

The Bridge

Fall 2008

Luzerne County Community College

Alumni & Friends

New President • PSTI Opens • Postcards from the Past



**Malaysian Artist
exhibits at LCCC's
Schulman Gallery**



LUZERNE
County Community College

New Trustees Named to LCCC Board

The Luzerne County Board of Commissioners recently appointed five new members to the Luzerne County Community College Board of Trustees. The new Trustees appointed are:



Elaine Cook, R.N., J.D.,
Law Office,
Drums and Wilkes-Barre



Lynn Marie Distasio,
Chief Operating Officer/
PRO Rehabilitation Services



John Kashatus, Retired
Assistant Principal,
Greater Nanticoke Area
School District



J. Touré McCluskey,
Owner/Founder, First Mile
Health, LLC, Wilkes-Barre



Agapito López, M.D.,
Hilton Reservations
and Customer Care,
Hazleton/Pecora Real
Estate, Hazleton/LSC
Translation Service,
Ardmore

The following Trustees completed their terms of office on the Board:
Charles Adonizio, Paula Conahan DeJoseph, J.D., Judith Ellis,
Attorney Robert Panowicz, Dr. Ross Scarantino.

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Credits

Contributing Writers

Robert Bogdon
Matt Singer '09
Bonnie Lauer '87
Lisa Nelson
Melissa Taney '03

Contributing Editors

Sandra A. Nicholas
Bonnie Lauer '87
Robert Bogdon
Kathy Goeringer

Photography

Mark James '96
LCCC Archives

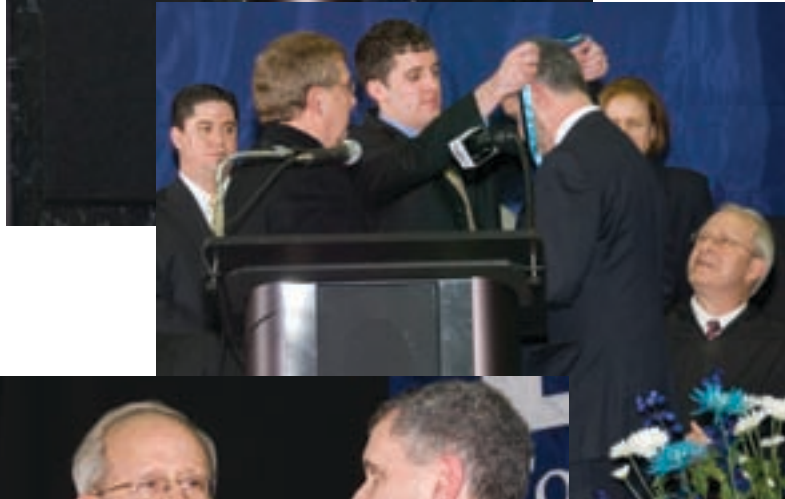
Layout and Design

Robert Bogdon

Cover Photo:
Chew Fang Chin,
Malaysian Artist

Leary becomes 7th LCCC president

by Melissa Taney



On February 21, 2008, Thomas P. Leary became the seventh president of Luzerne County Community College. He was officially sworn in by Judge Thomas Burke as hundreds watched at the College's Atherton Gymnasium. Leary was appointed president in December following a year-long term as interim president.

Leary began his career at the College 34 years ago as assistant director of admissions. He has worked in many administrative capacities at the College, including Vice President of Student Development, a position he currently holds along with his presidency. College employees who took part in the ceremony included faculty member Ed Ackerman who served as the Master of Ceremonies; Learning Support Specialist Anna Mary McHugh, faculty representative; and Vice President of Workforce and Community Development, Sue Spry. Other participants included Dr. Ross Scarantino, Chair of the LCCC Board of Trustees; student Michelle Pollack, president of the LCCC honor societies; student Nicole Meloro, president of the LCCC Student Government Association; John Augustine, president of the LCCC Foundation; Russell Keeler, president of the LCCC Alumni Association; student Lauren Quinn, who sang the National Anthem; and Leary's son, Patrick, who helped place the Presidential Medallion on his father.

Leary, a life-long resident of Kingston, graduated from King's College and has a master's degree in history and political science from the University of Scranton.

While he considers the whole program as a memorable experience, he was touched by the comments given by student Michelle Pollack. "Students at LCCC see more than a president," said Pollack. "We see an individual who has integrity, concern, dedication, and compassion. President Leary is a stellar example of what a multitude of students hope to accomplish. His accomplishments illustrate the significance of overcoming challenges we face."

"What Michelle said really got me," Leary says.

His plans for the College's future are, "For the administration and staff to basically focus on student success because collectively, everything we do, is centered on that."

“East Mee



Malaysian Artist,
Chew Fang Chin,
Exhibits at LCCC
Schulman Gallery



*Crowd gathers to enjoy
traditional Malaysian
dances.*

ts West”

by Matt Singer & Robert Bogdon



Thomas P. Leary, LCCC President; Dr. Rajmah Hussain, Malaysian Ambassador; Roxanne and Dr. Norman Schulman, contributors to the Gallery; and artist Chew Fang Chin.

For several weeks in April, Luzerne County Community College, the campus hosted a major international artist and experienced a culture from the other side of the world. The Malaysian art exhibit, “East Meets West at LCCC: A Solo Exhibition by Chew Fang Chin,” was the main attraction in the Schulman Gallery in the College’s Campus Center.

The three-week exhibit was the first display of Chew’s works in the United States. The opening night of Chew’s art show offered a celebration never before seen at the College. Malaysian Ambassador, Dr. Rajmah Hussain, arrived at LCCC to tout Chew’s success and the culture of Malaysia. Congressman Paul E. Kanjorski, and numerous business, financial and educational leaders from Malaysia also attended the event. Malaysian dancers from Pennsylvania State University entertained guests with traditional dances. Guests also enjoyed tastes from the visiting country.

During Chew’s stay in the area, he met with LCCC art students and presented a demonstration of his technique and style. After his nearly month-long exhibition, Chew donated several pieces of artwork to the Schulman Gallery.

Chew’s painting style is described as a mixture of Classical Chinese and Modern Western art featuring images of people and landscapes of remote areas of his homeland. In Malaysia, he has held more than 25 solo exhibits. Chew is the first

Malaysian artist to exhibit his work in Taiwan, South Korea, Australia, and China.

His paintings have been exhibited in art galleries and museums throughout the world in countries including Australia, China, Malaysia, and Taiwan. Chew’s works also are collected by art lovers in the United States, Canada, England, Italy, Poland, Japan, Belgium, and France, among other countries.

“The art exhibition gave me the opportunity to present and enrich the cultural understanding and friendship between Malaysia and the United States through art,” says Chew. “I will always be grateful to have had this opportunity to show my paintings at Luzerne County Community College.”



Participants at the exhibits opening look through Information on Malaysia and its culture.

Postcards From The Past

by Robert Bogdon



In a world of instant messages and e-mails, one area woman is determined to preserve a simple communication tool that tells the story of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in writing and through pictures.

Elena Castrignano, a Hanover Township resident and clerk at Luzerne County Community College's library, began collecting historical postcards of Wilkes-Barre several years ago.

"I have always had a fascination with history," Castrignano says. "Postcards give you an interesting glimpse of the city's history both visually and through people's stories to each other."

Castrignano began collecting old postcards as a hobby and to converse with her friend and colleague, Fred Walters, a retired reference librarian from LCCC. She purchases a majority of her postcard collection on eBay and at antique fairs. She keeps her amassed collection in an oversized photo album. "I keep having to buy larger books as my collection grows," Castrignano admits. "I'm still collecting."

LCCC library clerk delivers a history of Wilkes-Barre through postcards

st ful place

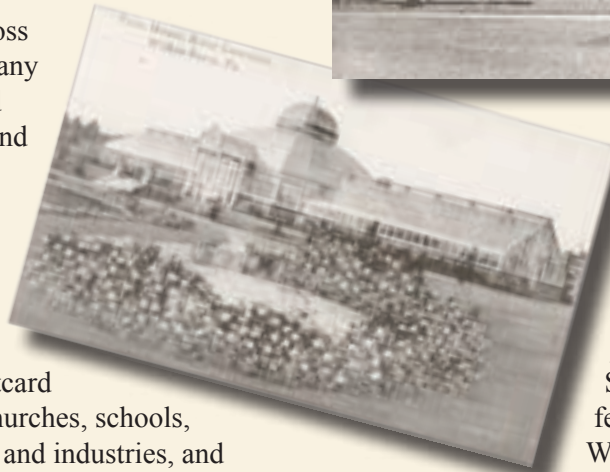
“My favorite postcards are the ones featuring the Wyoming Hotel,” says Castrignano. “The building was seven stories high and overlooked the Susquehanna River. There’s a great postcard showing people sitting on a massive patio watching the water. People came from all over the world to stay there.”

While searching the Internet for postcards, Castrignano came across Arcadia Publishing, a printing company that specializes in historical postcard books. She contacted the publisher and spoke of her collection and her wish to write a book telling the story of Wilkes-Barre through her postcards. Arcadia agreed, and *Wilkes-Barre* was published on January 7 as part of their company’s postcard history series books. The book includes postcard images of the Susquehanna River, churches, schools, downtown Wilkes-Barre, businesses and industries, and surrounding towns.

Castrignano developed much of her writing skills through journalism classes at Luzerne County Community College. She consulted local historians and LCCC professors for some of the history narrative and conducted research of materials at the Osterhout Free Library and the Luzerne County Historical Society.

Some of Castrignano’s postcards in the book are personal to her. “I grew up in the North End section of Wilkes-Barre,” she states. “I have a postcard of the Lazarus Brothers department store because my parents first met there. My mother was a secretary there and my father was a stock boy.” Another favorite for her is a postcard featuring the lake in San Souci Park. “This was located near my current home and I originally saw the postcard at the Luzerne County Historical Society,” Castrignano recalls. “My friend and LCCC co-worker, Linda Sachney, found the card and gave it to me for my collection.”

Other interesting postcards in Castrignano’s book include the Palm House Conservatory, where the city grew plants and flowers which were then planted throughout Wilkes-Barre’s parks. Her collection also includes a card with the original fountain located on Public Square erected for the city’s centennial in 1906. The fountain was topped with a large statue of an Indian maiden which was later removed in the 1930s and no one is sure of its whereabouts.



“What’s amazing to look at in the postcards is that all the people are dressed in formal wear; ladies in white dresses and men in hats and suit jackets,” Castrignano comments. She is still looking for postcards featuring old vaudeville theaters in Wilkes-Barre. She points out one such theater in her book known

as Poli’s Theater. “Performers would come here first,” she says. “The motto was ‘If you can make it in Wilkes-Barre, you can make it anywhere.’ Apparently, Wilkes-Barre crowds were pretty tough.”

Castrignano’s postcards range from the mid 1800’s to the 1950’s. Most do not have zip codes and contain the original postmarks. Some are personalized like a group shot of women standing in front of a playground in a Wilkes-Barre park with a note: “Mr. Makrell, can you find Florence in this picture? Look sharp.”

Postcards are inexpensive and provide an easy look into the past Castrignano says. “It’s a shame many of the structures in the photos are no longer around,” she comments. “The original court house, the theaters, flower gardens, rowboat rides, are all gone now.”

One postcard of Public Square was mailed by a gentleman referred only as Fr. C. which read “This is a beautiful place.”

Castrignano lives in Lee Park with her husband, Joe, and three children Stephen, Michael, and Janet. Copies of *Wilkes-Barre* can be found on Amazon.com and in the LCCC Bookstore.



The Headquarters Building during the dedication ceremony for the LCCC Public Safety Training Center.

Public Safety Training Center Opens

by Robert Bogdon & Lisa Nelson

The music of a pipe and drum band, a parade of firefighters and police officers, and the wail of fire engine sirens signaled the opening of Luzerne County Community College's Regional Public Safety Training Center on April 25 in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania.

The region had the opportunity to see and tour the new center designed to help regional first responders with hands-on tactical training to combat fires and other emergency situations.

The two new structures dedicated at the \$6 million facility located at the College's main campus includes a tactical/structural firefighting tower/burn building and headquarters building.

The tactical tower/burn building is a five-story building which is designed and constructed to withstand live fire training drills. Propane furnaces and Class A burn rooms simulate a burning building allowing for training scenarios for ground ladder training; rappel entry and exit; residential, commercial and small high rise fires; sprinkler support and operations; hazardous material and breathing apparatus training; search and rescue; hazardous



The Ceol Mor Pipe and Drum Band of Luzerne County and the Scranton Honor Guard lead the procession to the training center. Local firefighters and emergency responders attended in uniform.



At the podium -- Gregory A. Skrepenak; seated from left -- Thomas P. Leary; The Honorable John Yudichak; James R. Wills, Jr.; Jim Ellis; and Dr. Karen Flannery.

material; ventilation; high angle rope rescue training; SWAT training; police entry and search training; K-9 training; hostage rescue training; terrorism incident exercises; and more. The Headquarters Building includes two classrooms, temporary administrative offices, an apparatus bay, equipment storage, and a maintenance shop.

Speakers for the dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting included Gregory A. Skrepenak, member, Luzerne County Board of Commissioners, secretary, LCCC Board of Trustees and chair, LCCC Foundation Capital Campaign; Thomas P. Leary, president, LCCC; The Honorable John Yudichak, PA House of Representatives; James R. Wills, Jr., Deputy Fire Chief, Kingston Fire Department and president, Luzerne County Fire and Rescue Training Association; Jim Ellis, LCCC student, Fire Sciences program; and Dr. Karen A. Flannery, dean, public safety training and special initiatives, LCCC.

On May 10, the PSTI held its first structural burn class with 25 students completing the Essentials of

Firefighting program, a 160-hour training program for new firefighters.

In August, the PSTI hosted a tanker rollover simulation in conjunction with the County Emergency Management agency. The tanker simulates a crash resulting in a spill of hazardous material. The Center just finished a two-day campus security officer training program attended by security officers from across the country.

“I’m extremely happy with the College’s newest facility,” says Dr. Flannery. “What’s really gratifying is the positive remarks from area firefighters about the training center. It will have everything they could have possibly imagined when the final phases of the construction are completed.”

Flannery says the Regional Public Safety Training Institute will host an open house for the community in the near future.

Tactical/structural firefighting tower/ burn building which simulates various types of fires.



She's Got The Reading Bug *(and wants to share it)*

by Robert
Bogdon

"I've heard that many times you don't pick a career, a career picks you," says Melissa Szafran Jones '94. Jones is the Library Director of Pittston Memorial Library and has been involved with libraries for 20 years.

"My fascination with libraries began when my mother took me to story time at the Plains branch of the Osterhout Library," Jones recalls. "What I like most about my job is my love for books coupled with the joy of working with a variety of people – from young moms introducing their children to the joys of reading, to elementary children who can't seem to read enough, to teens and adults who use books to escape and enjoy stories."

Melissa began her career as a page with the Osterhout Free Library and then worked her way up as a supervisor. She was previously the director of



Above, Melissa Szafran Jones '94 reads stories to several children in the Children's Wing.

Right, Jones stands in front of the new Pittston Memorial Library.



the Mill Library in Nanticoke before landing the director's position at the Pittston Library.

"I have implemented reading and education programs oriented to adults and youths in the community. To encourage children to read in the summer, I have eaten worms and maggots, held a large hissing cockroach, kissed a frog, and dyed my hair pink all for the sake of learning," admits Jones whose office is filled with artwork created by children, a Harry Potter owl, and Hector the Hissing Cockroach from Madagascar.

Over the last several years Jones has helped raise more than \$40,000 in community donations for the Pittston Memorial Library. "There is a lot of excitement for our new library," she says. "The community here is very generous."

Although Jones may have been destined to follow a career in the library field, she didn't realize that destiny at first. "I was in high school and wasn't sure what I wanted to do," says Jones, who added that her parents were encouraging her to go to college. "I wanted to pick a school where I had the freedom to explore different fields so I chose Luzerne County Community College."

Jones took courses in travel and tourism as well as education, before finally settling on broadcast journalism. She became involved in the campus's student media. "I enjoyed writing for The Outlook and working in the WSFX radio booth in the Advanced Technology Center," she says. Jones credits LCCC for helping her enjoy her college education and continuing on with her studies. "If it weren't for LCCC, I wouldn't be here," she says. "The faculty and staff took time to get to know you and made learning fun."

In 1994, Jones graduated from LCCC with an associate's degree in Broadcast Communications Technology. Because she enjoyed her work as the political correspondent at the Outlook, she majored and earned a bachelor's degree from King's College in political science. Jones recently finished her master's degree in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh.

She is a member of the Luzerne County Community College Alumni Association Executive Board and serves as Secretary to the Friends of the Hoyt Library. She is also a board member of the

Laflin Library and is a member of the Friends of the Pittston Memorial Library.

"As a librarian, I get to help people find what they are look for," Jones says. "From finding the perfect book, to understanding the world around them, to learning how to use computer technology. This is what I live for."



Jones poses with her officemate, Hector, the hissing cockroach.



Alumnus rises to Board chair

Paul Halsey '84 is the new chair of the LCCC Board of Trustees

As a high school senior at Hanover Area High School in 1980, Paul Halsey had no idea what he was going to do after high school. Halsey worked with his brothers over the summers with their pool installation business, but he had his sights on a career in the health care industry.

His brothers, Pete and Joe, and his sister, Paulette, had all attended Luzerne County Community College. Paul also ventured to LCCC to see what direction his career path might take. "Since I was looking at something in the health sciences field, I majored in biology at LCCC," Halsey says.

"The instructors were all wonderful people," Halsey recalls. "Dr. Ron Pohala, my lab instructor at the time, really looked out for me. He became a friend as well as a mentor. When my mother passed away the day before my biology final, he gave me the time I needed to make up the exam. The faculty were and still are very empathetic."

"Many students from my high school came to LCCC," Halsey remembers, "but I met many new people in the labs and during lunches in the cafeteria."



After graduating from Luzerne, Halsey transferred his degree to Temple University where he earned a B.S. in biology and stayed to complete its pharmacy program. Halsey soon after returned to northeastern Pennsylvania with his family.

He landed a pharmacist position at CVS and stayed with the company for 13 years. Halsey then found a career at Advanced PCS (currently CVS Caremark), a mail service pharmacy located in the Hanover Industrial Park. Halsey currently oversees supervisors, pharmacists, and technicians. "We are wrapping up a major hiring effort for more pharmacy technicians and pharmacists," Halsey says. He noted that a significant number of pharmacists start their education at Luzerne County Community College. In response to a growing need for personnel in the pharmacy field, LCCC created a Pharmacy Technician program through its Continuing Education Department.

In 2003, Halsey was approached to join the Board of Trustees for Luzerne. He quickly accepted. "When I got to this level, it was exciting to become part of the fabric of the College," Halsey states. Just recently, he was appointed as Board Chair. "It's a wonderful opportunity to give back to the school," he says. "My experience with LCCC helps drive my efforts to ensure its success."



19th Annual Alumni Association Craft Festival Set for October

The Alumni Association's Fall Craft Festival is set for Saturday, October 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the main campus in Nanticoke. This event continues to be one of the largest and most respected in northeastern Pennsylvania. The festival will again feature nearly 150 quality artisans selling handmade crafts, jewelry, artwork, pottery, soaps and more. In addition, LCCC's Pastry Arts faculty and students will host their annual bake sale with a delicious selection of cakes, breads, cookies and more.

There will be children's crafts provided by the United Honors Societies; LCCC's new mascot, Blaze, will be on-hand to entertain the crowd; and the Droptoberfest Lowriders Custom Car & Truck Show sponsored by Kiddie Rydes Car Club and SCCA's Solo II Autocross Competition will join us for the ninth year in a row. In addition, the Alumni Association is sponsoring two raffles this year:

1. A craft raffle with a top prize of a \$200 Savings Bond sponsored by the Cross Valley Federal Credit Union, Wilkes-Barre, and 100+ handcrafted items. Tickets are \$1.00 each.

2. Nationally recognized artist Sue Hand has generously donated a beautiful floral painting for a raffle. Tickets are 3 for \$5.

Each year thousands of people attend this event which is known as one of the best in the region. The annual festival is held just before the holidays and it's a great opportunity to "beat the rush" and do your shopping early!

If you are interested in participating as a vendor, would like to purchase raffle tickets, or if you have any questions contact the Alumni Office at alumni@luzerne.edu or 570-740-0734.



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For more information, please contact
Bonnie Lauer, Director of Alumni Relations, at (570) 740-0734.

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 CALENDAR

September 17, 2008: Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, Alumni room (#214)

October 11, 2008: New York City Bus Trip, day on your own in the Big Apple

October 18, 2008: 19th Annual Craft Festival, main campus, 10:00- 4:00 p.m., \$2 admission, children 12 and under are free

November 11, 2008: Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, Alumni room (#214)

January 28, 2009: 22nd Annual Alumni vs. Students Basketball Game, 5:30 p.m., James T. Atherton Gymnasium

January 28, 2009: Alumni Association Meeting, Campus Center, Alumni room (#214), immediately following the basketball game

March 10, 2009: Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, Alumni room (#214)

March 30 – April 8, 2009: Alumni Association Phonathon, Educational Conference Center

April 15, 2009: Application deadline for Alumni Association Scholarship and Abigail M. George Scholarship

April 23, 2009: CIS Graduates Mixer, for more information email alumni@luzerne.edu

May 2, 2009: 10th Annual Alumni Flea Market & Collectible Show, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., ECC

May 12, 2009: Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, Alumni room (#214)

May 15, 2009: Dental Health Alumni Day, Educational Conference Center, more information to be mailed to all Dental Health graduates in Spring 2009

May 26, 2009: Graduate Reception, Educational Conference Center, 7:00-9:00 pm

May 28, 2009: Commencement Ceremony, Wachovia Arena, 6:00 p.m.

June 4, 2009: Displaced Home Makers / New Options / New Choices Graduates Reunion & Picnic, for more information contact the Alumni office at (800)377-5222 ext. 734

June 7, 2009: Antique Automobile Club of America Car Show, main campus, portion of the proceeds benefit LCCC student scholarships



Goodbye, Dear Friend...

LCCC lost a dear friend on June 1. George A. McCutcheon, 90, died at his retirement community in San Antonio, Texas. McCutcheon was with the College from its inception in 1967 through retirement in 1983. During the initial stages of LCCC's development, McCutcheon established the Admissions, Athletic, Recruiting and Placement, Continuing Education and Counseling departments, as well as the Alumni Association. He went on to serve as director of student activities and as advisor to the Student Government Association, which later established a scholarship in his name.

Francis Curry, Admissions Recruiter for LCCC, worked with McCutcheon for 25 years. "He had a very positive influence on my life." Curry remembers fondly. "He took me under his wing and really inspired me to get involved in helping students. He understood that personal contact was the most important part of recruiting."

As Director of Student Activities, McCutcheon was very active with LCCC's Circle K Club. In 1972, he led the Club's volunteer efforts in Hurricane Agnes flood recovery work for which the club received two awards at the national convention. In 1974, McCutcheon received the Circle of Service Award, the top honor given for outstanding community service through Circle K. The Pennsylvania Circle K established the George McCutcheon Award, which is presented annually to a Kiwanis advisor for outstanding service to Circle K clubs.

At the time of his retirement from LCCC in 1983, McCutcheon was serving as Director of Student Services. He always maintained his connection with the College, and was a consistent supporter of LCCC's College Foundation. In 1995, McCutcheon was inducted into the LCCC Wall of Honor for his outstanding contributions to the College.

"When I think of community colleges, I think of George McCutcheon," says August J. Piazza '69, LCCC Foundation and Trustee Board member. "George was the first person I met on campus," Piazza says. "His enthusiasm for the College was unconditional. He has had a lasting impact on my life."

The College was honored to have George attend its 40th anniversary celebration last October to see how successful his original achievements have made LCCC what it is today.

"George's vision has been the model for all of our student services," says Thomas P. Leary, LCCC president. "His concern for students and his compassion to ensure their success is the foundation we continue to use here at LCCC. George has been an inspiration for our school and he will be profoundly missed."

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.

David Antonik
Maintenance Staff

Emma Conklin
Custodian

Pam Joseph
Nursing Faculty

Rita Keller
Business Office

Linda Ottensman Kobuski '81
Director, Purchasing

Michael Leahey '90
Switchboard Operator

Elaine Lyons '76
Human Services Faculty

Mary Ellen Mudzik
Registrar's Office

Rich Myers
Maintenance Staff

Beth Nelson '87
Institutional Research &
Planning Office

Art Reabuck
Business Faculty

Howard Sprague
Maintenance Foreman

Irene Yeager '87
Conference Center Specialist

IN MEMORIAM

Sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of the following alumni and faculty who passed away since the last publication of "The Bridge" in the Fall of 2007.

LCCC Graduates

Eleanor Arnold '79 (Nursing)
Donnelle Baumer '02 (Business Management)
Richard Berrettini '82 (Nursing)
Mary Colleen Casey '00 (General Studies)
Frank Castellino '99 (Automotive Technology)
Sharon Cheskiewicz '85 (Medical Office Assistant)
Jerome Chismer '76 (Business Management)
Ronald Dorris '71 (General Studies)
Margaret Franckiewicz '92 (Medical Office Assistant)
Leonard Hill '87 (Business Administration)
Catherine Hintze '81 (Business Administration)
Michael Jarolin '75 (Science)
Duane Jenkins '06 (Education)
Joseph Kopera '85 (Respiratory Therapy)
Todd Nagle '80 (Business Management)
Janice O'Hara '93 (Child Development)
Caroline "Kitty" Paris '05 (Journalism)
Sherrie Smith '82 (CA Graphic Design)
Margaret Thomas '77
(Medical Office Assistant)

Mary Wagner '95
(Business Management)
Linda Williams '70
(CA Photography)
Paul Yankanich '87
(Fire Science)
Linda Yedloski '78
(Office Management Technology)

LCCC Faculty & Staff

Tozia Castagna
(LCCC Library Staff Member)
Robert Cohee
(Retired Director, LCCC Library)
George McCutcheon
(Retired Director, LCCC Admissions)
Jack Schoenwetter '80
(Retired Faculty, Trade Technologies)
Basil Senyk
(Professor Emeritus, Business)

Class Notes

Class of 1971

Carol Burcha Basta (Education) and **Thomas Basta '72** (Hotel Restaurant Management) are married and live in New Port Richey, FL. Carol was ordained to the Permanent diaconate Polish National Catholic Church in 1995. They have two daughters, Jennifer and Angela.

Class of 1972

Vinnie Mandzak (Commercial Art – Graphic Design) has been making a living for the past 24 years by selling Mercedes-Benzes, the Maybach, the new SMART car and other luxury vehicles in Beverly Hills, CA. After he completed his degree at LCCC, he continued his education at Florida Midatlantic University earning his bachelor's degree in 1975. He and his wife, Charla, are the parents of three sons.

David Roberts (General Studies) has been Luzerne County's passport agent for the past ten years. He enjoys his job of helping people obtain their passport so they can travel internationally. Following his graduation from LCCC he continued his education at Mansfield State College and has worked for the county for thirty-one years. He and his wife Joanne have a daughter, Jennifer and reside in Wilkes-Barre.

Class of 1974

Robert H. Jones (Business Administration) is the safety director of LR Costanzo, Scranton. He also earned his bachelor's degree in social science education from Wilkes College. Robert resides in Plymouth.

Class of 1982

Michael Klopotoski (General Studies) was recently appointed superintendent at the PA State Correctional Institute, Dallas. In this capacity, he oversees the complete operation of the state prison, which employs more than 700 people and houses 2,100 inmates. After graduating from LCCC, Michael continued his education at King's College graduating magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in government. He has worked nearly 25 years in the corrections field.

Class of 1983

Nathan Lightner (Business Management) is the commercial-relationship manager for Graystone Bank, York, PA. He has more than 25 years of financial-service experience. In his new position, he will develop commercial business throughout York County.

Class of 1986

Vince Castagna (Computer Information Systems) was named the director of business development for the United States market of Simply Kids. Simply Kids is a complete line of premium children's products developed to compete with the national brand manufacturers, at store brand prices. In this capacity, Vince will be responsible for overseeing and managing the tactical planning and retail channel development for the exclusive brand of children's products. Vince and his family reside in the Pocono Mountains.

Class of 1987

Barbara Toczko Maculloch (Banking) received Leadership Wilkes-Barre's 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award for her continued dedication to the program and assistance with other area non-profit organizations. Congratulations Barbara!

Class of 1988

Congratulations to **Kimberly Hischak Martin** (Nursing) who will be celebrating her first wedding anniversary with **Jeffrey Martin '01** (Nursing) in October 2008. Kim is employed by Lehigh Valley Hospital as a registered nurse in the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit. Jeff is also employed by Lehigh Valley Hospital as a registered nurse in the same department.

Class of 1989

Brenda Hage, Ph.D. CRNP (Nursing) associate professor of nursing at Misericordia University, recently presented a paper at the International Society of Gerontechnology in Pisa, Italy. In addition, Dr. Hage was recently named the new director of graduate nursing programs at Misericordia University. She and her husband, Nafty, live in Dallas with their two sons, David and Michael.

Class of 1990

Yelena Vikhodets (Accounting) earned her bachelor's degree in Professional Studies this year from Misericordia University. While completing her studies, she was named to the Dean's List in 2007 and 2008. Yelena made extensive use of her Accounting degree while employed in the accounts receivable field. During her employment with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Yelena decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in order to advance her career. Yelena is currently researching opportunities within state employment in order to better utilize her degree.

Class of 1991

Susan Krasnavage Dule (Social Science) and **Stephen Dule '89** (Science) are married and live in Easton, PA. Susan continued her education at Wilkes University and earned her BSN degree in 1998. She is an RN for the VNA - St. Luke's Home Hospice. Stephen continued his education at King's College earning his BS degree from the Physician Assistant program in 1998. He is employed by the Easton Orthopedic Group and in his spare time enjoys flying his power paraglider. Susan and Stephen are the proud parents of two children, Stephen and Sarah.

Class of 1992

Regina Janocko (Nursing) is an acute care nurse practitioner for Hershey Medical Center. Following graduation, she continued her education earning her bachelor's degree from Penn State University and her MSN from the University of Pittsburgh in 2002. Regina and her husband Matthew have two children, Laura and Joseph. They recently returned to Pennsylvania after living in Missouri for several years.

Class of 1993

Christy Ellsworth (Respiratory Therapy) and Gary Teasdale Jr. were united in married on October 6, 2007. Christy is a clinical supervisor for Young's Medical Equipment, an Air Products health care company. The couple resides in Exeter.

Class of 1994

Ken Zula Ph.D. (Social Science) is a faculty member in the division of business and technology for Keystone College. Dr. Zula continued his education at College Misericordia earning both his bachelors and masters degree and his doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from The Pennsylvania State University, University Park. Ken is the executive director of the Wyoming Valley AIDS Council.

Class of 1995

Barry Kotch (Business Management) continued his education at Baker College in Flint, MI earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Since then, he continued his education earning his CompTIA A+ and Network+ computer certifications, and is also a Novell Certified Network Administrator (CNA), and a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) on Windows XP. He applies his extensive education in his position as IS Support Analyst at the Penguin Group (USA) in Pittston. Barry and his wife, Susan, reside in Tunkhannock.

Class of 1996

Johnyne Hoyes (Hotel & Restaurant Management) has been appointed segment manager, foodservice marketing for Intermetro Industries, Wilkes-Barre. In her new position she will support and manage the development of new and existing productions and programs, as well as departmental communications. Johnyne continued her education at Misericordia University and earned her BS in Business Administration and was previously employed with Frontier Communications Solutions.

Joel Rettzo (Food Production Management) won the first place Desserts Awards at Spotlight 29 Casino, Coachella, CA, for his date trio of Date Shake, Apple Tart, and Date Truffle Log. He has been a pastry chef at Spotlight Casino for the past five years and prior to that was pastry chef at Roy's Restaurant in Rancho Mirage, CA for two years. Following his graduation from LCCC, Joel completed a six month internship with Walt Disney World and earned his degree from the Culinary Institute of America in New York. He resides in Cathedral City, CA.

James J. Wynn (Business Administration) was married in Montego Bay, Jamaica to Kearyn Wynn in August 2004. The Wynn's daughter Madelyn Kathryn was born in 2006. James is a marketing / sales representative for Banko North Inc., Scranton. He continued his education at Wilkes University earning a bachelors degree in business administration in May, 1999. The Wynn family resides in Achbald.

Class of 1997

Jennifer Arellano (Commercial Art – Graphic Design) was diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2007. She endured a mastectomy, reconstruction and chemotherapy all at the age of 31. Along with two of her fellow cheerleading coaches, high school seniors from the Lake Lehman school district, and many volunteers, she organized "Cheer for a Cure" a charity event to raise funds for a cure for breast cancer. They raised nearly \$9,000 to benefit the "Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation." Plans are in the works for future "Cheer for a Cure" events.

Jeremy Hines (Automotive Technology) is the owner and operator of Hines Motor Sports located in West Wyoming, PA.

Class of 1998

Rebecca Gilbert (Business Management) and James Artley were united in marriage on March 28, 2008. She is employed by Sallie Mae Servicing in Wilkes-Barre. Rebecca and James live in Berwick.

Class of 1999

Dani Vaughn-Tucker (Education) has been named archivist and reference librarian for Misericordia University's Mary Kintz Bevevino Library. She has previously worked for the Luzerne County Library System and the University of Scranton. Dani is a native of Washington, DC, and served four years in the United States Army. While stationed in Korea she was received the Soldier of the Month Award. Dani and her husband Anthony reside in Shavertown with their family.

Class of 2001

Charles Fargo (Architecture Engineering Technology) and Sarah Hodge were married in September 2007. Charles is employed by Murray Jay Miller Architecture in Wilkes-Barre. Following a wedding trip to Hawaii, Charles & Sarah live in Scranton.

Jeffrey Sklaney (Food Production Management) and Jamie Nixon exchanged wedding vows in April 2007 on the lake of Stone Mountain, GA. Following his 2001 graduation, Jeffrey also earned an AAS degree from San Diego Golf Academy, Myrtle Beach campus, with a concentration in golf course complex operations and management. He is employed as the chef de cuisine at the Ritz Carlton, Tyson Corners, VA. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and resides in Sterling, VA.

Class of 2002

Congratulations to **Marsha Cookson** (Business Administration) on her marriage to Crispin Duman in Orlando, FL on October 16, 2007. Marsha is employed by Electronics Expo, West Caldwell, NJ. She and her husband live in Clarks Summit.

Leslie Dotzel (Medical Office Assistant / Transcription) has recently begun teaching courses for LCCC in the Health Care Management program. Leslie previously earned a general studies degree from LCCC in 1996. Following her 2002 graduation she continued her studies at College Misericordia earning her BS degree in Business Management and her MBA from Wilkes University. In addition to teaching for LCCC, she is employed by Geisinger Health Systems, Danville.

Attention! CIS alumni!

Are you a graduate of the Computer Information Systems program? The faculty and alumni office have been working together to plan a Spring 2009 get-together for our graduates! If you are interested in more information please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@luzerne.edu to be updated with the details. Hope to see you there!

Class of 2003

Richard M. Wienczek Jr. (Computer Systems Technology) recently completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX.

Class of 2004

Anthony Durso (Broadcast Communications) is a videographer / editor for WYOU and WBRE. He resides in Hazleton.

Diane Knarr (Business Administration) and Jason Maday were united in marriage recently. She is employed by Network Solutions, Drums. Diane and Jason reside in Weatherly.

Maria Lee Vince (Nursing) and **Anthony Brogna '07** (General Studies) exchanged wedding vows in October 2007. Maria is a registered nurse at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center. Anthony is a program worker for Step by Step, Inc. The couple resides in Pittston.

Class of 2006

Frank L. DiMartini (Broadcast Communications Technology) completed his bachelor's degree in communications from King's College in May 2008. While at King's, he interned at SSPTC Channel 13 in Hazleton. He is currently employed at Unitrin Direct in Scranton and plans to continue his education this fall pursuing his MBA.

Teresa Redwinski (Child Development) recently won the Pennsylvania State Education Association's Community Leader Award for her work with Project A.B.L.E. a Hazleton based program that teaches the community about disabilities. Teresa is a paraprofessional in the Hazleton Area School district working with the learning-disabled in a kindergarten autistic support classroom. She and her family live in Drums.

Class of 2007

Shelby Whitebread (Medical Office Assistant) married **Derrick Steward '08** (Education) in June 2007. Derrick is serving in the United States Air Force while Shelby is employed as a medical office assistant. Shelby and Derrick reside at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

Nicole Petrovich (Nursing) and Scott Pancher were united in marriage on September 22, 2007. Nichole is an RN at Shamokin Area Community Hospital. The couple lives in Shamokin.

Class of 2008

Congratulations to the following members of the Class of 2008 who graduated in May summa cum laude: **Nancy Nicoletto (Nursing)**, **Kayla Weidick (Dental Business Assisting)**, **Christina Cobb (Nursing)**, **Mark McLaughlin (Business Management)**, **Jonathon Leffler (Nuclear Engineering Technology)**, **David J. Gindle Jr. (Plumbing / Heating Technology)** and **Corey Katsak (Electronics Engineering Technology)**.

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. Please join us and buy your personal brick today that will forever grace the campus. You can engrave your name and year of graduation; memorialize a loved one; honor a favorite faculty member or special person in your life; or whatever thought or sentiment you want on your brick. Be creative!

All bricks will be placed on "The Walk of Honor" which will be located on the site of the Public Safety Training Institute (PSTI), near the College's Prospect Street entrance. The PSTI is a four phase project that is designed to provide in-depth training to first-responders from throughout our region in a safe environment with effective, modern facilities with real world tools and resources. The first phase was completed in early 2008 and the second phase is currently underway. This walkway will be a permanent part of the grounds of this state of the art facility.

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

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

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

Did you know that it has been thirty years since the program began? If you were a part of the program at LCCC we want to hear from you! Let us know how this program impacted your life. We are proud of our participants and want you to help us celebrate thirty years of success at LCCC.

A celebration is planned for Spring 2009 to mark the success of the program and you are invited to join us. Please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@luzerne.edu or 740-0734 for more information.

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Yr. of graduation/program _____

Phone(day) _____ Phone(evening) _____ Email _____

Spouse's Name _____

Names, birth years of children _____

Post LCCC education _____

Program & completion date _____

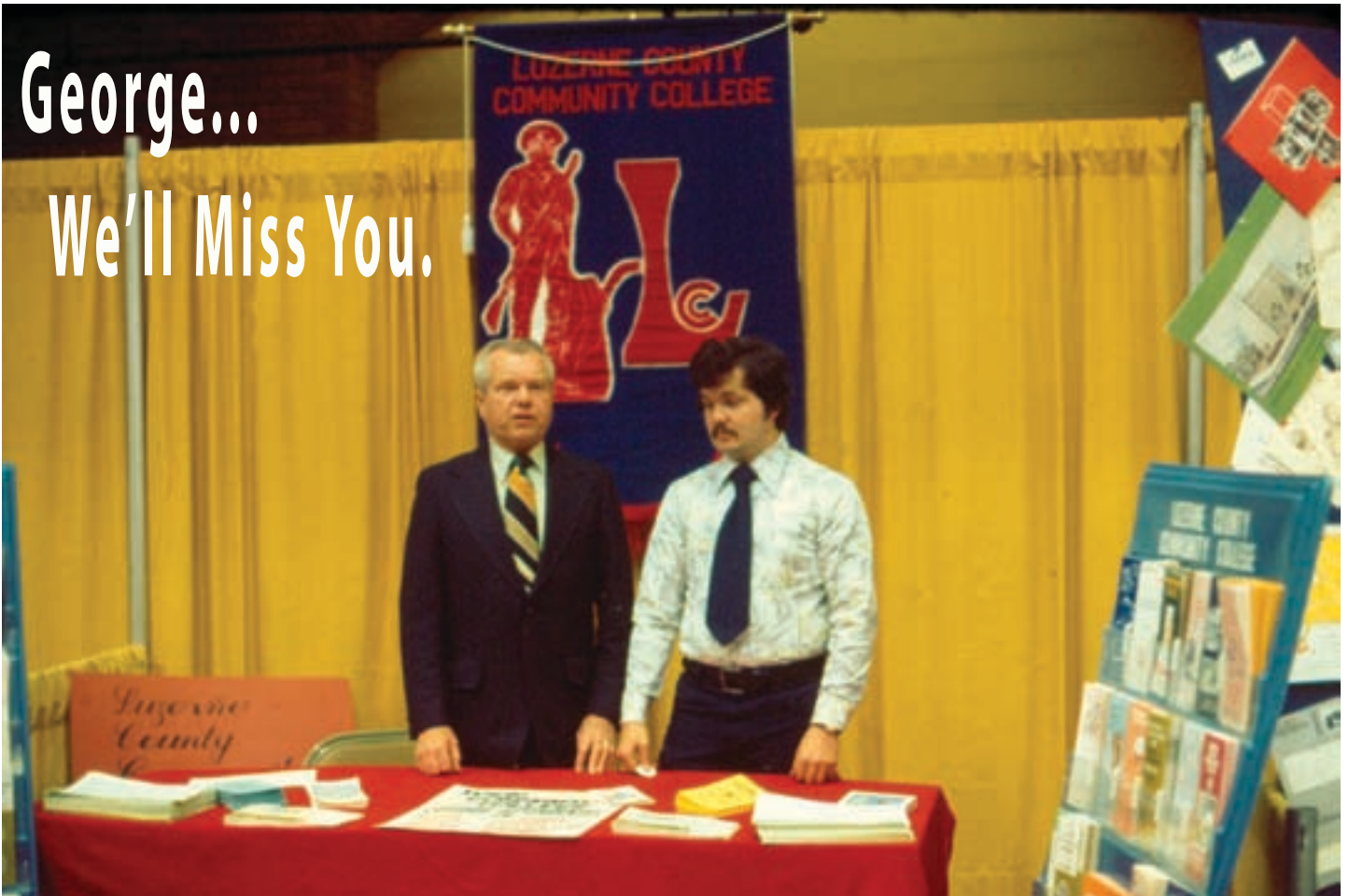
Name & address of employer _____

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

George...
We'll Miss You.



George A. McCutcheon, 1918 - 2008


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