and North Market Streets in downtown Nanticoke, one block from the Health Science Building. The developer has secured \$4.5 million in state grants which will significantly reduce the purchase price.

The two-story structure will contain four classrooms, office and support space, and an auditorium on the first floor for cooking demonstrations and other events. The auditorium will include a television studio where LCCC will be able to offer televised cooking demonstrations. The second floor will include two kitchen labs and a pastry lab with individual work stations and instructional area. The building will also include office, storage, support areas and a simulated restaurant dining room. Construction is expected to be completed by July 2010 with occupancy scheduled for the Fall 2010 semester.

“Establishing our new Culinary Arts Institute in downtown Nanticoke further makes Luzerne County Community College a partner in the community,” notes Paul Halsey, chairman, LCCC Board of Trustees. “This project adds to our ability to prepare students to meet the need for skilled labor at the local, state and national level.”



# ANTHRACITE MINERS AND THEIR HOLLOWED GROUND

## LCCC's Schulman Gallery Hosts Coal Miner Art Exhibit

**L**uzerne County Community College recently hosted "Anthracite Miners and Their Hollowed Ground" art exhibit in the College's Schulman Gallery located in the Campus Center.

The exhibit consisted of 300 hand crafted hexagon-shaped paintings with a story behind each one. Sue Hand, the artist, studied mining and the dangers men faced in the mines across the Wyoming Valley. In her creations she wanted to show appreciation and the dangers these men went through.

Hand began the paintings in 2000 and completed her artwork in 2007. When she was completed, she had three hundred pieces that told the stories of the dangers, violence, and daily life miners experienced on a normal day at work. The exhibit shows the story of the region's mining history.



Each piece was hand crafted and carefully put together. The art pieces consist of notes and scraps of old newspapers with pictures from the mining period. Real objects were added to the pieces to give it a more lively presentation such as coal, dirt, and rusted nails.

Hand sold her paintings to Jim Burke, former producer for Paramount Pictures. Burke is currently producing the play "The Molly Maguires" for Broadway.

On opening night of the exhibit, a reception echoed the ethnic and historical essence of the pieces. The Consul General of Ireland, Niall Burgess, attended the event. In addition, a group of Irish dancers provided entertainment and a bag piper, led the speakers to the podium. Members of the Eckley Village came to support the artwork in their historical costumes.

Throughout the exhibit's showing, the College held additional events to showcase the spirit of the paintings. The 1970 film, "The Molly Maguires," was shown in the College's Campus Center. The film, starring Sean Connery and Richard Harris, was filmed in nearby Eckley. Jim Burke provided gallery talks to describe the pieces in detail. Guest speaker, 89-year-old retired miner Bill Hastie, led a discussion on retired miners to inform staff and students what it was like during the mining days.

Sue Hand also held gallery talks throughout the month in the Schulman Gallery. William Kashatus, assistant professor of history at LCCC, presented "Speaking Easy: An Immigrant's Search for the American Dream."

In addition, different historical sessions were held to give members of the community an appreciation and insight on miner life.



Niall Burgess



Sue Hand



Roxanne Schulman



*Performers from Eckley Village tour the anthracite exhibit in character.*



*Jim Burke*



*The Anthracite Miners and Their Hollowed Ground is a storyboard of over 300 hand-crafted, hexagon shaped paintings.*



*Thomas P. Leary*



*Paul Halsey*



*Irish dancers perform at exhibit opening.*

# Class Notes

## Class of 1971

**Robert Bray** (General Studies) was recently named chief financial officer of the Children's Service Center, Wilkes-Barre. Bob has nearly 30 years experience in the financial field. He and his wife, Rosemary, reside in Nanticoke.

**Marianne Starosta** (General Studies) and her husband, George, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August 2009. Marianne was an adjunct faculty member at the College for nearly 20 years. Congratulations George and Marianne on reaching this milestone!

## Class of 1976

**Gary Scavone** (General Studies) was one of ten people recently inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame John Louis Popple Chapter during its 25th annual induction banquet. In high school he was a three-sport standout in football, baseball and basketball. Scavone played sports while at LCCC.

## Class of 1977

**Joan Smith Foster** (Business Administration) was presented Misericordia University's Alumni Medallion Award in recognition of her outstanding community service and distinguished professional contributions. Joan is the assistant director of admissions for transfer, readmit, and part-to-full-time students at the university. She and her husband, **John Foster '77** (Journalism), reside at Harvey's Lake.

**George Keiper** (Business Administration) and his wife Norma celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in April 2009. George is a veteran of the US Navy and retired from Topps Chewing Gum in Duryea after 40 years of service. He and his wife enjoyed a family cruise to Bermuda to mark the occasion and reside in West Wyoming.

## Class of 1978

**Joseph Butkiewicz** (Commercial Art – Graphic Design) has been promoted to the vice president of news / managing editor for *The Times Leader*. Joe began working for *The Times Leader* as a correspondent in 1982. Over the past 27 years he has worked in a variety of capacities for the newspaper. Following his graduation from LCCC he continued his education at New York University.

**Michael Gruskiewicz** (Social Science) continued his education at the City University of Seattle earning his bachelor's of arts degree in 2000 and his MBA in 2007 in the business field. He is a product support manager for BAE Systems and is currently working in Kuwait as the Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Field Support Manager running operations for BAE Systems. While stationed there he provides product support in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and around the world for BAE Systems defense products including tracked and wheeled vehicles. Michael and his wife Brenda reside in Temple, TX.

## Class of 1987

**Randy Devine** (Criminal Justice) was promoted by the commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police to lieutenant and commander of the Patrol Section at Troop F, Montoursville. Prior to this he served as station commander at Troop F, Stonington. Since enlisting in the State Police in 1990 he has served at stations in Shickshinny, Hazleton, Fern Ridge, Bloomsburg and Media. Devine graduated summa cum laude from Kutztown University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

**Donna Ann Kahler** (Business Management) and Todd Bender were recently united in marriage. Donna holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration and master of science degree in instructional technology from Bloomsburg University. She is employed as a purchasing manager at Girton Manufacturing Co., Inc., Millville. She and her husband honeymooned in Mexico and reside in Danville.

## Class of 1990

**Christine Stevens Slacktish** (Legal Assisting) was named the director of financial services education and outreach programs at Misericordia University. Christine is a member of LCCC's President's Alumni Advisory Council. She and her family reside in Dallas.

**Kenneth Zipovsky** (Criminal Justice) Detective Cpl. of the Hazleton Police Department was the featured speaker at Lackawanna College's Hazleton Center 179th Police Academy graduation. Following Zipovsky's graduation from LCCC, he completed the Act 120 Municipal Police Academy at Lackawanna College and received the class academic achievement award. In 1993 he joined the Hazleton Police Department where he has held the posts of patrolman, field training officer, K-9 officer, undercover narcotics detective and major crime detective. He is currently active in the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 19 and is serving as FOP Lodge president.

## Class of 1991

**Dennis "Skeat" Albertson Jr.** (Commercial Art – Graphic Design) purchased Conner Printing, an 81-year-old printing company located in the Bloomsburg area in August 2008. He joined Conner Printing in October 2000 as head graphic designer and continues that role today along with managing the organization. Best wishes to him and the staff on many more years of success.

## Class of 1993

**Tina Fisher** (Business Administration) was named interim director of the Pittston YMCA early this year. She has worked closely for the organization for several years serving as a certified personal trainer leading group exercise classes and also as a volunteer having chaired the annual fund campaign, the fund development committee and the annual dinner. She and her husband of 30 years, **Patrick Fisher '72** (Hotel & Restaurant Management), reside in Laffin.

**Ron Strothers** (Health/Physical Education), LCCC Fitness Center / Gymnasium Attendant, was recently awarded "Coach of the Year" of the Wyoming Valley Conference Division 4 Girls Basketball League. Ron is in his second year of serving as the head girls' basketball coach at Wyoming Seminary. In addition, he recently earned his bachelor's degree through Misericordia University's Expressway Program. Congratulations Ron!

#### *Class of 1997*

**Lois Boginski** (Social Science) was promoted to associate clinical operations director of the Children's Service Center, Wilkes-Barre. She previously served as operations director at the center's Tunkhannock office. Lois holds a bachelor's degree in social work and a master's degree in organization management from College Misericordia.

**Nancy Rodgers** (Social Science) earned her master's degree in social work from Fordham University in May 2009. Nancy is also an alumnus of Misericordia University earning her degree in 2006 and a veteran of the United States Navy. She is a certified addiction counselor and a licensed social worker. She currently works at Family Service Association with the High-Risk Youth Offender Reentry and Family Strengthening Initiative as a target case manager. She resides in Mountaintop.

#### *Class of 2001*

**Pam Shields** (Business Administration) was recently named Tyler Memorial Hospital's "employee of the month." She has worked for the hospital for nine years and serves as the administrative assistant to the hospital president and CEO. When nominated for this award, it was noted that she often goes above and beyond her typical job duties and serves on several committees at the hospital. Pam and her family reside in Springville.

**Angelo Venditti** (Nursing) and Denise Beechay were married in October 2008. Angelo also received his Emergency Medical Services degree from LCCC in 1999. He continued his education at Misericordia University and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing. He is employed by Geisinger Medical Center. The couple lives in Bloomsburg.

#### *Class of 2002*

**Michele Garrison** (Legal Assisting/Paralegal) continued her education at Wilkes University earning bachelors of arts degree in criminology / sociology in January 2009. She was the recipient of the Luzerne County Council on Adult Higher Education (LCCAHE) Outstanding Wilkes University Adult Learner of the Year Award in March 2009.

**Heather Houseknecht** (General Studies) graduated summa cum laude with a doctorate of pharmacy degree from the Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy, Winchester, VA. Heather earned her bachelor of science degree in biology from Shippensburg University. She has accepted a residency position at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville.

**Jaclyn Senese** (Respiratory Therapy) was united in marriage to Robert Moore in March 2009. Jaclyn continued her education at East Stroudsburg University earning a bachelor's of science degree in health service administration in 2006. She is employed by Pocono Health Systems as a certified respiratory therapist.

#### *Class of 2003*

**Deborah Beck** (Nursing) has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of nursing. She is a registered nurse for Sunbury Community Hospital. Deborah was honored by Community Health Systems with the Patient Choice award in 2007 and is the recent recipient of the Caring Heart Award from Sunbury Hospital.

**Deborah Saullo** (Nursing) served as the graduation speaker for the Hazleton Area Career Center's 59th graduating class of the Practical Nursing Program. Saullo is also a graduate of the Central Susquehanna Career Center and earned her RN degree from LCCC. She is employed by Good Shepherd Hospital in Allentown.

**Connie Toporcer** (Computer Information Systems) has completed her bachelor's of science degree in Information Technology from Misericordia University. Connie is LCCC's director of technical internet services. Congrats Connie!

#### *Class of 2004*

Congratulations to **Stephanie Burrridge** (Medical Office Assistant) and **Robert McGrady** (General Studies) who were united in marriage in July 2009. Stephanie is a professional biller for Geisinger Health Systems. Bob continued his studies at East Stroudsburg University earning his bachelor of science degree in 2006 in health and physical education. He is a teacher and coach in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. The happy couple resides in Bear Creek.

**Kenneth Allen Scott Jr.** (Surgical Technology) and Anne Marie Jordan exchanged wedding vows in September 2008. Kenneth is a surgical technician at Marian Community Hospital, Carbon-dale. The couple resides in Elmhurst.

#### *Class of 2005*

**Gina Marie Harrison** (Nursing & General Studies) served as the commencement speaker for her alma mater, the West Side Career and Technology Center's graduation ceremony, in May 2009. She was the salutatorian of the WSCTC graduating Class of 2001 and while enrolled she excelled in the health-related technology program. Gina is a registered nurse for the Wyoming Valley Health Care System.

**Miranda Hildebrand** (Health/Physical Education) recently competed in the Danville Rivertown Marathon where she finished as the third female overall in the 26.2 mile running event. Miranda recently joined the LCCC staff as the fitness center attendant. She has also completed her bachelor's degree in Community Health from East Stroudsburg University.

# CALENDAR OF 2009-2010 EVENTS

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**November 10, 2009:** Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, Alumni Room (#214)

**January 27, 2010:** Alumni vs. student basketball game, 5:30 pm, James T. Atherton Gymnasium (LCCC vs. Bucks CC follows)  
Alumni Association Meeting, Campus Center following game, Campus Center, Alumni Room (#214)

**March 9, 2010:** Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, Alumni Room (#214)

**March 22 – March 31, 2010:** Alumni Association Phonathon, Educational Conference Center

**April 15, 2010:** Application deadline for Alumni Association Scholarship and Abigail M. George Scholarship and all Foundation Scholarships. For an application call 740-0731.

**April 22, 2010:** 2nd Annual CIS Graduates Mixer, Bar Louie, Mohegan Sun

**May 1, 2010:** 11th Annual Alumni Flea Market & Collectible Show, Educational Conference Center, 8 am - 2 pm  
Dr. Lori, Fine Antiques & Art Appraiser, Educational Conference Center, 11am - 2 pm, Fee charged

**May 11, 2010:** Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, Alumni Room (#214)

**May 14, 2010:** Dental Health Alumni Day, Educational Conference Center, Keynote Speaker: Dr. Richard Nagelberg, Fee charged

**May 23, 2010:** Annual Graduate Reception, Educational Conference Center, 6:00-8:00 pm

**May 25, 2010:** Commencement Ceremony, Wachovia Arena

## RETIREES

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

**Carl Eddy '72**  
Professor, Engineering

**Marie Robine**  
Professor, Nursing

**Arthur Saxe**  
Associate Professor, Mathematics

**Ann Isaacs**  
Professor, Nursing

**Carlyle Robinson**  
Instructor, Business

**Susan Sponenberg '69**  
Associate Professor, Commercial Art

**W. Brooke Yeager III**  
Professor, Biology

## IN MEMORIAM

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

### LCCC Graduates

Chief Master Sgt. Edward G. Bieda '76 (General Studies)  
Helen Freas '78 (Nursing)  
Leo Goodstein '69 (General Studies)  
George Hackling '73 (General Studies)  
Louise "Luann" Stanton Johns '73 (General Studies)  
Linda Kemler '75 (Nursing)  
Charles E. Kerstetter '08 (Painting Illustration)  
Richard Krukowski '73 (Education)  
William Layton Jr. '84 (Nursing)  
Lynn Ann Petuch Lestishock '80 (Business Administration)  
Joseph Olivieri '72 (Social Science)  
Paul Pacheco '92 (Plumbing/Heating Technology)  
Deborah May Pall '83 (Computer Information Systems)  
Mark Resavy '98 (Computer Graphics)  
Billie Jo Rinehamer '01 & '05 (General Studies & Respiratory Therapy)  
Stanley Rushinski '76 (Business Administration)  
Edward Lewis Schoepf III '96 (Nursing)

Cheryl Grabosky Shager '97 (Nursing)  
Shirley Stigliano '97 (General Studies)  
Caroline Tenzi '72 (General Studies)  
Phyllis Thivierge '81 (Dental Assisting)  
Robert J. Watkins '86 (Business Administration)  
Carol Wolensky '72 (Office Management Technology)  
Lorraine Wysocki '87 (Business Management)

### Former LCCC Faculty & Staff

Allan J. Allan, retired Trustee  
Paul Bankovich, retired mathematics faculty  
Paul Bedwick, retired Trustee  
Dr. Guy V. Ferrell, First President of LCCC  
Paul Gravell, retired engineering technology faculty/chair  
Rose Homechko, microbiology lab assistant  
Henry Marshalllick, retired maintenance department  
Cora R. Porter, retired Nursing faculty  
Rose Tucker, retired Foundation Board Member & Trustee

# Your Gift is Important

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

## 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.

## Alumni benefit offers discount on auto & home insurance



The LCCC Alumni Association has partnered with Liberty Mutual, the nation's fifth-largest auto and home insurer. Through Liberty Mutual's Group Savings Plus® program, LCCC graduates may save up to 20 percent on their auto insurance and 10 percent on their home, condo or renters insurance\*. That can be hundreds of dollars back in your pocket. Plus Liberty Mutual offers their customers who have both auto and home policies an attractive added multi-policy discount.

In addition to discounts, Group Savings Plus® offers LCCC Alumni:

- The freedom to purchase insurance the way you want: through a personal sales representative at more than 400 offices countrywide, a toll-free telesales center, or online.
- Convenient payment by automatic checking account deduction or direct billing to your home.
- 24-hour toll-free claims service, emergency roadside assistance, and homeowner emergency repair service.
- Outstanding customer service from a local office, or from Liberty Mutual's J.D. Powers and Associates-certified call centers.

To find out how much you can save, call 1-800-310-6764 or visit [www.libertymutual.com/LCCC](http://www.libertymutual.com/LCCC) for an immediate, no-obligation quote.

\*Discounts are available where state law and regulations allow, and may vary by state.

*"Class Notes" continued from page 12*

### *Class of 2005*

**Donald Stefanovich** (Journalism) is enrolled at California State University (Fullerton) and is the recipient of the Alfred and Louise Hewitt Journalism Scholarship for the 2009/2010 academic year. This award is presented annually to an undergraduate student who is majoring in communication, with an emphasis in journalism, and has excellent journalistic writing skills with an open-minded viewpoint. Don is the senior editor for *Skinny Entertainment Magazine*.

### *Class of 2007*

**Shannon Badosky** (Education) is pursuing her bachelor's degree at Bloomsburg University concentrating in elementary/early childhood education. She is also a teacher/childcare provider at the Learning Station.

**Daniel Paul Blaser Jr.** (Health/Physical Education) earned his bachelor's of science degree from King's College. While at King's, he majored in neuroscience with a minor in biology and is currently living and working in New Haven, CT. Daniel plans to pursue his master's degree in 2010.

*Continued on page 19*

# ALUMNI AND FOUNDATION HONOR ROLL

JULY 1, 2008 - JUNE 30, 2009

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Mia Bassham  
Terry Bauder  
Berkshire Asset Management  
Valerie Berzanski '71



## LCCC ALUMNI & FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS

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 Theresa Buckley '80  
 Mark Bufalino, Esq.  
 Joseph Burke, Esq.  
 Joan Bush  
 Pauline Carmody  
 Diana Casey '93  
 Cengage Publishing  
 Ted Chernyl '96  
 Joanne Chipego  
 Chester Chrzanowski  
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 Kathleen Clemente  
 Mary Connell '84  
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 Kent Hostetler  
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## LCCC ALUMNI & FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS

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 Raed Hamad  
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 Susan Hanusek '95  
 Marci Hardwick '98  
 Lois Hartel  
 Karen Havy '89  
 Harry Hayes '73  
 Dale Hazlak  
 John Healey '94  
 Cora Heness  
 Cynthia Heness '98  
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 Debbie Hinz '93  
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 Mary Hogan  
 Michael Hogan '78  
 Janet Hogle '90  
 Alexandria Hollock '85  
 Gretchen Homza '85  
 Pierce Hooper  
 Sandra Hopkins '89  
 Judith Houtsch '98  
 Cynthia Howe '90  
 Donna Hudak '84

Dorothy Hudak  
 Elwood Hungarter '84  
 Sheryl Hupczey '94  
 Barbara Hyde '86  
 Melissa Jabore-Futch  
 Joann Januszewicz  
 Arline Jarrett  
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 Girard Jenkins '94  
 Kathleen Jenkins '96  
 Constance John '86  
 Phyllis Johnson  
 Ronald Jones '77  
 Barbara Jones '91  
 Deborah Jones  
 Maureen Jordan '91  
 Sam Joseph  
 Donna Kachinko '91  
 Anne Kachline '75  
 Janet Kaczmarczyk  
 Mark Kalaus  
 Joseph Kandrový '70  
 Michelle Kaneski '89  
 Joseph Kanyak '71  
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 Joseph Kleback '80  
 Susan Klein '86  
 Brenda Kline '88  
 Deborah Kline '90  
 Lawrence Klug '78  
 Marlene '02 & David '73 Kluger  
 Edward Kopec '75  
 Helen Kopec  
 Robert Kopec '71  
 Leo Kopetz '92  
 Daniel Kopko '90  
 Carl '72 & Jeanne Kosch  
 Donna Kotansky  
 Kevin Kovach '87  
 Maryann Kovalewski '81  
 Constance Krajewski '84  
 Stephen Krakowski '88

Judith Kratz  
 Ilaria Krenitsky  
 Barry Kresge '99  
 Gale Kresge '71  
 Joseph Krizauskas '99  
 Robert Kroll  
 Deborah Kropiewnicki '85  
 Stephen Krull '74  
 Linda Kuboski '81  
 William Kuklewicz '71  
 Beverly Kuprionas '79  
 Lawrence Kupsho '00  
 Theresa Langan '85  
 Michael & Patricia Last  
 Timothy Latshaw  
 Florence Lauth  
 Delphine Lazur  
 LCCC Classified Union  
 LCCC Hotel & Restaurant Staff  
 Sandra Leggieri '92  
 Mary Lenahan '86  
 Donna Lepkowski  
 Edward Lewko '73  
 Christine Likowski '84  
 Lorraine Lindbuchler '87  
 Robert Linskey '82  
 Ronald Lipinski '73  
 David Lisnock '82  
 Joseph & Jenny Long  
 Peggy Long '76  
 Deborah Luchetti '91  
 Scott Luchi  
 Kathleen Lyons '97  
 William MacCollum '71  
 Michael Maday '73  
 Kathleen Magnotta '85  
 Joan Malishchak  
 James Mallon '75  
 Anne Maloney  
 Patricia Maloney '82  
 Richard Marchetti '70  
 Samantha Marino '08  
 B. Gail Marshall  
 Dotty Martin  
 Judith Martin '96  
 Mark Martin '94  
 Michael Martine '74  
 Diane Martinez '94  
 Cathy Martinson '84  
 Gary Masters '82  
 Todd Materna '02  
 Colleen Matthey '92  
 Judith Matulewski '90  
 Martin McCarthy  
 Catherine McElroy '84  
 Marlene McElwee '71  
 Patrick McHale '74  
 Charles McKeown '93  
 Jayne McLaughlin '08  
 Susan McNichols  
 Eugene Mehalshick '89  
 John Menzel '70  
 Shannon Metzger

## LCCC ALUMNI & FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS

Jean Michaels '88	Claudia Piczak	Donna Schuetz '80	Denise Valick '99
Kathleen Micklasavage '89	Carmel Ann Piedmont '82	Jeffrey Schultz	Jennie Valick '74
Karen Middleton	Matthew Pietrzak '08	Susan Schuster '78	Yvette Vercinski '86
Genevieve Mihalick '72	Michael Pinko	Salvatore Sciandra '97	Stephen Vitek '90
B Richard Miller '86	Edward Plaksa '82	Lois Scott '75	Terry '00 & Robert '90 Vosik
Cynthia Miller '94	Ronald Plutnick	Janet Seeley	Denise Wagner '99
Eleanor Miller	Marie Poplawski '00	Gloria Sekusky '82	Annette Walker
Joanie Minor '01	Dottie Powers	Laurie Selecky '86	Susan Walkowiak '77
Florence Mokris '83	Marjorie Pratt '83	Robert Sembrat '92	Matt Walsh
David Molinaro '80	George Price '88	Patricia Sentigar '91	Frank Walton '96
Danielle Monahan	James Price '83	Joy Sewell '84	Connie Ward '97
Barbara Montante '83	Jean Profka	Anna Shabelski '70	Joan Wasserott '84
Julia Moore '87	Joseph Prushinski '79	Adam Shelley '91	Robert Watkins '86
Diane Morrask Fort	Richard Pshar	James Sheridan '89	Marianne Wazenski '84
Robert Moskal '70	Danita Puhl '84	Cynthia '75 & James '76 Shudak	Sheryl Weaver '88
Betty Mott '73	Colleen Pukatch '85	Betty Sikora '83	Ramona Wech '82
Diane Mucha '79	Amy Puzio '05	Carol Silver '82	Valerie Weigand '07
John Mudrian '05	Ashlee Puzio	Barbara Siracuse	Dean Welch '71
Mary Ellen Mudzik	Debbie Puzio	JoAnn Sitler '87	Karin Wellings '98
Judith Mullen '82	David Pyskoty '06	Carol Slabinski '79	William Wentz '82
Janet Mullery '90	Ryan Quinn '98	Marilyn Sladon '88	Robert Whitmire '84
Honorable Phyllis Mundy	William Quoos '88	Gayle Slezak	Michael Wilchinski '76
Elaine Murray '86	Betty Rafalko '88	Sandra Slosky '70	Jacqueline Wilder
Beth Musselman '82	Stephen Rakos '91	Ronald Smallcomb	Norma Wildoner '94
Gail Musto '09	Lorrie Rauschkolb '78	Neil Smith '81	Dr. Ann M. Williams
Sandra Mutrynowski '95	Rosemarie Rava '97	Joline Sobeck '80	Janet Williams '81
Dr. Byron & Mrs. Jean Myers	Gloria Rawls '86	Susan Socash	Jean Williams '88
Mario Naticchi '06	Keith Reh '94	Kathleen Socha '80	Mary Williams '78
John Need '90	Lewis Reich '72	George Soppeck '74	Patricia Williams '91
Beth Nelson '87	Margaret Reino '77	Elaine Sozzi '77	Robert Williams '83
Robin Nelson '99	Catherine Riccetti	Dr. Sheldon Spear	Thomas Williams '89
The New York Times	Dawn Richie '93	Shelley Spencer '86	Timothy Williams '84
Foundation	Molly Rinker '91	Joanne Spisak	Marion Wilson '80
Krista '95 & David '86 Nice	Frank Rinkevich '80	Jean Marie Stack '88	Michele Winters
Jacqueline Nicolardi '79	Shirley Ritsick '87	Rick '97 & Natalie '95 Staron	Jean Witinski '80
Frank Nocito	Marie Robine	Charles Steever '71	Veronica Witt '79
Gilbert Noll	Roxanne Robinson '92	Judith Steigerwald '83	Melanie '76 & Frank '77
Judith Novak	Barbara Rodack	Robert Steiner '80	Wojak
Sybil Nudo '90	Nancy Rodriguez '77	Michelle Steve '72	Betty Wojcik '71
David Nutaitis '87	Cheryl Rogers '81	Anna Marie Stiliha '70	Linda Wojnar '92
Renee O'Connor '90	Jane '79 & Alan '79 Rogers	Kathleen Talcott '05	Kelly Wozniak '91
Leslie Olerita-Leibman '96	Rosalie Roote '94	Bruce Talipan '84	Deborah Wruble '82
Leonard Olzinski	Frank Scott Rosenn '76	William Taney '99	Andrea Yachera '99
Alex O'Malia '76	Edith Ross '77	Joan Taylor '87	Sandra Yanchick '95
Michelle O'Malley '81	Judith Rowett '90	Alice Teufel	Glenn Yanik
James Opet '83	Kara Rowley '98	Bonnie Thomas '74	Shirley Yanovich
Pennsylvanians for	Carol Ann Royer '77	Donald Thomas '70 +	Mark Yanus '84
Congressman Kanjorski	Cynthia Russell '81	G. Theresa Thomas '79	Lisa Yeager '78
David Pahl '78	Maureen Ryneski	Maria Thomas '95	Lori Yost-Cotrone '89
Jean Pall '92	Dirk Saar	Sharon Tier '86	Olga Yudisky
Debra Paradis '80	Laureen Sabol '88	The Honorable Thomas Tigue	Ann Zaffuto '85
Ellen '93 & Dale '82	Jennifer Sabulski '80	Rachel Tomaszewski '87	Kathleen Zambotti '94
Parmenteri	Linda Sachney	John Tosi	Barbara Zardus '84
Bruce Partches '03	Carol Salek '69	Carl Tranell '84	Chester Zaremba '79
Jennifer Pawlowski '88	Mary Rose Salvo	Debbie Tressa '80	Gail Zaykoski '86
Gary Peacock	John Sandstrom '86	Robert Trimble '02	Sandra Zbierski '94
Stacey Pellegrino '03	Daniel Sarosky '99	Ann Tripp	Bonnie '74 & Gary '77 Zisko
Reese Pelton	Edward Sartin '93	Amy '96 & Kevin '95 Troy	Karen Zmijewski
Richard Pendolphia '74	William Saunders '84	Carol Truskowski '88	Josephine Zuba
Pennsylvania Plein Air Society	Barbara Saxe '80	Judith Tudgay '80	David Zurek '83
Richard Pesotski '85	Patricia Scarcella '81	Vincent Turosky	Georgia Zwartjes
Karen Peters '90	Richard Schall '73	Richard Uhing '72	Leo Zynel
Patricia Peters '99	Roger Schoch '96	Gloria Vacula '97	

+ Deceased

## Matching Gifts

Many community-minded organizations match the gifts their employees give to non-profit and community organizations. Financial support was received during the past fiscal year (7/1/08-6/30/09) by the following organizations.

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

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

*“Branching out” continued from page 6*

take care of it and I love to look at that tree when it’s snowing and the snow is hanging from the bark,” Brooke said. “The trees here have leaves no more than six months out of the year but how many people pay attention to them the rest of the time, the branching structure and the shape and the bark? There’s so much more to see and so much they can teach us about different ways of observing and appreciating what’s around us.”

“And if you appreciate the trees, maybe you won’t throw that paper wrapper out the window,” Libby added.

The Yeagers hope their passion for trees, especially those on the school campus, will be contagious, and early signs are it’s already happening. They explained that they were worried that the intention to create an arboretum and enhance the school’s plantings would upset the maintenance staff. “We made sure we talked to them about it to explain this wasn’t meant to replace what they do,” Brooke said. “I was very touched to learn that they want to be the first ones to buy a new tree for the campus.”

And Brooke may even add a tree or two of his own. “My favorite tree is *Ceris Canadensis*, or Redbud tree,” he said. “It has gorgeous pink flowers in late April or early May. It’s just a wonderful tree to show that winter is done and spring is coming. We don’t have one on campus but I might transplant one from my garden — if I can find the right place. You need to put the right tree in just the right place.”

## In-Kind Gifts

The College receives “In-kind” support (contributions of equipment, services, supplies, or other non-cash gifts) from philanthropic-minded companies to support our student programs. In-kind support was received during the past fiscal year (7/1/08-6/30/09) from the following individuals and organizations.

Alden Manor Complex  
 Asian Café  
 Dr. Bart & Mrs. Beverly Burne  
 Company’s Coming  
 Cross Valley Federal Credit Union  
 Barbara Dobrowalski, Longaberger Baskets  
 Mary Dolon ‘74  
 Elaine Flanagan ‘98  
 Gertrude Hawk Candy Company  
 Joe & Sue Hand  
 Johnny D’s  
 Keyco Food Service  
 Koehler-Bright Star, Inc.  
 Bonnie Lauer ‘87  
 LCCC Bookstore  
 LCCC Literary Arts Society  
 Liberty Mutual  
 Krista Nice ‘95, Avon Rep.  
 Lisa Owens ‘97  
 Jennifer Pawlowski ‘88  
 R Kids 2 Yours Consignment Shop  
 Sanitary Bakery  
 Trans-Med Ambulance, Inc.  
 Weis Markets

*“Class Notes” continued from page 14*

### *Class of 2008*

**Adam B. Cottle** (Business Administration) recently completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX. He is currently stationed in Germany.

### *Class of 2009*

Congratulations to **David Campbell** (Social Science), who was named as the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Award. Congratulations also to **Tracy Carney** (Human Services), who was named as the recipient of the Outstanding Adult Learner Graduate Award. The annual awards are presented to students who have demonstrated academic achievement and active involvement in both college and community activities. Both awards were presented by the LCCC Alumni Association at the College’s 41st annual Commencement ceremony held recently at the Wachovia Arena.

## LCCC Foundation Receives Donation of Artwork

The Luzerne County Community College Foundation, Inc. recently received a donation of artwork from local artist Sue Hand.

Hand donated her private collection of artwork to LCCC. She has been collecting artwork by regional and local artists, done in a variety of mediums and styles, for more than 30 years. The collection of artwork, which includes 107 paintings, will be on permanent display in the LCCC Library.

Hand's artwork is included in public and private art collections in nearly every state in the U.S. as well as 10 foreign countries. She frequently donates her artwork to many organizations in an effort to help with fund raising. Each year, Hand donates a painting to the LCCC Alumni Association's annual Fall Craft Festival. The painting is featured in the Association's raffle and a portion of the proceeds are donated to the SPCA.



*Shown with some of the donated artwork are, from left: Sue Spenberg '69, Nescopeck, retired chair, commercial art, LCCC; Thomas P. Leary, Kingston, president, LCCC; Sue Hand, Dallas, Sue Hand Imagery; Mia Bassham, Mountain Top, director, library, LCCC; and Sandra Nicholas, Kingston, director, LCCC Foundation, Inc.*

## U.S. Department of Education Awards \$1.9 Million Grant to LCCC

*Title III Grant will enhance off-campus, evening and weekend services plus create a college endowment*

Luzerne County Community College was recently awarded a five year, \$1.9 million Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant from the United States Department of Education. This grant will help LCCC expand and improve student support services such as counseling, and will provide technological assistance during evenings, weekends and at dedicated off-campus sites. The grant also aims to provide professional development for adjunct faculty. With these new initiatives, the College is pleased to be able to offer improved services to all of its students no matter where or when they take their classes.

As part of the Title III Grant, the College has been challenged with raising \$180,000 toward the LCCC Endowment Fund. This general endowment will allow LCCC to award more scholarships, develop innovative programs, attract top faculty and provide the best learning environment possible for years to come. Because of current and anticipated government budget cuts, an endowment will

help ensure that the College will be here to serve future generations with the same high quality education.

The LCCC Foundation will permanently invest the initial gifts and spend a portion of the average annual return, keeping the principle intact. A portion of the income will be reinvested each year, enabling the LCCC Endowment to grow and provide a permanent stream of income. Earnings support the educational mission of LCCC and enable the College to respond to emerging needs and opportunities as they arise.

LCCC alumni and friends are encouraged to be a Trailblazer and make a donation to the LCCC Endowment Fund today! Your donation matters and is an investment in future students. The endowment will remain in perpetuity and only the interest earned will be spent in support of College endeavors. Please consider a gift to this important, new enterprise at Luzerne County Community College.



LCCC Alumni Association, volunteers and students staff the phones for the annual Phonathon



The Alumni Association and Dental Health Department recently held the 10th Annual Dental Health Alumni Day featuring Colleen Rutledge, RDH



Several graduates of the Computer Information Systems (CIS) program are now adjunct instructors in the College's CIS department. Here they are at the First Annual CIS Mixer in April 2009



LCCC's New Choices/New Options program recently celebrated its 30th anniversary at the College's Educational Conference Center. Participants and guests attended the celebration.



The Alumni Association held its Annual Flea Market and Collectibles Show with appraiser Dr. Lori. Over 70 vendors participated in this event.

## 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

Paul A. Halesey '84 Chair  
 Gregory A. Skrepenak, Vice Chair  
 Elaine Curry, Secretary  
 Elaine Cook, R.N., J.D.  
 Lynn Marie Distasio  
 Mahmoud H. Fahmy, Ph.D.  
 John Kashatus  
 Joseph M. Lombardo, M.D.  
 Agapito López, M.D.  
 Thomas F. O'Donnell, Ed.D.  
 August J. Piazza '69  
 Thomas P. Pizano  
 Joseph Rymar  
 Michael Tigue, III

### FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas A. Scappaticci, President  
 Jerry Champi, First Vice President  
 Susan Unvarsky '86,  
 Second Vice President  
 James Burke, Treasurer  
 Robert Tamburro, Executive Secretary  
 John Augustine III,  
 Immediate Past President  
 Judith Aita  
 Patrick Aregood, Esq.  
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 Dr. John DeFinnis  
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 Rodrigo Gereda  
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Michael Kehoe  
 Megan Kennedy  
 Frank Kowalski  
 Thomas P. Leary, LCCC President  
 Michael Lombardo  
 Debra Martin '85  
 Thomas Medico  
 Sandra A. Nicholas,  
 Executive Director  
 Lisa Owens '97  
 Robert M. Paley  
 August Piazza '69  
 Thomas E. Pugh  
 Brian Rinker '81  
 Mary Jo Rushin  
 David Sawicki  
 Conrad Schintz  
 Roxanne Schulman  
 Leonard V. Shimko '69  
 Jeffrey P. Stewart

What's *NEW* with **YOU**

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

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

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

  
**LUZERNE**  
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Luzerne TV sponsored its annual Halloween Bash once again in the television studio. Music, contests, dancing, pizza, and of course the crazy costumes make this event a blast at LCCC.