

The Bridge

Winter 2014-15

Luzerne County Community College

Alumni & Friends

**New Grant
Expands
Tech
Programs**

**2013-2014
Annual Report
of Gifts**



LUZERNE
County Community College

Students learn the future of DNA testing

From Maury Povich to CSI, most television viewers are familiar with the use of DNA testing in the modern world. But no matter how often it's mentioned on television, how many of us can say we know how the process works? Due to a new hands-on genetic fingerprinting lab, several LCCC biology students not only know the nuts and bolts of DNA testing, but also have performed the test themselves.

Students used DNA samples they had extracted from calf livers in a previous lab. The samples were subjected to what is known as restriction enzyme digestion, the process of using specific enzymes to break the DNA down into smaller fragments. The enzymes act as "molecular scissors" to reduce raw samples to repeating sequences of base pairs – the genetic codes that instruct our cells to build specific proteins. These repeating sequences also contain a kind of junk code we inherit from our parents which isn't used for anything but adds weight to DNA sequences.

The digested samples are mixed with dye and introduced to a medium of agarose gel. In a process called electrophoresis, electrical current is applied to both ends of the layer of gel. The negatively-charged DNA is slowly drawn towards the positively-charged end of the gel bed. The movement of the samples combined with the dye produces colored bands across the gel. Smaller strands of DNA are able to travel faster and farther than larger strands, and thus their size may be measured according to the distance of their migration during electrophoresis.

Variations in the size of DNA strands between different people become evident from how far the samples are able to migrate through the gel during electrophoresis. Because of the added weight of junk DNA, the colored bands of DNA from one person will produce a noticeably different pattern than those of another person's DNA. These patterns are what are cross-referenced when comparing DNA evidence taken from a crime scene and a suspect's DNA, or comparing the DNA of a child to a potential parent. It is in this manner that forensics and paternity DNA testing is accomplished.

"This is the latest cutting edge in molecular biology," notes Dr. Murali Panen, professor of biology, LCCC.

According to Panen, participating students en-



Dr. Murali Panen, professor of biology, demonstrates DNA procedure

joyed the opportunity to engage in an advanced demonstration with practical, real-world applications.

"They were thrilled," Panen says. "They were never exposed to something like this in high school because of all the expensive and sophisticated instruments involved. Students may know the theory from an AP bio class, but they don't have access to this equipment at the high school level." Panen emphasizes the preparation of students to transfer to four-year programs after graduating from LCCC. "When they walk into their junior year at another college or university," Panen says, "they need to be prepared to do any of these advanced techniques that are asked of them. They will know how it is done."

Panen also references Pennsylvania state law as another reason to conduct the lab for students. Current law allows police to collect the DNA of people convicted of certain crimes. The Pennsylvania State Senate has proposed further policies, which, if signed into law, will allow police to take DNA samples from suspects before they are convicted, as well as establish a DNA database for police to cross-reference with other crimes. So far, the expansion of DNA collection has been hotly-contested in the Pennsylvania State House and Senate, while more than two dozen states have passed similar legislation.

"You need to know what these laws entail," says Panen. "When teaching, I try to make things applicable to life."

PARTNERING

Greetings Alumni and Friends of LCCC,

Regardless of whether you graduated in 2014 or 1974, upon visiting our campus you would find many new and exciting projects going on as well as many familiar faces and places.

Among the highlights of our new endeavors are Dual Admissions agreements with several local four-year institutions including King's College, Marywood University, Misericordia University and Wilkes University. Dual Admissions programs provide LCCC students with a smooth and successful transition from LCCC to our partner four-year colleges and universities. Students who participate in these programs are considered fully admitted to both institutions upon enrollment at LCCC with the expectation of meeting all required university conditions after graduating with their associate's degree. Students may also benefit from additional financial incentives depending on the agreement with their four-year school of choice.

Another new initiative at the College is the newly established welding curriculum that was developed through a federal grant program in support of LCCC JobTrakPA. Initially developed as a 40-hour introductory welding course, the College is now expanding the offerings in this discipline into more comprehensive degree and diploma programs. Welding is an occupation with significant earning potential, and job opportunities in this field are expected to grow rapidly in the next few years.

The College has also created a new service for students to support academic success. The Luzerne County Community College Writing Center, The Write Place, opened this past spring on the main



Thomas P. Leary,
LCCC President

campus in Nanticoke. The Write Place also serves students through its online writing center. Both resources are available to all LCCC students. The Write Place was developed to help students improve their written communication skills and increase their opportunities for success. This service, both online and in person, has proven to be successful and is gaining popularity with students.

Inside this issue of *The Bridge* you will discover more of the College's new developments that have taken place over the past year. In addition, you will learn about the achievements of some people and places you will recognize from your time at LCCC, the longstanding facets of the College that have helped to establish our reputation of providing excellence in education and supporting student success.

For example, the LCCC Nursing program has been a solid foundation of LCCC's academic program for 40 years, and continues to produce exceptional nursing professionals. As evidence, the College recently celebrated a 91.4% pass rate for first-time national licensing exam nursing candidates for 2013/2014. The overall pass rate for all LCCC first-time examinees for the reporting year, regardless of graduation date, was 90.09%. These numbers represent the second-highest pass rate among all Pennsylvania community colleges, and places LCCC fifth out of all of Pennsylvania's Associate Degree in Nursing programs for the academic year. This is the type of accomplishment that represents the quality of education and training provided at LCCC.

The many years of service our faculty and staff dedicate to our College and our students helps to maintain the College's core of excellence as new programs, services, facility upgrades and expansions develop to support emerging workforce and education trends. Through both our longstanding and newly developed features, LCCC continues to be the best choice for higher education in northeastern Pennsylvania.

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Credits

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LCCC introduces new technology programs in response to new trends in business and industry.



DUAL ADMISSIONS: A WIN-WIN FOR STUDENTS

A common trend is developing among community college students across the country, including those at Luzerne County Community College: transferring to four-year institutions before completing their associate's degrees. For example, LCCC has seen increases as high as 16% from fall to fall in the number of non-degree seeking students. Additionally, a recent analysis showed that 14% of LCCC students were planning to transfer before completing their degree.

Community colleges traditionally have been focused on serving as a bridge to going directly into a career or transferring to a four-year college. However, community colleges often neglect to emphasize why earning an Associate's Degree before transferring is of major importance to both career and academic success. As a result of this and other trends in higher education, Luzerne is now working to educate students on the many ways in which completing their associate's degree before transferring can be very beneficial. For example, completion of the associate's degree increases the likelihood that the student will

complete the baccalaureate program, provides the student with a marketable credential, and reduces barriers to transfer, among other positive outcomes.

To assist students in completing their associate's degrees, LCCC is placing emphasis on comprehensive transfer and dual admission agreements. The College now has dual admission agreements that include clearly outlined articulated programs with several four-year institutions popular with LCCC students: Misericordia University, King's College, Wilkes University, Marywood University, Temple University, and Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. Dual admission agreements with other institutions such as East Stroudsburg University are also being finalized. Students who participate in these programs are considered fully admitted to both LCCC and the transfer institution with the expectations of meeting all required university conditions upon graduation from LCCC.

These agreements are meant to attract, enroll and retain students by providing them with clearly defined transfer paths towards their bachelor's degrees. In addition, several of these agreements include financial incentives which enhance financial savings for LCCC students.

LCCC maintains a centralized online dual admission application through which potential students can apply for dual admission to LCCC and any of the dual partnership institutions.

Currently enrolled students may also apply to participate in this program provided they have not yet earned 30 or more credits at LCCC. Upon signing an agreement, the student, his/her counselor and the receiving four-year institution are informed of the dual application and the transfer path the student must follow.



LCCC Summer Camps Help Kids Explore Careers

This summer LCCC welcomed 85 children ages 9 to 14 to the main campus in Nanticoke to take part in the Summer Camp program. Campers explored various careers by experiencing firsthand what it takes to be successful in various fields. They participated in a mock crime scene and fingerprinting, Lego robot races and strength matches, and the creation and presentation of a full lunch including pasta, pizza and cake for culinary camper parents and guests. LCCC is now registering for summer classes for the summer of 2015. Call 1-800-377-5222, ext. 7495



Culinary



Crime Scene Investigation



Lego Robotics



New grants provide funding for three new programs

Luzerne County Community College has always responded to the educational needs of the region it serves. Two emerging industries sectors that Luzerne is currently focusing on are Advanced Manufacturing and Logistics/Transportation. Within those industries, LCCC will utilize grant resources to assist in creating degrees in Welding, Diesel Engine Technology, and Engineering Design and Manufacturing through a redesign of the advanced manufacturing and computerized numerical controls (CNC) into the new Engineering Design and Manufacturing Technology program.

Area companies in these fields have contacted LCCC about expanding offerings to meet their needs in finding qualified employees with the necessary technology skills. In response, the College has combined the CNC and the Automated Manufacturing Systems program, developed a welding class and created an expanded diesel program at LCCC. In addition, LCCC is purchasing newer tools and equipment to meet the demands of these technology industries.

To aid funding for these new programs, Luzerne County Community College, along with Lehigh Carbon Community College and Northampton Community College, were awarded a five-year \$10 million federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) IV grant. Jointly applying for the grant as the Northeast PA Community College Consortium (NPCCC) for Integrated Learning, the colleges were selected to develop high priority, career pathway occupational training in three industry sectors -- advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and logistics/transportation.

According to the grant, Luzerne County Community College will receive \$1,836,214. Much of the funding will be used to purchase the necessary equipment to begin these new

programs, and for managing the program's effectiveness through the collection of data, and assisting students in securing employment upon completion of the programs. The equipment and curriculum development will help students prepare for jobs over the next 10 to 20 years.

The funding is part of the TAACCCT competitive grant program which is co-administered by the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Education. The TAACCCT grant program provides community colleges and other eligible institutions of higher education with funds to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less and prepare program participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations. Through these multi-year grants, colleges assist students in acquiring the skills, degrees, and credentials needed for high-wage, high-skill employment while also meeting the needs of employers for skilled workers.

"These funds will provide much-needed training and education to the workforce in northeastern PA. Our community colleges are nimble and responsive to the needs of their local economy -- and this grant is a natural extension of the work our colleges, with strong records of success and cost-effective operations, undertake in their communities every day," said Elizabeth Bolden, President/CEO of the Pennsylvania Commission on Community Colleges.



High Tech TOOLS



**Welding
Diesel Engine Specialist
Engineering Design and Manufacturing**



Never stick a steak knife in an electrical outlet: The legend that is Kevin McGroarty

By Laura Katrenicz, LCCC Special Assistant to the President

The College lost a good friend this past July when Kevin J. McGroarty, '82, passed on, or rather, when he "achieved room temperature." Kevin became famous around the world after his death when his self-written obituary went viral. But he was already a legend in the greater Pittston/Wyoming area, loved and admired for his creative brilliance, for his quick and quirky wit, and mostly, for his kind and generous soul.

Kevin's creative achievements spanned the full media spectrum – writing, drawing, painting, graphic art, music, radio, video. With the perfect combination of artistic talent and unique perspective of the world, Kevin achieved great success in each one.

Kevin's creative vision showed itself early on. Born and raised in Wyoming, he graduated from Wyoming Area, where, by elementary school, he had become a mastermind of childhood pranks, according to his longtime friend Brian Langan.

"He was always coming up with a plan," said Brian. Brian recalled the time in third grade when Kevin gathered his group of friends, whom he called "my men," around his desk right after recess. He put a sheet of paper on his desk and instructed his friends to look at it and act as if they were looking at something they weren't allowed to see. When the teacher entered the room and heard comments like "Wow! Are they real?" and devilish snickers coming from the group, she abruptly stepped in and snatched the paper off Kevin's desk to see what mischief Kevin had gotten into this time. What did she find? A blank sheet of paper. Foiled again, Mrs. Kelly!

After years of learning sprinkled in among increasingly elaborate shenanigans in high school, Kevin graduated and enrolled at Luzerne County Community College, majoring in Hotel/Restaurant Management, which he later changed to Business Management. According to Brian, Kevin's favorite class was Philosophy with Dr. Joseph Talarsky. Kevin noted in an LCCC alumni publication that Dr. Talarsky had "a colorful way of expressing himself. Very intelligent and articulate, it was a pleasure to take notes in his class." In the same publication Kevin cites Economics 101 with Art Reabuck as the course that had the most impact on him. "He gave me the tools to get my foot in the door and discuss the bottom line with several business owners," Kevin stated.

Not long after graduating from LCCC, Kevin established a successful advertising business, Pyramid Advertising, with friends Dave DiPetro and Paul Dellarte.



Kevin McGroarty, '82, alumnus and LCCC adjunct instructor recently passed away, but left a humorous obituary of his life that will live on forever.

In a June 26, 2011, *Times Leader* interview, Kevin noted that Pyramid Advertising was "one of the first using Apple computers in the valley." Kevin continued to stay on the leading edge of media technologies for the rest of his life.

Kevin later worked in Creative Services at WKRZ, writing scripts for radio commercials and performing commercial voiceovers. According to his friend and former KRZ co-worker Ethan Robinson, Kevin was called on to do character voices (southern accent, alien, old lady) that others weren't able to do. For a classic example of Kevin speaking in character, Google "Kevin McGroarty: The Man, The Myth, The Turtles."

Kevin's friends enjoy sharing their favorite "Kevin stories." Ethan likes to tell about the time Kevin applied for his KRZ job by submitting his resume rolled up in a "painted tube with a wick on one end and the words within: 'This guy is dynamite!'" "And that he was," Ethan finishes his story.

Later in his career, Kevin was principal owner of Rhino Media, the award-winning advertising agency he started, based in West Pittston. Rhino Media produced an extensive cache of material. Working across all media, Rhino's projects ranged from developing the advertising for former Pittston Mayor Michael Lombardo's 1998 campaign, to writing and producing documentaries and informative videos about the Battle

of Wyoming, Pennsylvania; the Pennsylvania State Police ("A Century of Excellence"); and Pennsylvania Troop "P" Camp Cadet, a non-profit camp for kids interested in law enforcement. The police camp was Kevin's pet project. Kevin's father, whom he greatly admired and wrote a book about, retired from the Pennsylvania State Police as Lieutenant Colonel, the second highest rank in the system.

After a successful ten-year run for Rhino Media, Kevin turned the business over to Summer (Melvin) Belles '00, Rhino's Senior Designer and Manager, in 2006. Summer started working at Rhino as an LCCC computer graphics program intern in the Spring 2000 semester. Kevin made her a permanent part of his team after she completed the internship, and continued to be a mentor to her for the rest of the time they worked together. Their working relationship quickly grew into a close friendship, which continued after Summer took over the business. "He was like a second dad to me," Summer said. "He was always there when I needed him, and always went out of his way to support me. He even allowed me to take my daughter to work with me every day after she was born."

"There was never a dull moment working with Kevin," Summer said. "It was a lot of fun, but it was also a great learning experience. I gained so much professionally from watching him work."

Throughout his 20+ "eye opening years of smashing graphics," as he referred to his career in a 2004 promotional ad, Kevin worked with numerous businesses throughout Wyoming Valley and beyond, and received several awards for advertising and design, including the Service Star Hardware Excellence in Design for Merchandise Package, the Governor's Citation Rotary Award, the Wyoming Rotary 2005 Paul Harris Award, and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Pennsylvania State Police for a Meth Lab Awareness/Pharmacies Alert.

For several years, Kevin worked for LCCC as an adjunct instructor in the Communication Arts Department (formerly Broadcast Communications). He taught CIS 107 - Computers for Mass Media. The extensive industry experience Kevin shared in his classes, of course with his classic comic spin, made him a favorite among students.

DEBBIE BOYSON, RETIRED LCCC COUNSELOR, ADVISED MANY OF KEVIN'S STUDENTS. "THE STUDENTS LOVED HIM," DEBBIE SAID. "KEVIN HAD A GREAT RAPPORT WITH THEM."

After leaving Rhino in 2006, Kevin pursued his personal painting and electronic art, but still did design work, most often for friends and community service organizations

from whom he would accept nothing more than a thank you. He established an Internet safety program for online security, "White Bicycle," which he later passed on to the District Attorney's office.

He also dedicated time to his music career. Kevin was a self-taught guitar and piano player. As Kevin told it, he taught himself to play the piano by repeatedly listening to small parts of "Maybe I'm Amazed" on the stereo in his living room, and then running downstairs to the basement to try to replicate them on his parent's piano. He later bought his own white grand piano and was also a guitar connoisseur with his own impressive collection. He taught himself to play after receiving a guitar as a graduation present from his parents. "The guitar he had longest and had the most sentimental attachment to was an Epiphone 'Texan' given to him by his parents. Paul McCartney is known for using this model in his Beatles days and beyond," said George Stuscavage, another close friend of Kevin's and also a member of Kevin's band, Se7en South.

Se7en South, whose name comes from the psychiatric ward of General Hospital, released three CDs of original music in the 2000s (Albumo Uno, Albumo Duo, and Albumo Trio) and played live at Patte's Sports Bar. Kevin sang lead and wrote most of the music for the band, tongue-in-cheek songs based on local themes, songs like "Route 81," "Crooked River" (referring to the Susquehanna), "Cambell's Ledge," "Harvey's Lake Fever" ('it has a liquid personality'), and "Jane Adonizio" ('Jane Adonizio reads us the news at night').

Kevin had a special skill for capturing the culture and history of Wyoming Valley in his lyrics in an amusing way. In "Dapper Dan," he sings:

*Dan Flood, the congressman and thespian
What he means to me, what he means to me
Concrete buildings, ribbon-cutting time,
Top hat, silk cape, like Batman fighting crime
And when the lights went down and everyone
would rise,
Dan Flood and his mustache would put chin up to
the skies
Agnes came to town and left us all in ruin
Dan would have none of it, had the place rebuilt
by noon*

Kevin's smooth, debonair singing voice brings a romantic feel to love songs like "Gas-Pumping Girl" and "Tomato Whoopie."

The lyrics are not the only entertaining part of this music. The tunes are catchy as well, representing a variety of genres, and the inclusion of others from Kevin's circle of friends on some of the songs adds a unique touch. For example, the bluegrass sound to "Judy Zee" is enhanced by the contributions of local violinist Kyle Hiedacavage, while other songs are mixed

with the flavor of blues (“Straight-Jacket Blues”), country, Irish ballads, rock, and more.

Tassey Stuscavage, George’s wife, and their daughter Haley, Kevin’s number one fan, also join in. Haley gives a talented performance in “I’m Falling,” a public service announcement on Alblumo Duo reminding parents to monitor their children’s online activities.

Other members of Se7en South in addition to Kevin and George included Jimmy Frushon and Nick Prokupchak. Jimmy played keyboards/synthesizer and wrote and sang a few songs. He also produced all three albums. George wrote the music to a few of the tunes and played almost all the rhythm/lead guitar parts and did back-up vocals. Nick played drums on Alblumo Uno and Alblumo Trio. “Pepper” Watkins played drums on Alblumo Duo and Alblumo Trio. Others contributed to individual songs.

George gives Kevin the credit for being the creative force behind the band. “He underwrote the projects, he composed most of the music, he sang a majority of the songs, and he also provided the studio,” said George. George added that Se7en South’s goal was never to become rich and famous. “Kevin wrote songs from the heart. He had amazing talent with the pen. Never expecting commercial success, he wrote this music for his friends, family and neighbors. A lot of the music has references to local people and personalities, to the area Kevin dearly loved, Northeast PA.” He added, “Like anything Kevin did creatively, he hoped this music would bring smiles to faces.”

And Kevin did bring smiles to faces, all the time, but not just with his humor, for what was most appealing about Kevin was his kindness and compassion. Kevin never hesitated to support his community or to do a favor for a friend or neighbor.

When asked by Ed Ackerman, associate professor of Communication Arts, to meet with a few LCCC students who wanted to start their own advertising agency after they graduated, Kevin readily agreed and accepted their invitation to dinner. At dinner, he spent a few hours engaging them with his stories and educating them

on what was involved with operating an ad agency. Not only was he willing to share his experiences with his potential future competition, but he also generously bought dinner for them, realizing that as college students, his audience was likely on a tight budget.

One of those students, Kevin Jones, Communication Arts Instructor, went on to work for and be mentored by Kevin at Rhino Media. After working together on a project, Kevin (McGroarty) wanted to hire Jones to work full-time at Rhino Media. However, Rhino Media was in its infancy, so the budget did not yet allow for another full-time employee. But Kevin (McGroarty) wanted to give Jones the opportunity to gain experience in his field, so he sold his motorcycle so he could afford to hire Jones. Kevin (Jones) said working with Kevin McGroarty helped launch his career. “He let me run with my vision and gave me the freedom to develop my ideas,” Jones said. He also taught Jones how to successfully run an ad agency. “I learned from Kevin to go to the moon and back for a good client, and to help those who need some extra help because it’s the right thing to do,” Jones said.

That philosophy guided Kevin in all aspects of his life. “It costs nothing to be nice,” his parting advice, was a motto he lived by. He always went out of his way to help others and serve his community. He supported service activities through his involvement with civic organizations such as the Wyoming Area Kiwanis (of which he was a founding member), the Wyoming Rotary Club, and the Board of Directors for Camp Cadet (serving as president for both groups during his tenure). He was also a member of the Frank Albert Memorial Lodge in Luzerne County and the Harvey’s Lake Rod & Gun Club.

But his community outreach stretched far beyond the work of these organizations. In addition to his ongoing work for Camp Cadet, Kevin was always working on one community service project or another. Some were planned, like his work on Real Dog with Pat Patte, a project to raise funds for the Blue Chip Animal Rescue no-kill dog shelter in Dallas. Others occurred more spontaneously. A perfect illustration is the time

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Get your LCCC Alumni Gear

Attention graduates! Our exclusive Alumni Gift Bundles are now available – buy yours today! Special promotional price is \$5 for a license plate frame, lanyard and bag. Individual prices are \$3/each.

Free shipping is included if ordered by June 30th! To order please call 570-740-0734 or email blauer@luzerne.edu. Thank you!

Degree in IT can open door to lucrative job opportunities

Information technology jobs are back in demand and growing.

Software developer, computer analyst and web developer were ranked first, second and ninth, respectively, by "U.S. News & World Report" in its 100 Best Jobs of 2014.

Today, computers are used in almost every aspect of our lives: in car engines, washing machines, microwave ovens, video games, watches and cellphones. Additionally, computers are an integral part of almost every business and industry.

Information technology job opportunities exist in almost every business and industry. About 35 percent of IT jobs are found in advertising agencies, accounting



Shirley Yanovich,
Professor/Chairperson,
Computer Information
Systems



firms, law firms and consulting firms. These companies hire computer programmers and

software developers because they develop a large percentage of their own software applications. Twenty percent are found in schools, hospitals, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. These companies employ a large share of computer, network and operations analysts, as well as computer support specialists.

Banks, security firms and insurance carriers employ an additional 13 percent. Within the banking and finance sector, a wide range of opportunities are available for IT specialists, from programming financial software and applications, to website development and maintenance. This diverse industry relies heavily upon new technology in all facets of its business.

Another 12 percent of IT jobs are found in manufacturing firms, which includes a larger-than-average percentage of jobs for computer programmers and software engineers. Additionally, eight percent of IT jobs are found in utilities and telecommunications. This sector includes a larger-than-average share of computer, network and database administrators.

IT careers are not only plentiful, but also very lucrative. Earning an associate degree in this field can lead to a future in one of these hot, high-paying careers. Luzerne County Community College offers associate's degrees in Computer Information Systems and Web Development Technology, which can lead to careers as business and programmer analysts, software developers, computer support specialists, web designers and developers, to name a few.

In an economic climate where college costs can be a significant strain on your time, energy and money, associate's degree programs allow students to spend as little as two years in college and pursue a high-paying job upon completion.

So, for those planning on going back to college, make sure to choose a degree for which employers are looking. Today, choosing the right degree is just as important as having relevant work experience and skills.

Subjects that students study today will help them compete in tomorrow's job market.



Brushing up on Brushing

LCCC alums teach oral hygiene skills to local youth



Mary Majewski '86 and Jennifer Clarke '91 really know their audience. Of course, they have been working with this audience for more than 20 years.

Majewski and Clarke, employees with Watkins & Medura Family and Cosmetic Dental Center in Dallas, PA, visit more than 20 schools, day cares, and Head Start programs every year speaking on proper oral hygiene care.

Together, they have entertained nearly 10,000 children with their oversized animal puppets and huge toothbrushes while teaching them about good food choices and how to keep their smiles healthy for a lifetime.

"When you wake up in the morning, how do your teeth feel?" Clarke asks the children. Hands would immediately fly into the air, some waving frantically. Clarke picks a young girl in the second row. "They feel fuzzy and sticky," she belts out proudly. "That's plaque," Clarke points out. "That's what we need to brush off our teeth to avoid cavities."

Majewski and Clarke then pull out the sugar charts, asking the kids how much sugar is in many of the soft drinks and snacks they consume every day. "A can of soda has ten spoons of sugar in it," Mary explains as she holds a sign with ten plastic spoons glued on it. "That's like taking a spoon and dipping it into a sugar bowl ten times and putting it into your mouth."

The pair then show a short film about good dental health and hand out goody bags filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste, stickers, and other items to the children. "We do send them home with a lot of information about proper brushing techniques," Clarke says.

Mary Majewski '86 and Jennifer Clarke '91 demonstrate proper oral hygiene to elementary students.



Young students used to come to Watkins & Medura's Dental Office for the dental hygiene lesson. But as it started to become more and more popular, Clarke and Majewski took their show on the road.

"This year we're up to 800 kids," Majewski exclaims. "And we have schools calling here left and right because the word gets out about us doing this." The duo visit up to twenty schools around National Children's Dental Health Month in February, sometimes seeing multiple classes at each school.

A graduate of Wyoming Valley West High School, Majewski continued her education at Luzerne County Community College, graduating in 1980 with a Certificate of Specialization in Dental Assisting and also in 1986 with her Associates Degree in Dental Business Assisting. She is a licensed expanded functions dental assistant (EFDA) and has been working at Watkins and Medura since 1980. Majewski is also responsible for the ordering of all dental supplies for the office.

"I've never worked anywhere else," Majewski says. "Jennifer and I are definitely lifers here."

Clarke was first employed by Drs. Watkins and Medura as a dental hygiene assistant while enrolled in the dental hygiene program at Luzerne where she was named to the Sigma Phi Alpha Dental Hygiene Honor Society. She was also the

Continued on next page.



recipient of the Clarke Hollister Community Dental Health Award.

Clarke says they deal with many students coming to the office through LCCC. "A lot of the people that work here in this office came here as students," she says. "It's kind of neat that we're still really involved with the dental program at the main campus."

"I always liked going to the dentist," Clarke says. "Dr. Watkins has been my dentist since I was three years old. I always liked the health field and had nice teeth. I wanted something where I could make a good living in this area. My mother was a nurse, and I debated between dental hygiene and nursing. I decided I didn't want to work holidays, so that is why I chose dental hygiene. LCCC offered an incredible program that was affordable for me." Majewski agrees. "I had to pay for college myself," she says. "LCCC was affordable. The Clinic and set up at Luzerne really help prepare students as to what to expect in a real dental office setting."

Although a large part of being a dental hygienist is cleaning the teeth of patients, it's also about helping them feel comfortable with cleanings and procedures. "When I'm working with patients needing fillings and crowns and things," Clarke says, "they are a nervous wreck about numbing the gums and horror stories about root canals. My biggest thing is talking them through the procedure and making them feel comfortable. They look at you at the end of the procedure and say thank you so much for getting me through that. It's gratifying to see."

Nodding her head, Majewski says you have to be a people person to do this kind of job. "This can be a lifelong career. Plus, we have fun by getting out in the community and working with kids. My husband looked at me one day and asked 'have you ever really stepped back and looked at what you and Jen have done for the community, and for these kids?' You might be the first ones that have ever really talked to them about keeping their teeth healthy. It's cool."



LCCC Cooking Classic Series Receives National Telly Award

Luzerne County Community College has been recognized as an award winner in the educational program category of the 35th Annual National Telly Awards.

"Cooking Classic," a collaboration between the College's communication arts and culinary arts programs, is a weekly half-hour culinary series airing on the local FOX television network affiliate WOLF-TV, as well as on the College's website at www.luzerne.edu/cookingclassic.

The Telly Awards were founded in 1980 to showcase and recognize outstanding non-network and cable TV programming. Previous winners in the programming category include Walt Disney Studios, ESPN, The History Channel, MSNBC, National Geographic, and others.



Shown with the Telly Award are, from left: -- Kevin Jones, creative director, Cooking Classic and instructor, communication arts, LCCC; Mike Danilowicz, LCCC student; David N. Pembleton, Jr., CEC, CCE, ACE, guest chef, Cooking Classic and professor, food production management, LCCC; Kathy Coslett, host, Cooking Classic; Tom McHugh, associate professor and chair, communication arts, LCCC; and Jo Anne Sabalaskie, director/editor, Cooking Classic and adjunct faculty, communications arts, LCCC.

Rewarding Careers

Social Science Programs

Dr. Janis Wilson Seeley, chair of social sciences/history— makes it a point to understand the stories of how people got to where they are today.

“I think my fascination with people probably started when I was eight years old when I started reading *Dear Abby*,” says Wilson Seeley. As a child, nothing could hold young Janis’ attention more than the popular advice column, which provided her with a way to compare her life with those of others.

“That’s a little weird, but that’s okay,” she laughs.

Her curiosity about people led her to obtaining a bachelor’s degree in social science from Kutztown University and a master’s degree in family and community development from the University of Maryland. Using her credentials, she returned to Wyoming Valley to work as a runaway children counselor and as a substance abuse counselor.

“I wanted to help people improve their lives in whatever way I could,” Wilson Seeley says, “and that’s why I went into working with adolescents who were runaways, reuniting them with their families and trying to resolve family difficulties.”

Wilson Seeley went on to earn her doctorate in human development and family studies and a master’s in public administration from Penn State. Although she had planned on working at a social service agency since she began her college career, she found a unique opportunity to teach at LCCC, where she has worked for the past twenty years.

“I love learning and I’m in a learning environment,” she says. “It was a wonderful opportunity; hence, I stayed.”

As the chair of the department, Wilson Seeley oversees a wide array of programs, including early childhood education, criminal justice, history, sociology, social science, psychology, human services, paraeducation, and others. Managing so many disciplines is made easier for her by



*Janis Wilson Seeley,
Professor/Chairperson,
Social Science/History*

the staff of the department.

“The faculty are all excellent instructors,” says Wilson Seeley, “Not only in terms of the depth of their knowledge, but excellent in their desire for students to be successful.”

According to Wilson Seeley, the multitude of social science programs stems from the requirements of the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee, which seeks to standardize programs of study throughout the state to enable program-to-program transfers. This requires clear distinctions between terminal programs, such as Human Services, that prepare graduates to directly enter the workforce, and transfer programs, such as Social Work, that students need to earn their bachelor’s at four-year institutions.

“There are similar courses in both the human services and social work programs,” says Wilson Seeley, “but the expectation is that the social work graduate will transfer. We want to make sure that they are not repeating courses at those upper levels.”

Many of Wilson Seeley’s students are enrolled both the terminal programs and the transfer programs. Several other LCCC programs require basic social science classes as part of their curricula. Although ensuring continuity between material for majors and non-majors is a challenge, she says that students in any discipline can learn important skills from the social sciences, such as the ability to empathize with others and understand how emotions can change perspectives. These skills are important in almost any career path.



Healing from Behind the Wall

State Correctional Institution – Retreat (SCI-Retreat) is a mammoth concrete facility laced with concertina wire and protected by steel gates. It can be found along the the Susquehanna River in the Hunlock Creek area of Pennsylvania off Route 11. A steel bridge spanning the river connects the facility to the main roadway and serves as a metaphor for the inmates ready to leave. "I can't wait to get across that bridge," is the mantra of many of the prisoners there.

Jeff Dengler, '01 hears that statement a lot. As the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist Supervisor for SCI – Retreat, it's his job to help many of those incarcerated eventually to make it across that bridge.

As the supervisor of drug and alcohol treatment, Dengler is in charge of making sure 100-plus inmates receive all their medications for various treatments. He says most of the inmates wind up in jail because of their addictions to drugs and alcohol. "Eighty percent of those committing a crime are caught with some type of illegal substance in their system," Dengler states. There is also an increase of incoming prisoners with mental health issues.

Dengler helps with inmate processing, assigning proper care of treatment, crisis intervention, and teaching basic living skills. "Often a poor educational background and diminished coping skills lead people to substance abuse and eventually committing some type of crime where they wind up here," he states.

"Some of the inmates are life termers, but many are receiving treatment and training to return back to the community," Dengler points out. With more than 1,100 prisoners, Dengler is responsible for all inmates with drug and alcohol issues. "That includes tracking who needs medication, ensuring they are taking their medicine, and setting up distribution methods. In addition to meds, we provide drug intervention, examine family structure and support groups, teach basic coping skills, and act as role models. My team provides evidence-based treatment. and the success rate has been increasing." That success is totally up to the individuals. "Sometimes it's finding the right button to make it click in someone before he gets it together."

Dengler grew up in the Plymouth area and attended Wyoming Valley West High School before enrolling at Luzerne County Community College to pursue a criminal justice degree.



Jeff Dengler, '01, is the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist Supervisor for the State Correctional Institute – Retreat.

"I always liked law enforcement," he says. Dengler's father was a mental health social worker who worked with the police department and a halfway house. "My neighbor was a police officer," he recalls. "I found what he did really interesting. Financially, LCCC was the best option for me, and offered a great program in criminal justice."

After graduating from the program in 2001, Dengler attended the Pennsylvania State University at Wilkes-Barre to continue his education in Administration of Justice and went on to Marywood University for his graduate degree.

"Luzerne challenged me tremendously," he remembers. "I enjoyed the case studies and the case law procedures. We did crime scene reenactments and used a police cruiser to demonstrate take downs. My teachers had practical experience and presented real life scenarios."

Dengler also touted learning the importance of filling out paperwork. "If it isn't on paper, it didn't happen."

Choosing to work for a prison has its challenges. "You are dealing with people who have sold drugs or killed people," he says. "To keep yourself grounded, you need to have tight bonds with colleagues and a good sense of humor."

Dengler believes the biggest hurdle when working with a treatment plan is trying to get the

person to want to change. "Our job is to help the inmate to hopefully get out of jail and stay out of jail," he says. "We try to get them to do the right things, take their meds, exercise, stay out of trouble, avoid negativity, and make positive connections with their family members. Their objective needs to have a positive outcome".

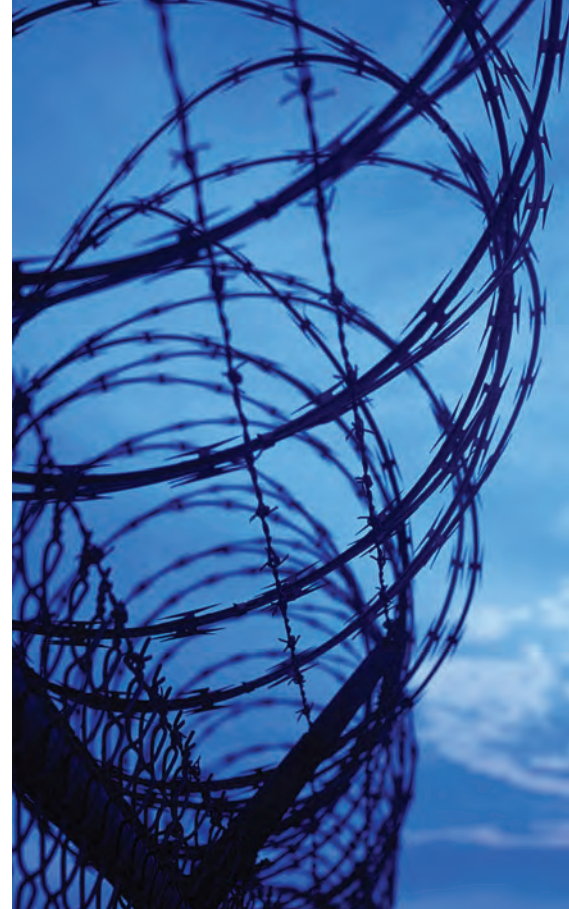
"It's tough when loved ones and kids come here to visit," he admits. "We have to help develop coping skills with the fact they are incarcerated and cannot be with their family for a while."

For some inmates coping means creating artwork. Dengler says there are some who are rather amazing artists. "It's very therapeutic," he states. "They create posters and hold exhibits on their cell walls."

Dengler's main advice to students interested in this type of career: take an internship. "An internship allows you to see if you like it. See how well you interact with colleagues and inmates. If you don't handle an inmate well during your shift, it may cause difficulties with staff on the next shift," he stresses.

"In this kind of a position, you have to make quick decisions on your feet, establish that you are in control, and have good communication and de-escalation skills. You are in their territory."

Dengler says there is a lot of room for advancement in this field. "It's very challenging and never dull," he states. "A prison is just like a city; whatever type of career you would find in town, you would find here: therapists, police officer, cook, public relations, plumber, grounds keeper, mechanic, and many more. You just have to cross that bridge to get there."



LCCC announces Wilkes-Barre Math partnership at rededication of Wilkes-Barre Center on Public Square.

LCCC recently rededicated its Wilkes-Barre Center located on Public Square in the heart of the city after renewing its lease and completing some remodeling work. During the rededication, the College announced a newly-formed partnership between LCCC and the Wilkes-Barre Area School District (WBASD). LCCC and WBASD are joining together in an effort to enhance the academic success and college readiness of WBASD students through a new college-ready math track project.

LCCC math faculty and WBASD math teachers from all three high schools worked together over the past six months to align the curriculum and help students enhance their college-ready math skill level. This spring, these participating high school students will have the opportunity to take a college-level mathematics class (MAT 101) at their respective WBASD high schools and earn three college credits upon successful completion. LCCC will provide tuition assistance to students who enroll in the math course and will provide them with college enrollment support and information.

Beginning with the fall 2015 semester, the LCCC Wilkes-Barre Center will offer two new scholarships for students. One scholarship will be awarded to a full-time student and one to a part-time student.



Pictured on the left are: Rebecca Brominski, Director of Wilkes-Barre Center; Thomas Leighton, Mayor, City of Wilkes-Barre; Thomas P. Leary, President, LCCC; Senator John T. Yudichak; and Dr. Bernard Prevuznak, superintendent, Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

Hygienist Alumnus Chooses New Path

Having had positive dental experiences when she was young, Rachel Grochowski Coffee '02 RDH, knew that she wanted a career helping people maintain their smiles. "Even as a child I always looked forward to going to the dentist," said the dental hygiene alumna.

Coffee knew her career would revolve around the dental profession. Her ultimate goal would be to enroll in a dental school to become an orthodontist.

While in high school, Coffee knew she needed college to pursue her career in dental, so she took college prep courses and began exploring dental schools and four-year colleges. As she entered the search process, Coffee began to worry about enrolling in a high-priced college and finding out she didn't like dentistry. Her parents suggested trying a dental hygiene program. She could achieve a degree in only two years, get a good sense of the field, and continue on if she liked it. "Plus, I would always have a career in the field."

Coffee heard Luzerne County Community College had the best dental hygiene program and applied. "The faculty here are second to none," she states. "They really care and are concerned, and want the best for their students." Coffee recalls the dental hygiene program being very intense.

Students in LCCC's dental program work hands-on with patients in the College's dental clinic, now located in the Francis S. and Mary Gill Carrozza, R.N. Health Sciences Center.

"It's nerve-racking working on our first patients," Coffee admits. "Most of the first ones tend to be family members, so that helps take some of the pressure off. I couldn't stop laughing when I tried to



Rachel Coffee '02 promoting Colgate at LCCC's 15th annual Dental Health Alumni Day at the college's Educational Conference Center.

take x-rays of my mom's teeth for the first time."

When Coffee was ready to earn her bachelor's degree, her teachers helped her with her next steps.

"The faculty in the dental hygiene program knew my desire to continue my education," she says. "They offered suggestions and were instrumental in helping me find my direction."

Still looking to enter dental school, Coffee enrolled at Temple University majoring in biology with the intent to become accepted into their dental school. She worked part-time as a dental hygienist in Philadelphia.

Disappointed that she was not accepted into dental school, Coffee realized that she had to find a new career path. She knew she wanted to remain in the field of dentistry, but wasn't sure what direction to take.

While exploring different job options, Coffee eventually found a position in sales at The Harry J. Bosworth Company in Philadelphia. Her sister worked in sales so she decided to take a shot at it. Coffee worked with the company for two years selling dental products and supplies to dental offices across five states. She found herself enjoying working with different dental offices and trying to help them receive the dental supplies they need.

Two years later, a great opportunity opened up for a sales position with Colgate Oral Pharmaceuticals, a subsidiary of Colgate-Palmolive. The position would allow her to work back in the northeastern Pennsylvania area. As an oral care consultant at Colgate, Coffee visits all the dental offices in her territory.

"I have one-on-one time with dental professionals to educate them on Colgate products and therapies hoping to gain their recommendation."

Coffee also attends various professional events as a vendor for many of the Colgate products the company produces, including Luzerne County Community College Alumni Association and the Dental Health Department's recent annual Dental Health Alumni Day.

"I get to work with people in the profession of dental health and also still help others improve their oral health with the products I provide," Coffee notes.

With her new career, Coffee has the opportunity to travel throughout northeastern Pennsylvania and still be home every day. "My territory is more manageable," Coffee says. "I visit approximately nine offices a day."

The arrangement enables Coffee to balance her life/work schedule. As a new mom caring for her one-

year-old son, Michael Levi, her career schedule has to be efficient. She also enjoys spending time with her husband Mike, and bicycling.

"The most important advice I would give students entering this field is to get your start at a community college and keep continuing your education," Coffee states. "LCCC helped prepare me for my career and to move on in my field. If I didn't go to LCCC, I wouldn't have had the background to land my first job nor continue my education. Many of my peers in dental sales have difficulty connecting with those in the dental profession because they haven't actually worked in the field. Having a dental hygiene education and having worked in a dental office gives me an advantage."

Coffee continues her love of learning and being active in the field and community. She has earned a master's degree in Organizational Management from Misericordia University and obtained her license in administering local anesthesia. She even returned to the LCCC Dental Hygiene program as an adjunct clinical instructor for a year. Coffee is the past president and current member of the Northeast Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association. Her group offers an annual Dental Hygiene Association Academic Scholarship to second-year dental hygiene students who are also members of the Student American Dental Hygienists' Association.

Coffee says she still keeps in touch with many of the faculty at LCCC. She is a member of LCCC's dental advisory board.

"Luzerne County Community College was my foundation. It gave me the ability and the confidence to never stop learning. LCCC was the springboard that helped me launch my career path."

LCCC holds 15th Annual Dental Health Alumni Day

The Luzerne County Community College Alumni Association and Dental Health Department recently conducted the 15th Annual Dental Health Alumni Day at the College's Educational Conference Center. The topics of this year's seminar were "The Effects of Diets on Oral Health" and "Exploring How Oral Health Affects Women's Well-Being" and were presented by guest speaker Betsy Reynolds, RDH, BS. The program was open to LCCC



dental alumni and area dental health professionals. Continuing education credits were awarded to those who attended.

From left, are Rachel Coffee, '02, consultant, Colgate Oral Care; Lois Gross, '86, adjunct faculty, LCCC; Sandy Yanchick, '95, adjunct faculty, LCCC; Betsy Reynolds, guest speaker; Barbara Montante, '83, RDH, M.Ed., associate professor, dental hygiene, LCCC; Bonnie Brennan Lauer, '87, director, alumni relations, LCCC, and Lori Krupa-Abramcheck, '81, adjunct faculty, LCCC.

Save the date - May 8: Dental Health Alumni Day, Educational Conference Center, speaker: Dianne Waterson. Online registration opens March 2.

SEND REQUEST

Never giving up on their dreams...



"If I could play for free and survive I would. But it's impossible," Holminski said.

Although the band's ultimate goal is to pursue music for the rest of their lives, they chose to go to college because "everyone needs a backup plan," and they have not regretted for one second their decision in choosing LCCC. Even though one of their reasons in choosing LCCC was because it's close to home, Aron, Jon, and Derek also heard of how impressive the Music Recording Technology program was. Eventually they decided that the program would be of great help to their music career. The guys even admit that they really had no plans for college or anything else until word about the MRT program came to them. Andrew says he chose LCCC because he really didn't know what he wanted to do, and figured he would start finding out once he got here.

The singers say MRT classes have taught them everything they know about recording so far. "The professors are great too," Wood said. "Music Recording opened a bigger world for me. There are so many opportunities at LCCC that people don't know about."

The band is clearly passionate about their majors, even if it isn't their first love like music is. As they said, they wouldn't know about half of what they know without the Music Recording Technology program.

Send Request is "never giving up on their dreams" but they need your help. If you haven't checked out the band yet they can be found on YouTube, like them on Facebook, or follow them on Twitter @SendRequestBand, or Instagram @sendrequest.

While most LCCC students are planning their summer vacations, four students in particular are planning what could very well be their future.

Aron Wood, Jon Labenski, Derek Holminski, and Andrew Blank, all Nanticoke natives, are currently attending Luzerne County Community College. Aron, Jon, and Derek are studying Music Recording Technology (MRT) while Andrew is focused on a degree in the communications field.

Together, these guys make up the local pop-punk band, *Send Request*, whose influences range from rap music to Motley Crue. They even play a cover of Katy Perry's ET.

The band members went to high school together where they played in separate cover bands, but wanted to perform original music. One day Derek sent a text to Aron asking if he wanted to make a band, and eventually the four of them got together forming *Send Request*. The name was social media inspired. Derek was on a social media website and saw the words "send a friend request." From that statement the band's name emerged. "It's about forward thinking and making a connection," Derek states.

Send Request currently has five original songs written, three of which have been recorded. Their song "Never Never" is what has given the band its most recent popularity. Their other two songs "I Quit" and "Comeback Song" helped escalate the band to perform at *The Vans Warped Tour*, Scranton venue and the Pre-Show for *Jimmy Eat World*.

So far, the band has performed at a few places such as LCCC, The Sherman Theatre and Sherman Living Room, The Vintage, New Vision Studio, and on WBRE's PA Live.

The band is in the process of creating more material for a full-length album but it gets expensive.



when Conner Mangan, son of Kevin's close friend Jim Mangan, approached Kevin to ask for permission for his Boy Scout Troop to use Kevin's water line to irrigate a flower bed being planted near the front of his home to accompany a sign welcoming visitors to West Pittston. Kevin did more than just give that permission. He also handed Conner \$100 for the project and called a landscaper friend of his and encouraged him to contribute the flowers and his services to the project as well. Before Kevin died, he had been working with Maria Livrone, a local artist and owner/operator of Art On Main (formerly Art Seen Gallery) on a project to provide free art education to underprivileged children. For every funny story Kevin's friends have about him, they have three stories like this.

Kevin extended his support for the community to his alma maters, Wyoming Area and LCCC. Throughout his life, Kevin stayed connected to LCCC in a variety of ways. In addition to mentoring and hiring LCCC graduates and working as an Adjunct Instructor, he regularly donated to the Alumni Phon-a-thon, and kept a copy of the 2007 Alumni Today book proudly displayed in his home. As with all other areas of his life, Kevin added his own brand of humor to his interactions with LCCC. When the LCCC Alumni Association created the Walk of Honor for which donors may purchase bricks and have them inscribed "with your name and year of graduation; in honor of the memory of a loved one; or to commemorate your favorite faculty member," Kevin was quick to purchase one. All of the bricks on the Walk currently are engraved with the names of donors and their loved ones – except Kevin's. His brick says "Hey! Get off my property. Kevin J. McGroarty"



My connection to Kevin was a shared love of The Beatles. When Paul McCartney announced he was making a fan video of one of his songs and asked for fans to submit pictures for it, I knew if anyone could create a picture that would get me into that video, it was Kevin. I hadn't seen Kevin in years when I messaged him on Facebook to ask for help, but he didn't hesitate to respond "Sure, Tiger, give me a call." For two fun-filled days ("we laughed like we were gassed" as Kevin put it), I watched as Kevin created these pictures to submit,



Kevin's artwork is to be featured in an upcoming exhibit at LCCC.

one of which was ultimately included in McCartney's "Meat Free Monday" music video. Sadly, Kevin was gone when this video was released. But the gift he gave me by getting me into my idol's music video I will treasure forever, as I will the gift of the time spent with him working on this project.

In a Facebook post, Ethan Robinson perfectly captured Kevin's generous and giving spirit in describing a visit to Kevin's home.

"It wasn't until I got home afterwards that I came to fully realize that as I left, Kevin kept handing me things he wanted me to have. He had handed me a case of cherry beer - 12 big bottles with corks in them, and beer bottles with corks in them aren't cheap. He had given me a DVD - Team America, the puppet movie from the creators of South Park. 'Ethan, this is right up your alley. I know you'll like this.' 'Kevin, I can't take all this stuff! It's too much.' 'I want you to have it. Drink the beer and watch the movie.' Kevin's generosity was only limited by how much you could carry. But, Kevin's generosity was, most importantly, so much more than the giving of 'things.' He gave of himself. Always. Gift-wrapped moments here and there that anyone he met could take home with them."

Kevin's many friends and loved ones are fortunate to have such gifts, and every one of them will tell you what a treasured part of their lives the time they spent with Kevin is. As Ethan put it, "such are many of my memories about times with Kevin - vivid and interesting and worth squirreling away in my mental lockbox for safekeeping and rainy day reliving."

After Kevin's obituary went viral, people around the world expressed the wish that they, too, had such memories, in the over 1,000 comments posted on Kevin's legacy.com tribute page (which an anonymous donor subsidized to remain online). People from as



far as India to Ireland, from Saskatchewan to Tokyo, noted that Kevin's obituary had helped them look at life in a different way, and that they wished they had known him.

On December 13, 2014, a group of Kevin's friends gathered at his gravesite to celebrate his birthday. In appropriate Kevin style, a car was parked in front of the McGroarty family plot, and the roof of the car was set up like a bar with coffee and various Irish libations. Drinks were had in Kevin's name, and everyone shared a story or two. Juanita Eby Krieger, another close friend, noted that it was "a lovely way to remember a beloved friend...with memories and laughter and love...did I mention laughter? Lots and lots of laughter." That's exactly the way Kevin would have wanted it.

The LCCC Communication Arts Department is planning a different sort of tribute to Kevin for this coming summer. The department plans to hold an exhibit of Kevin's artwork at the College. The event will be held to kick off a fundraising campaign to establish an endowed scholarship in Kevin's name, "The Kevin J. McGroarty Mad, Mad, Mad Scholarship," with a nod to one of Kevin's favorite movies. Check the LCCC web site in coming months for more information.

In the meantime, always keep Kevin's parting advice fresh in your mind: "It costs nothing to be nice" and "Never stick a steak knife in an electrical outlet."

Thank you to the following friends and colleagues of Kevin for their contributions to this article: Summer Belles, Debbie Boyson, Kevin Jones, Mollie Katrenicz, Sara Katrenicz, Juanita Eby Krieger, Brian Langan, Maria Livrone, Jim Mangan, Tom McHugh, George Stuscavage and Ethan Robinson.

Kevin McGroarty's Viral Obituary:

WEST PITTSSTON — McGroarty Achieves Room Temperature!

Kevin J. McGroarty, 53, of West Pittston, died Tuesday, July 22, 2014, after battling a long fight with mediocracy.

Born 1960 in the Nesbitt Hospital, he was the bouncing baby boy of the late Lt. Col. Edward M. McGroarty and Helen Jane (Hudson) McGroarty, whom the New York Times should have noted as extraordinary parents.

He was baptized at St. Cecilia Church, Exeter, which later burned to the ground, attended Butler Street Elementary, which was later torn down, and middle school at 6th Street in Wyoming, now an apartment building.

He enjoyed elaborate practical jokes, over-tipping in restaurants, sushi and Marx Brother's movies. He led a crusade to promote area midget wrestling, and in his youth was noted for his many unsanctioned daredevil stunts.

He was preceded in death by brother, Airborne Ranger Lt. Michael F. McGroarty, and many beloved pets, Chainsaw, an English Mastiff in Spring 2009, Baron, an Irish Setter in August 1982, Peter Max, a turtle, Summer 1968; along with numerous house flies and bees, but they were only acquaintances.

McGroarty leaves behind no children (that he knows of), but if he did their names would be son, "Almighty Thor" McGroarty; and daughter, "Butter Cup Patchouli."

McGroarty was a veteran of the advertising industry since 1983. McGroarty was a pioneer in Apple computing, purchasing one of the first in the Wyoming Valley in 1985. He would like to remind his friends: "Please, don't email me, I'm dead."

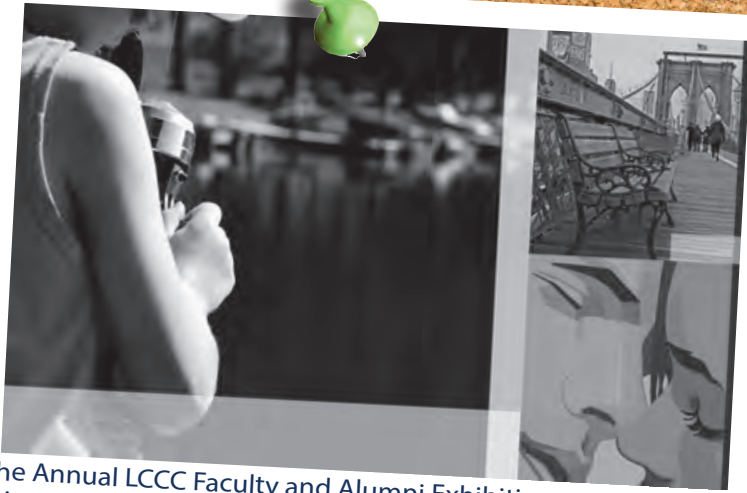
McGroarty was a founding partner of Pyramid Advertising, and finally principal owner of award-winning Rhino Media until 2006. He was also an adjunct instructor at Luzerne County Community College, from 2005-2009.

He will be laid to rest at Mount Olivet Cemetery, section 7N. He asks to please make note of his new address. McGroarty's headstone reads: "I'll Be Right Back," one of his favorite sayings. He leaves this world with few regrets, one being told in grade school, his adult life would see the Hershey candy bar rise in cost to over a dollar. He maintained given the resources and initiative, he would rally the good citizens of the Commonwealth to a revolution that would force that price to its original 35-cent market value, a dream he was not able to fulfill, by his own admission the reason: "I was distracted by many beautiful women."

In lieu of flowers, friends are asked to please give generously to the Pennsylvania State Police Troop "P" Camp Cadet Fund.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Monday in St. Cecilia Church of St. Barbara Parish, 1700 Wyoming Ave., Exeter, following a brief rant of how the government screwed up all of the Bugs Bunny cartoons trying to censor violence. This will be presented by his attorney, Bret Zankel, Esq. Friends may call from 9 to 10 a.m. Monday in the church.

McGroarty leaves behind a thought for all to ponder, given years of gathering wisdom from different religions and deep study of the Greek philosophers: "It costs nothing to be nice" and "Never stick a steak knife in an electrical outlet."



The Annual LCCC Faculty and Alumni Exhibition, a special tradition at the Schulman Gallery, is on display through March 10.



Melissa Williams Taney '03, president, LCCC Alumni Association, presents Renae Novitski with the Alumni Association's Outstanding Graduate Award.



Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87, director, alumni relations, presents Susan Porter Allen, with the Alumni Association's Outstanding Adult Learner Graduate Award



Amy Wagner, center, has been named the recipient of the Luzerne County Community College Alumni Association Art Award for 2014.



Members of the LCCC Alumni Association at LCCC's Craft Festival. 2014 marked the 25th anniversary of the craft show.

2014 Alumni Events

Alumni Class Notes

1979

Colette Jesikiewicz (Dental Assisting) was recently named a Fellow of the American Dental Assistants Association. She works in administration at the dental practice of Dr. Santo LaFoca of Wyoming. In addition, she is a past president of the Pennsylvania Dental Assistants Association and currently its legislative chair.

Larry Pellegrini (General Studies) was named the 2014 Outstanding Fundraising Professional by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter. He is the director of corporate, government and foundation relations with Misericordia University. Following his LCCC graduation, Larry continued his education at King's College, where he earned his undergraduate degree in communications. He is currently enrolled in the Organizational Management master's program at Misericordia University.

1981

Donna Ahearn (Office Management Technology) has joined the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute as Cancer Registrar. Prior to joining the Cancer Institute Donna worked at King's College.

1984

Donna Broadt (Business Administration) was honored at the annual PEARL awards program of the Hazleton YWCA. This award honors women who have excelled in their profession. Donna is president of DBU, trading as H&R Block. Her business has 15 H&R Block offices in Luzerne, Carbon, Schuylkill, and Berks counties with 10 full-time and over 100 part-time employees. She has 32 years of experience in accounting and tax preparation.

1988

Rob Belza (Accounting) is the vice president of corporate partnerships of the Wilkes-Barre / Scranton Penguins. Following his graduation from LCCC he continued his studies and enrolled in Misericordia University's Expressway accelerated degree program.

1989

Gail Bartlett (General Studies) participated in LCCC's 25th annual Craft Festival selling the artwork of her late husband, **Fred Bartlett** '72. His pen and ink work captures the history



of our region as well as several other states. Fred passed away in December 1997. Their collection can be viewed at www.fbartcreations.com. Gail and Fred's daughter, **Andrea**, also graduated from LCCC in 1990 with a degree in graphic design.

Joseph Boretski (Business Management) earned a promotion to business banking manager for Wells Fargo in the nine-county Northeast PA region. He has over 25 years of banking experience. Following his LCCC graduation he continued his education at Wilkes University.

1992

Mary Ann Dziak (Business Management) has been named the executive director of the Pittston YMCA. Prior to this position she served as the executive director of the Boys and Girls Club in Scranton. Mary Ann earned her bachelor's degree from King's College and master's degree from Misericordia University. She is an active member of LCCC's President's Alumni Advisory Council.



1996

Patricia Rodriguez-Hudson CRNP (Nursing) has joined the staff of Physician's Care Plus in Sugarloaf. She is a certified nurse practitioner with a focus on women's health. Following her LCCC graduation Patricia continued her education at Misericordia University earning both her bachelor's degree in nursing and her master's degree in nursing/family nurse practitioner.

1998

Valerie Horchos Schultz (Commercial Art – Graphic Design) and her husband **Robert Schultz** '92 (Architectural Engineering Technology) are the proprietors of Ballyhoo – Purveyors of Fine Ice Cream and Candy in West Pittston. Ballyhoo's specialties include hand-dipped ice cream, sun-



daes, hot chocolate, and egg creams from their period soda fountain. In addition they have a nostalgic candy counter with a wide selection of candies you remember from your childhood...and some that you've forgotten! Valerie's mother **Cathy Shulna** '91 (Computer Information Systems), also helps out from time to time at the shop.

1999

Richard Swawola (Criminal Justice) has been promoted to sergeant in the forensic department of the New York State Police, Pleasant Valley, NY. Following his LCCC graduation he received his Act 120 certification and enrolled in numerous courses and specialized training programs through the New York State Police and the University of Tennessee Outdoor Recovery Course.

2000

Gene Philbin (Food Production Management) recently competed on a holiday-themed cooking competition on the Food Network game show *Guy's Grocery Games* hosted by celebrity chef Guy Fieri. He was the winner of the episode entitled "Dashing through the Aisles" bringing home the \$25,000 grand prize. Philbin is the chef behind Peculiar Culinary Co., a pop-up restaurant and catering company established in 2011 and located in Pittston, PA.

2007

Jason Jolley (General Studies) was recently promoted to vice president, assistant branch manager at the Wilkes-Barre Township branch of PNC Bank. In his new role, his job duties include leading and managing the daily client experience and activities of the branch. Jason continued his education at Misericordia University receiving a B.A. degree in communications and in 2012 he earned his MBA from Wilkes University.



2008

Faith Kringer (Court Reporting) and Stephen Kelchaw were united in marriage in the Spring of 2013. Faith is a freelance court reporter in Maryland.

2009

Erin Gittens (Advertising) was recently featured on the cover of *Destination I Do* magazine as part of a destination wedding story on the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC. Erin is an invitation artist at Momental Designs in Wyoming, PA. She continued her education at East Stroudsburg University studying art and design.



Jackie Flaherty (Journalism) and Bill Finkelstein exchanged wedding vows in September 2013. Jackie continued her education at Wilkes University. Bill was also enrolled at LCCC and continued his education at Johnson & Wales University, Charlotte, NC earning his culinary arts degree. Both Jackie and Bill are employed by Zoes Kitchen, an Alabama-based Mediterranean restaurant concept in Philadelphia. Jackie is a sales and marketing manager while Bill is a managing operator.

2011

Tom Sorresso (Commercial Art – Graphic Design) is a spray-paint artist who uses his talents to create finished pieces that look "post-human, a different world for that matter." Once he uses the spray paint to get the color on the paper, he does not use any brushes; rather he uses a palette knife, a sponge or his finger to blend or remove the paint. In addition to a recent local show at the Widmann Gallery at King's College he has exhibited at the Bloomsburg Fair, Virginia State Fair and Seaside Heights, NJ.

2012

Olivia Butkiewicz (Commercial Art –Painting Illustration) had several pieces of her mixed media artwork featured in the "Raw: Current" Exhibition at Philadelphia's Trocadero. "Raw: Current" is a worldwide organization that gives up-and-coming artists the opportunity to exhibit their work. The show opened in November 2014. Following her LCCC graduation she continued her education at Lock Haven University and is currently looking to apply to graduate school with plans of becoming a college professor.

2014

Margarita Langdon (Pastry Arts Management) had her work featured in *American Cake Decorating* magazine in the September / October 2014 digital issue.



Denee Nichols (Pastry Arts Management) is the owner of a new bakery, Delicious Obsessions, Hunlock Creek. Her bakery opened in the fall and offers items made from scratch, including cookies, brownies, cupcakes, Fribits, coffees and beverages. Fribits is one of her creative specialties, which is a danish on biscuit. Nichols also received her Food Production Management degree from LCCC in 2013.

2015 Events Calendar

January 31: Alumni Night Out – WBS Penguins v. Lehigh Valley Phantoms

March 16-26: Alumni Association Phonathon, Educational Conference Center 5:30-9:00 p.m.

April 13: Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, second floor, Alumni Room (#214)

April 18: Bus trip to West Point Military Academy and Hudson Valley NY

May 2: 17th Annual Alumni Flea Market & Collectible Show, Educational Conference Center, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

May 4: 2nd Annual Alumni Auction, Educational Conference Center Dining Room, 4:30 p.m.

May 8: Dental Health Alumni Day, Educational Conference Center, speaker: Dianne Waterson. Online registration opens March 2.

May 26: Graduate Reception, Educational Conference Center, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

May 28: Commencement Ceremony, Mohegan Sun Arena, 6:00 p.m.

June 3: Celebration of 40 years of Nursing Excellence, Main Campus

June 8: Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, second floor, Alumni Room (#214)

August 8: Alumni Knoebel's Family Picnic, 1:00 p.m.

September 11: 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony

October 17: 26th Annual Alumni Craft Festival, main campus, 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

November 9: Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Campus Center, second floor, Alumni room (#214)

November 14: New York City trip

For more information on these events contact the LCCC Alumni office at alumni@luzerne.edu or call 570-740-0734.

In Memoriam

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

LCCC Graduates

Susan Afshari '96 (Nursing)
Jane Helfrich Aiello '91 (Nursing)
Louis Cremard '94 (Computer Systems Tech)
Thomas Daniels '95 (Business Management Tech)
Edward Degnan '73 (Hotel and Restaurant Management)
Michael Denoy '76 (General Studies)
Michael Fedor '90 (CIS / Business Administration)
Daniel Fritz '70 (Architectural Engineering Tech)
Nancy Hitchings '78 (Business Administration)
Charles Jaget '91 (Electrical Construction)
Mary Alice Jones Keats '86 (Banking)
Shannon Kishbaugh '99 (Business Management Tech)
Mary Klinges '85 (Nursing)
Barbara E. Kottlarchick '95 (Computer Information Systems)
Lois Kretchmer '81 (Medical Transcriptionist Specialist)
Genna M. Koval Kundratic '91 (Nursing)
Robert Lange '80 (Business Management Tech)
Kyle Llewellyn '89 (Architectural Engineering Tech)
Thomas Lyons '81 (Social Science)
Brenda Martin '91 (Banking)
Darlene A. Maslar '91 (Nursing)
Kevin McGroarty '82 (Business Management Tech)
Thomas Paul McHugh '84 (Computer Information Systems)
John Morrett '73 (General Studies)
Judy Mullen '82 (Nursing)
Elaine Neureuter '70 (CA - Painting Illustration)
Blanche Marie O'Bremski '97 (Nursing)
Richard Patts '99 (Computer Science)
James Payne '93 (Business Administration)
Joseph Petrosky '97 (Computer Systems Tech)
Catherine Sheridan Piotroski '74 (Social Science)
Eugene Purta '77 (Social Science)
Lawrence Quinn '82 (Plumbing and Heating Tech)

Kenneth L. Richards '70 (Architectural Engineering Tech)
Kimberly Briggs Rubasky '90 (Nursing)
Mark Sabo '79 (Electrical Construction)
Mary Clayworth Savignano '85 (Accounting)
Walter Sirek '11 (Business Management Tech)
Jennifer Stec-Gagliardi '95 (General Studies)
Linda Sukaloski '88 (Respiratory Therapy Tech)
Karen Sulewski '79 (Nursing)
Danette Tarnalicki '85 (Medical Transcriptionist Specialist)
Mary Ann Waslasky '88 (Accounting)
Rev. Henry E. Westfield '78 (Exercise Science)
Mary Ann Whittaker '94 (Nursing)
Bernard Williams '96 (Culinary Arts)
Mary Wydock '89 (Dental Hygiene)

Faculty & Staff

Al "Yogi/Doc" J. Cihocki	Howard Johnson '97
Robert Hoats	Kenneth Lewis
Julia Iracki	Delphine Lazur
	Dr. Byron E. Myers

Retirees/Career Moves

The following members of the faculty, administration, and staff have retired from the College since the last issue of The Bridge was published.

Deborah Boyson, Counselor
William Karlotski, Asst. Professor Commercial Art
Mary Kosin '89, Director of Financial Aid
David Kozemchak '72, Library Media Technologist
Patricia Lauver '87, Assistant to the Director of Finance and Accounting
Lisa Owens '97, Secretary for Counseling
Doris Slavitsko, Library Technical Assistant
James Walko, Grounds keeper

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.

Give a gift to the LCCC Foundation online at <https://www.luzerne.edu/foundationgiving/>

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. 7734 or at 570-740-0734.

Adjusting to winter behind the wheel

Because driving in winter conditions is fraught with hazards such as icy roads, poor visibility and the threat of snowstorms, ask yourself the following questions before you get behind the wheel and put your safety at risk.

- Is this trip absolutely necessary? If you can wait out a storm or until roads are cleared, don't take the risk.
- Do I need to drive a car to get to my destination? Consider public transportation if it's available.
- Are roads icy? If so, stay put. Black ice is especially slick and dangerous on bridges and overpasses.
- Is visibility okay across my entire route? Check local news stations or online forecasts for up-to-the-minute weather information for your final destination and locations along the way.
- How can I make the trip safer? Give your itinerary to family and friends. Scrape the entire windshield and windows. Brush snow from the hood, trunk and headlights. Don't speed. Don't travel at night. Use main highways whenever possible.
- How can I maintain my vehicle to keep my drive safe? Fill your coolant system with antifreeze. Clean the inside of your windshield to prevent glare. Keep your gas tank at least half full. Use snow tires or chains as directed.
- Do I have what I need if there's an emergency? If not, build an emergency kit for your vehicle that includes a flashlight, batteries, jumper cables, flares, mobile phone charger, blankets, and battery-operated radio. Stow an ice scraper, brush and snow shovel.

For more information and the services offered by Liberty Mutual, please visit us at www.libertymutual.com/lccc.

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Hey! LCCC is on Facebook, Instagram, Flickr, YouTube, Google+, Pinterest and Twitter!

Keep up to date with all the happenings at LCCC and keep connected with friends. LCCC is on multiple social media channels to provide communication in whatever way you choose. Explore videos, student work, upcoming events, new classes, and faculty news through the power of social media. Go to LCCC's website: www.luzerne.edu and click on the social media icons to join in. You can also search for our LCCC alumni group on Facebook. See you online!

ALUMNI AND FOUNDATION HONOR ROLL

JULY 1, 2013 - JUNE 30, 2014

DONORS BY GIVING LEVEL

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Joseph A. & Irma Paglianite

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LCCC Alumni Association

President's Club (\$10,000 to \$19,999)

Benco Dental Supply Co.
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Erwine's Home Health Care
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Community Circle (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

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Cross Valley Federal Credit Union
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Northeast PA Region AACA
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Wendy Saxe '86
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Tambur Family Foundation
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Donald & Jean Williams
Brooke & Libby '80 Yeager

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Julie Cleary
Mary Ann Dziak '92
Evans Eye Care
Paul Halsey '84
JLW Mountain Laurel Lions Club
Charles Karns
Peter J. Lello
Daniel Marriggi '81
Dr. Gary & Mrs. Kathleen Mrozinski
Steve '92 & Lisa '95 Novitski
Brian Overman '83
Pepsi Beverage Company
PNC Bank
Fred William Price
Radiation Medicine Specialists
Rosana Reyes
David & Carolyn '95 Sawicki
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stanley
Woodlands Inn & Resort

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Judith Aita
Donna Ashbridge '76
Edward Banaszek '78
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Jane E. Brown
Theresa Buckley '80
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Anna Cervenak & Max Bartikowsky

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Gary Druby '76
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Nicholas '79 & Betsy Frusciant
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Thomas McHugh '72
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Pennstar Bank
Joseph Reilly '91
Brian Reklaitis '96
Frank Rosenn '76
John Thomas Sedlak '88
Howard & Paige Seeherman
In memory of John Sharkowicz '80
Leonard V. '69 & Bernadine Shimko
Mary Sullivan
John J. Tosi III
Lisa Yeager '78

Century Circle (\$100 to \$249)

Alden Manor Complex
Jane Allardyce '98
Donald Alonzo '75
Mary Ankenbrand '91
William & Betty Jane Barrett
Raymond Bartosh '73
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Cheryl Boberick '81
Walter '89 & Debbie Boyson
Don & Rebecca '91 Brominski
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Dr. William & Ann '70 Camp
Harold Cannon '85
Pauline Carmody '78
Jane Castora '85
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Dr. Joanne Chipego
Dr. Virginia Clarke, R.N.
Dr. Kathleen Clemente
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Robert '84 & Linda '89 Conner
John '84 & Christine '83 Corgan
Sandra Cumberland '05
Laurie Cywinski '91
Draitech Inc.
Daniel Dudrick '70
Dorothy Dysleski '77
David Ehrensperger
Howard Ennis

LCCC ALUMNI & FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS

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Joseph & Cathy Gasper
Sheila Gionfriddo '08
Dolores Goble '76
Rose Goin
GTO Enterprises LLC
Edward & Pamela Gurtis
Thomas & Beverly Gusher
Fikriye Havale '12
Dale Hazlak
Debbie Hinz '93
Dana & Kimberly '90 Hogan
Frank Hummel '13
Melissa Jabore-Futch
Teddi Janosov
Jean Jarrard '96
Kathleen Jenkins '96
Park Johnson '70
John Kashatus
Laura Katrenicz
William Katsak '79 &
Kathy Kairo Katsak '83
Deborah Kirkwood '92
Mark '92 & Heidemarie Kobusky
Theodore Koch '06
Bruno Kolodgie '72
Edward Kopec '75
Helen Kopec
Linda Kovalick '05
John '86 & Paula '86 Labenski
Donald Lacey '84
Michael & Tish Last
Robert & Bonnie '87 Lauer
Thomas Leary
William Liotta
Marquis Art & Frame
Gerald Mazur '92
Ann Marie McDonough
Catherine McElroy '84
Thomas Merlie
B. Richard Miller '86
Karen Misorek '71
Cheryl Moritz '90

John Morris '90
Denise Moyer '78
Darlene Murawski '06
D.A. Nagy
Karen Natishan
Susan O' Connor
Marilyn Olenick '94
Thomas Opet '79
David & Charlene Outt
Richard Pendolphia '74
Linda Philbin '76
Dr. John Pisano
Plains Hotel Associates
Polish Union Of The USA
Prudential Financial
Laura Prushinski '02
Brigid Pugh '89
Stephanie Reidinger '95
Raymond Ripka '08
Alan '79 & Jane '79 Rogers
Paul Rollman '71
Randolph Rompola '82
Charles Rowles '95 &
Martha Pezzino
Lisa Rowley '89
Maureen Ryneski
Carol Salek '69
Geraldine Samselski '76
Nicole Saporito '89
Arthur Saxe
Louis Scarantino '13
Monica Schmidt '97
Jean Scorey '92
Susan Searfoss '87
John Serafin
Diane Shellenberger
Paula Sirianni '80
Margaret Sosnak
Maryann Spieth '78
Susan Spry '99
Mary Stchur
John Stikar '80
Robert Tamburro

Rachel Tomaszewski '87
Robert Type '71
Mary Waclawski '06
Robert Walters '71
Robert West '73
Barry Williams
Andrea Yachera '99
Shirley Yanovich
JoAnne Yuhus '06
Beth Zukowski '82

Friends Circle (\$1 to \$99)

Frederick Addison '80
Elizabeth Ambrose '83
Christopher Amico '85
Dory Andrews '83
Richard Anselmi '72
Salvatore '76 & Andrea '97
Anzalone
Lynnette Ashley '00
Jane Ashton '87
Carmen Attanasio '83
Elizabeth A'zary '80
Barbara Bach '07
James Balavage '70
Joseph Balavage '11
Carol Baran '82
Rachael Baratta '10
Ceceil Barchik '85
Jean Barry
Charles Bartleson Jr. '03
Nicholas Barto '76
Len '70 & Marlene '93
Bartosiewicz
Debra Bayer '71
Matthew Beckage
John Belak '88
George Below '11
John Bendick '87
Jean Berneski '85
Valerie Berzanski '71

Patricia Besermin '08
Melissa Betkoski '96
James Biehl '85
Helen Pamela Bird
Joan Blaum '86
Mary Bobeck '76
David Borofski '69
Paula Bowman
Robert '70 & Rosemary Bray
Wendy Braz '82
Gloria Brezinski '85
Judith Brown '92
Mary Brown '74
Richard Brown '77
Ronald Buchanan '81
John Burden '84
Thomas Burns '00
Amy Butchko '79
Jane Butkovsky
Edith Buzinski '79
James Caffrey '88 &
Stephanie Gross-Caffrey '97
Elizabeth Cardell
John Carey '69
Rose Carroll '75
Barbara Christina '87
Joann Chukinas '02
Richard Cieleesz '80
Janet Cirko '86
Althea Clark '87
Rachel Coffee '02
Clark Cohee '02
Sharon Cohen '73
Allison Coleman '02
Frederick Coleman '73
Sharon Comitz '80
Charles Consagra '74
Sally Corl '89
Rosemarie Corsaletti '01
Beth Cottle '13
Donna Cottone '91
Daniel Coyle '10
Annette Craig '88

Courtney L. Engle Memorial Endowed Scholarship receives donation

Michelle and John Engle recently presented a second donation of \$10,000 to the Courtney L. Engle Memorial Endowed Scholarship at Luzerne County Community College.

The Engles held several fundraisers to establish and increase the scholarship, including a golf tournament and bike/run in memory of their daughter, Courtney. The scholarship annually will benefit two LCCC students enrolled in a health care field of study. The endowed fund will assure the scholarship is awarded in perpetuity.

Other donors included TC Riley's, The Outpost Inn, The Getaway Lounge, JJ Banko's Seafood, local bands, family, and friends.

Shown at the check presentation are, from left -- Sandra Nicholas, executive director, institutional advancement, LCCC; JoAnne Yuhus, assistant, institutional advancement, LCCC; Thomas P. Leary, president, LCCC; John Engle; and Michelle Engle.



LCCC Foundation receives scholarship contribution from IBEW



The Luzerne County Community College Foundation, Inc. recently received a donation from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 163 for the IBEW Endowed Scholarship Fund.

LCCC currently offers two-year degrees, certificates, and diplomas in Electrical Construction Technology. Founded in 1901, Local 163 represents and trains workers in the electrical construction industry throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. The IBEW Local 163 Endowed Scholarship will be awarded annually to students with financial need.

Shown at the check presentation are, from left – Joanne Yuhas, assistant, institutional advancement, LCCC; Thomas P. Leary, president, LCCC; Michael J. Kwashnik, business manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 163; and Sandra Nicholas, executive director, institutional advancement, LCCC.

Terese Cudwadie '80
 Kristin Culver '90
 Richard Cups '73
 Martin Cusick '00
 Tina Daley '97
 Joseph Damiano '72
 Ruth Ann Daron '77
 Elizabeth Davis '82
 Kimberly Davis '84
 Louise Davis '94
 Carol Dean '90
 Mark Dechman '85
 William Deletconich '72
 Michael Demko '79
 Eveline Denardi '90
 Donna-Lee Dietsch '08
 Nancy Divers '85
 Louis Dominick '71
 Michelle Donato '81
 Carolyn Dorshefski '86
 John '78 & Cindy '98 Dougherty
 Lawrence Doughton '95
 Marjorie Douglas '93
 Lisa Doyle '84
 Robert Drago '96
 Donna Dragon-Oschman '84
 Conrad Duhoski '70
 Anthony Durso '04
 Andrew Dutko '96
 Candice Dutko '12
 John Dylski
 Susan Edner '98
 Suzanne Edukaitis '06
 Christopher Eiden
 John Ellison '69
 Renee Eustice '94
 Gertrude Evans '92
 Larry Fabian '87

Duane Fall '95
 Jeanne Farrell '82
 Sean Fathel
 Andrew Fedorchak '77
 Kenneth Ferguson '83
 Cynthia Ferraz
 John Fisher '73
 Diane Fontinell '92
 Toni Foselli '12
 John '77 & Joan '77 Foster
 Jeffrey Fox '95
 Gwen Foy '88
 Joseph Francis '87
 Dorothea French '97
 Robert Furedi '71
 Mary Ann Gabel '91
 Harold Gabriel '84
 James Garlan '83
 Jo Nell Garrah '01
 Justine Garstka '84
 Tina Gattuso '85
 Doris Gayeski '84
 Daniel George '00
 Mary Ghilani
 Mario Giancini '03
 Paul Gibbon '77
 Martin Gieda '70
 Marie Gill
 Thomas Gill
 Dolores Gillow '99
 Cataldo Giordano '83
 Kerry Girman '03
 Jane Girvan '97
 Robert Glycenfer '81
 Barbara Godlewski '90
 Ruth Goldsmith
 Crystal Gorka '03
 Janet Grazul '75

Deborah Greco '90
 Kathleen Green '84
 William '79 & Janet '78
 Groblewski
 Thomas Gushaulis '89
 John Gutkowski '90
 Amy Gyory '84
 Edna Haines '90
 Barbara Halaburda '79
 Francis & Marianne '84
 Hanify
 Joel Hanna
 Donald Hanson '71
 Susan Hanusek '95
 Dr. Jon Hart
 Todd Hastings '94
 Karen Havy '89
 Kelly Heller '09
 Cora Heness
 Cynthia Heness '98
 Marion Hiday '83
 Deborah Higgins '02
 James Higgins '70
 Elaine Hobart '02
 Mary Ellen Hoffman '90
 Diane Hogan '80
 Michael Hogan '78
 Sandra Hopkins '89
 Heather Houseknecht '02
 Judith Houtsch '98
 Michael '78 & Mary '91
 Hronich
 Kenneth Humiston '74
 Brooke Hunter '02
 Julia Iracki +
 Michael Jackubowski '11
 Renee Jakubovics '76
 Joann Januszewicz '83

David Jarrett '94 & Suzanne
 Kozlowski-Jarrett '91
 Colette Jesikiewicz '79
 Phyllis Johnson '13
 Deborah A. Jones
 Ronald Jones '69
 Samuel Joseph
 Donna Kachinko '91
 Anne Kachline '75
 Mark Kalas
 Joseph Kandrovsky '70
 Michelle Kaneski '89
 Joseph Kanyak '71
 Donald Kapral '90
 Joann Karpinski '83
 Mary Ann Keefe '79
 Doris Keeler '80
 Byron Keener '05
 Timothy Kelchner '82
 Judith Keller '97
 Annette Kennedy '80
 Carmelita Klatch '91
 Brenda Kline '88
 Deborah Kline '90
 Mary Ann Kline '97
 Lawrence Klug '78
 David '73 & Marlene '02 Kluger
 Robert Kopec '71
 Leo Kopetz '92
 Carl '72 & Jeanne Kosch
 Kelly Kostasnesky '99
 Kevin Kovach '87
 Maryann Kovalewski '81
 David '72 & Joy '84 Kozemchak
 Donna Kratz '98
 Kevin Kratzer '91
 Jewel Kravich '85
 M. Renee Krempasky '91

LCCC ALUMNI & FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS

Gale Kresge '71	Michael McCann	Gina Pechulis '00	Susan Schuster '78
Deborah Kropiewnicki '85	Robert McCue '95	Stacey Pellegrino '03	Lois Scott '75
Diane Krostag '79	Mary McGeer '03	Sandra Person '77	Sandra Scupski '92
William Kuklewicz '71	Patrick McHale '74	Patricia Peters '99	Gloria Sekusky '82
Beverly Kuprionas '79	Charles McKeown '93	Adele Piasta '01	Laurie Selecky '08
George Lacey '85	Maurita Medash '92	Paul Platukis '70	Robert Sembrat '92
Theresa Langan '85	Eugene Mehalshick '89	Joseph Pluskey '76	Patricia Sentigar '91
Florence Lauth	Genevieve Mihalick '72	Marie Poplawski '00	Richard Sepela '85
Patricia Lavan '84	Brian Mihneski '89	Susan Porter-Allen '14	Anne Marie Shabelski '70
Michael Leahey '90	Cynthia Miller '94	James Price '83	Joshua Shaffer '11
Robert Legath '94	Lisa Miller '92	Jean Profka '78	James Sheridan '89
Edward Lewko '73	Richard Miller '73	Joseph Prushinski '79	Shima Shirazi '09
Lisa Ligi '99	Joanie Minor '01	Richard Pshar '88	James '76 & Cynthia '75 Shudak
Robert Linskey '82	Jodie Miscavage '00	Danita Puhl '84	Brenda Sickler '86
Ronald Lipinski '73	Melanie Mizenko	Cynthia Purta	Betty Sikora '83
David Lisnock '82	Rita Mogavero '89	Joseph Quather '74	Carol Silver '82
Michael Lizza '75	Florence Mokris '83	Lori Radzinski '88	Jarrett Sitler '94
Barry Lohman '70	Richard Moss '00	Stephen Rakos '91	JoAnn Sitler '87
Peggy Long '76	John Mudrian '05	Gloria Rawls '86	Marilyn Sladon '88
Deborah Luchetti '91	Courtney Muendlein '09	Blaine Readler '74	Sandra Slosky '70
Kathleen Lyons '97	Autumn Muntz '84	Lewis Reich '72	Barbara Smith '06
Helen Macareo '87	Susan Murdoch '87	Mary Reynolds '70	Neil Smith '81
William MacCollum '71	Michael Murphy '76	Dawn Richie '93	Patricia Smith '02
Susan Macnamara '07	Elaine Murray '86	Roxanne Robinson '92	Joline Sobeck '80
Carol Maculloch '94	Beth Musselman '82	Lorraine Rodeghiero '84	Susan Socash
Kathleen Magnotta '85	Luciana C. Musto '00	Christopher Romanowski '81	Kathleen Socha '80
Diane Malia '78	Judith Myers	Nancy Roth '81	James Solomon '10
Kenneth '72 & Deborah '72 Malia	Mario Naticchi '06	Cinde Roup '97	Elaine Sozzi '77
Joan Malishchak '77	Beth Nelson '87	Carol Ann Royer '77	William Speare '08
James Mallon '75	Jamie Nichols '09	Amanda Ruark '05	Shelley Spencer '86
Patricia Maloney '82	Gilbert Noll	Stepheny Rush '95	Joanne Spisak
Chris Marchetti	Judith Novak '92	Mary Rose Salvo '79	Jean Marie Stack '88
Richard Marchetti '70	Sybil Nudo '90	John Sandstrom '86	Edward Stec '72
Dotty Martin	David Nutaitis '87	Catherine Saporito '86	Judith Steigerwald '83
Diane Martinez '94	Robert Nygren '75	Daniel Sarosky '99	Robert Steiner '80
Cathy Martinson '84	Beth O'Boyle '73	Edward Sartin '93	Linda Stephanik '87
Mary Mason	John O'Brien '97	Heather Sartin '93	John Stubb '90
Gary Masters '82	Leslie Olerta-Leibman '96	William Saunders '84	Bruce Talipan '84
Edward '77 & Arline '95 Matkins	Alex O'Malia '76	Barbara Saxe '80	William Taney '99
Colleen Matthey '92	James Opet '83	Ann Saxton	Joan Taylor '87
Brenda May '91	Mr. & Mrs. David Oravitz	Richard Schall '73	Bonnie Thomas '74
Charles Mazzarella '96	Dale '82 & Ellen '93 Parmenteri	Alison Schmidt Carson '09	G. Theresa Thomas '79
Mildred McCall '77	Bruce Partches '03	Michael Scholl	Todd Thomas '82
	Nancy Patton	Donna Schuetz '80	Richard Timko '69
	Jennifer Pawlowski '88	Valerie Schultz '98	Andrea Tirpak '10



Culinary Arts Professor Receives ACF Award

David N. Pembleton, Jr. '95 CEC, CCE, M.ed., ACE, professor, Food Production Management at Luzerne County Community College, has been named as the recipient of the American Culinary Federation (ACF) NEPA Chef of the Year Award for 2014.

The award was presented at the annual ACF awards dinner held recently at The Woodlands Inn. Chef Pembleton received the award for meeting all of the requirements for the NEPA ACF Chef's Association.

Darleen Tomayko '10
 Karen Tomulaitis '82
 Carl Tranell '84
 Diane Tranguch '88
 Gary Travinski '74
 Debbie Tressa '80
 Ann Tripp '78
 Amy '96 & Kevin '95 Troy
 Alexander '07 &
 Kristie '11 Troy
 Richard Uhing '72
 Valley View Band
 Parents Association
 Jennie Valick-Kopacz '74
 Linda VanGorder '97
 Yvette Viercinski '86
 Robert '90 & Terry '00 Vosik
 Denise Wagner '13
 Frank Walton '96
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ward
 Marianne Wazenski '84
 Ramona Wech '82
 Dean Welch '71
 Ellen Welch '79
 Michael Welch
 Karin Wellings '98
 Barbara Wende
 Tina Wentzel '94
 Bonnie Wido '87
 Michael Wilchinski '76
 Norma Wildoner '94
 Michael Wilk '11
 Jean Williams '88

In memory of Marion Wilson '80
 Betty Wojcik '71
 Linda Wojnar '92
 Sandra Yanchick '95
 Annmarie Zaffuto '85
 Joseph Zamulinsky '74
 Barbara Zardus '84
 Chester Zaremba '79
 Gary '77 & Bonnie '74 Zisko
 Denise Zmijewski '84
 Karen Zmijewski '84
 David Zurek '83

+ deceased



As part of LCCC's beautification project on the Main Campus, the Alumni Association and the LCCC Foundation, Inc. partnered in purchasing a new pavilion in the center of the campus. Located in the courtyard in front of the Library, the College also added new benches, picnic tables, and landscaping to the project.

Nanticoke couple donates to LCCC scholarship program and library

Dr. Cornelia and Mr. Thomas Tengowski, of Nanticoke, recently established a scholarship and donated several books to the Luzerne County Community College Library.

The books include three volumes written by Dr. Tengowski during her distinguished career as a microbiologist and researcher of infectious diseases. The donated books include *Seeds of Death*, *Deadly Harvest* and *Harvest of Fear*, which were written while she traveled the world and worked with health care professionals to identify and prevent the spread of disease.

The Dr. Cornelia and Mr. Thomas Tengowski Scholarship will provide tuition assistance to an LCCC student interested in pursuing a career in health care or the sciences.

Shown with the donated books are, from left, Thomas P. Leary, president, LCCC; Mia Bassham, director, Library, LCCC; Dr. Cornelia Tengowski, donor; and Dr. Dana Charles Clark, provost and vice president, academic affairs, LCCC.

(The College mourns the loss of Dr. Cornelia Tengowski, who passed away in 2014).



Softball coach beats odds

Mary Jo Raughley, a 2005 graduate of Luzerne County Community College, is the head coach of LCCC's women's softball team.

A 1998 graduate of Wyoming Valley West, Raughley was given a scholarship to play softball at Millersville University. While attending MU, she was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease and became very ill, forcing her to withdraw from school and move back home.

Upon returning home, Raughley began working full time so she could put herself through college. During this time she was on several medications for her condition, but nothing helped.

In 2003, she enrolled at LCCC where she studied and earned a degree in legal assisting. She also joined the softball team while working and taking classes. She was 25 when she joined the team and played with others who were right out of high school. "It was a learning experience," says Raughley. "It got me into coaching. I coached and played because I had the ability to help my teammates."

Raughley was a nontraditional college softball player because of her age but she didn't allow that

to stop her from playing a sport that was a part of her life since the age of four.

In 2010, Raughley underwent her first surgery caused by her Crohn's Disease. The doctors removed all but six inches of her large intestine and after a three month recovery in Maryland, Raughley came home.

During the 2012-2013 softball season, Raughley was assistant coach to then coach Chris Brzozowski, who led the LCCC Trailblazers as coach for eight years. Last year's softball team finished the season with a 17-7 record. The team fell short to Northampton in the first round of playoffs. "I'm proud of last year's team," notes Raughley. "We made the playoffs. We did better than any LCCC team has in years. They were just an amazing group of women."

Shortly after the season ended, Raughley's Crohn's Disease worsened and she had to have an ileostomy. "It gave me a better quality life," said Raughley about her second surgery due to her condition.

Now fully recovered, she is back to not only coaching but playing again as well. Raughley plays slow pitch softball at Kirby Park and at the Kingston Rec Center.

As LCCC's head softball coach, Raughley says she hopes to build a strong foundation for future teams. She wants to be able to teach the game to younger generations who love it as much as she does.

Raughley also works at Gerrity's Supermarket but says coaching is something she plans on doing for a while.

The LCCC softball team will open their season on March 21, 2015 at home.



Raughley as a student and softball player at LCCC in 2004.



Raughley as the Trailblazer's Softball Team coach in the Spring of 2013.



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 (7/1/13-6/30/14) by the following organizations.

Entergy
Guard Insurance Group
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
PPL Services Corporation
The P&G Fund
The Prudential Foundation
Verizon Matching Gifts

The Foundation and Alumni Offices 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 us at 570-740-0735.

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 (7/1/13-6/30/14) from the following individuals and organizations.

In Kind Donors

Age of Innocence	Hershey's Chocolate
Asian Café	Johnny D's
Malcolm Barber	LCCC Bookstore
Patricia Besermin '08	Leggio's Restaurant
Rebecca Brominski '91	Liberty Mutual Insurance
Cengage Publishing	Gloria Migatulski '88
Brenda Chester '96	Mohegan Sun Arena
Cinemark Theatre	Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs
Cooper's Waterfront Restaurant	Lisa Owens '96
Fred & Beth '13 Cottle	Jennifer Pawlowski '88
Cross Valley Federal	Pocono Raceway
Credit Union	R/C Wilkes-Barre Movies 14
Sandy Cumberland '05	Sanitary Bakery
Carol Dean '90	SWB Railriders
Dell	Sweet Frog
Elaine Flanagan '98	Villa Foglia
FM Kirby Center	WBS Penguins
Gerrity's Supermarket	World's Finest Chocolate
Joe & Sue Hand	Brooke & Libby '80 Yeager
Ed Hennigan '95	

Buy a Brick at LCCC's Walk of Honor

Be a permanent part of LCCC history!

LCCC's Walk of Honor began as an idea by Mrs. Phyllis Carlo, of Wanamie, to honor her son, Michael Scott Carlo, a NYFD firefighter who lost his life on September 11, 2001 in the World Trade Center. The memorial is located near the College's Prospect Street entrance adjacent to the Regional Public Safety Training Center.

Since its inception in 2009 nearly 150 bricks, plaques and benches have been purchased and inscribed with a lasting memory of College family members and friends. The site is an impressive tribute to graduates, staff, faculty and friends of LCCC, local businesses and organizations that support our College, as well as first responders and those who have died in the line of duty.

You can become a permanent part of LCCC history by sponsoring an engraved memorial brick or plaque. A remembrance ceremony is held each year on September 11th and the new bricks and plaques are displayed. For more information visit our website at www.luzerne.edu/walkofhonor or contact the office at 570-740-0734.



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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. You may include a recent photo of yourself, too. Thank you!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Year 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 _____

Address Service Requested

Save the date...

Join us in celebrating 40 years of excellence in our Nursing Program! Mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 3, 2015 to recognize this milestone on our Main Campus. Watch our FaceBook page and website for updates. Pictured below is the first graduating class of LCCC's Nursing program from 1975!

