

Diversity Institute holds annual dinner

The Diversity Institute at Misericordia University recently held its 19th annual Friends of the Diversity Institute dinner at the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery in Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall on campus.

The Diversity Institute at Misericordia University was established in 1991 to promote multicultural understanding and to work toward the elimination of all forms of unjust discrimination. The institute is an educational resource center that works collaboratively with community members to promote and embrace diversity.

The Diversity Institute, under the direction of Linda Trompetter, Ph.D., also manages the Luzerne County Diversity Commission and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Diversity Education Consortium at Misericordia University.

This year's dinner and reception included the exhibit, "La Tinta Grita — The Ink Shouts: The Art of Social Resistance in Oaxaca, Mexico" which highlighted the colorful art and intrigue of Mexico.

Diversity Institute advisory board members include Dr. George A. Agbango, Joyce Avila, Dr. Mamoun Bader, Arthur Breese, Dr. James Calderone, Stephanie Chester, Dr. Annie Congleton, Ronald Felton, Alex Fried, Lesa Gelb, Esq., Rodrigo Gereda, Howard Grossman, Peggy Jones, Linda Kohut, Kawel Laubach, Dr. Tata Mbugua, Dr. Jeff Namey, Karla Potter, Dr. Paul Reinert, Alex Rogers, Linda Ross, Dr. Midori Yamanouchi-Rynn, Theresa Tyler-Smith, Sister Miriam F. Stadulis, RSM, and Dr. Wagiha Taylor.

For more information about the Diversity Institute at Misericordia University, call 674-6217.



Above: Linda Trompetter, Ph.D., director of the Diversity Institute at Misericordia University, poses for a picture with Jesse Wade, on piano, and Arthur Breese, at the 19th annual Friends of the Diversity Institute dinner that was recently held on the Back Mountain campus.



Middle left: Friends of the Diversity Institute, from left, Sister Bernedette Duross, RSM, special assistant to the president for Mercy integration at Misericordia University; Father Tom O'Hara, King's College; Rabbi Roger Lerner and Father Fidel Ticona, pose for a picture at the 19th annual dinner at Misericordia University.



Bottom left: Participating in the annual Friends of the Diversity Institute dinner are, from left, Denise Dolphus and Tashara Teart and Chris Sheperis.

INSURANCE CEO SPEAKS TO DALLAS KIWANIS



Lauren Smith, CEO of the Nationwide Smith Insurance Group in Shavertown, was the main speaker at a recent meeting of the Dallas Kiwanis held at Metro restaurant in Dallas. Smoke spoke of the eight ways a person can succeed in business and stay in business. His main focus was on professionalism, credibility and solutions for client and customers. Above, Smith, left, accepts a certificate of appreciation from Dallas Kiwanis Vice-President Brian Porasky.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE AWARD



The Board of Directors of the Back Mountain Food Pantry is pleased to announce that pantry volunteers have received an award of excellence from CEO and the Weinberg Food Bank for accurate and timely record keeping. This function is vital to the efficient and effective operation of the pantry to ensure that the needs are met of those who rely on the pantry for help to feed their families. From left, seated, are Anna Skrosky, associate manager; Joe Hardisky, chairman of the board of directors. Standing, Mark Stull, former pantry manager.

OBITUARIES

AMBRUTIS - Agnes Dorothy, 92, of Tunkhannock, died Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010, at Golden Living Center in Tunkhannock after a brief illness.

Her daughter, Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Blumh, died on Monday, March 1, 2010.

Agnes was born Jan. 8, 1918, in Wilkes-Barre. She was a member of the church of Nativity BVM in Tunkhannock and a 1935 graduate of Tunkhannock High School.

Agnes was primarily a homemaker who loved taking care of her family. While her children were growing up, she worked weekends at Shadowbrook and she also spent several years immediately after high school working in New York City.

Agnes served as an advisor to the ARC of Wyoming County and was a board member of the Wyoming County Board of Assistance. She was also a member of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Altar and Rosary Society.

Surviving is her husband of 64 years, Frank (Fritz) A. Ambrutis Sr., son, John Ambrutis; sister, Bertha Stroka Hobd, all of Tunkhannock; four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, as well as nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations to Church of Nativity BVM, Tunkhannock, or an Alzheimer's association of the donor's choice.

BLUHM - Mary Elizabeth (Beth), 57, of Tunkhannock, died Monday, March 1, 2010, at Tyler Memorial Hospital after a brief and courageous battle with cancer.

Her mother, Agnes Dorothy Ambrutis, died on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010.

Mary was born Dec. 11, 1952, in Meshoppen. She was a member of the church of Nativity BVM in Tunkhannock and a 1970 graduate of Tunkhannock High School.

She attended Keystone Junior College where she studied banking. Beth made

many friends during her 30-year career with Peoples National Bank, retiring as assistant manager.

She was very interested in her community, serving on the borough council and the Tunkhannock Water and Sewer Authority. She was an active member of the Wyoming County Diabetic Association.

Among her passions were music and tap dancing, with the David Blight School, in her early years.

Surviving is her husband of 40 years, Gary Allen Blumh; son, Michael; daughter, Kellie Blumh; brother, John Ambrutis; five grandchildren; as well as aunts and uncles, nephews and nieces.

Memorial donations to Church of Nativity BVM, Tunkhannock, or a diabetes association of the donor's choice.

DAVIES - Robert J., 56, of Boonton, N.J., died Monday, March 1, 2010, at his residence.

He was born in Peckville on Feb. 10, 1954. Bob was a graduate of the Boonton High School and he completed two years of technical school.

Bob was an electrician by trade. He later worked for a health care company, designing and modifying wheelchairs for special needs patients throughout the Tri-State area. He loved ballroom dancing, having won a bronze medal in competition in New York City. He also enjoyed acting in musicals at the local theaters.

He moved to Tunkhannock in 1995 where he worked at the Shadowbrook Resort until he became ill.

Surviving is his mother, Jeanne Driesbaugh Davies; sister, Barbara Jeanne Tindall, of Boonton, N.J.; two nephews; as well as several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Memorial donations to the Wyoming County Cancer Society, P.O. Box 629, Tunkhannock, PA 18657.

FARR - Stanley Jay, 70, died on Friday, Feb. 26, 2010, at Mercy Hospice, Scranton, after a long illness.

He was born on May 19, 1939, in Mehoopany. Stanley grew up in Trucksville and was educated at Kingston Township High School.

When Stanley joined the Air Force in 1956, he traveled throughout the world with the U.S. Air Force Strategic Missile Command.

After retiring from the Air Force, he was employed by the Wyoming County Corrections Department as a lieutenant.

Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Jean; daughter, Amanda Hudak, of Mildred, Pa.; son, Bill, of Maryland; two grandchildren; a brother, Larry, of Largo, Fla.; as well as several nieces and nephews.

GOODENOUGH - Alice Mae, 88, of Tunkhannock, and formerly of Hallstead, Pa., died Thursday, March 4, 2010, in Ann's Grover Personal Care Home.

In her earlier years, Alice worked as a waitress and then became a nurse's aid working for both Barnes-Kasson S.N.F. and the hospital. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Hallstead, Pa.

Surviving are her children, Paul and Celeste Stallman, Plains Township, and Luella Stallman, and Judy and Harry Bebb, all of Mehoopany; stepchildren, Lorraine Goodenough, Lorton, Va.; June Goodenough, Alexandria, Va., and Jackie Goodenough, Indianapolis, Ind.; as well as 17 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

MCNEILL - Erma E., 83, of Sweet Valley, and formerly of Wilkes-Barre, died Thursday, March 4, 2010, at Hospice Community Care at Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre.

Her husband, Daniel T. McNeill, 88, also of Sweet Valley, died Friday, March 5, 2010, at the Meadows Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Dallas.

Together, Daniel and Erma celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in July of 2009.

Erma was born on Jan. 22, 1927, in Wilkes-Barre. Erma attended Wilkes-Barre City schools. Prior to her retire-

ment, Erma was employed by Rea, & Derrick Drug Store, Wilkes-Barre, for many years.

Daniel was born on Feb. 25, 1922, in Wilkes-Barre. He attended E.L. Meyers High School, Wilkes-Barre. A U.S. Coast Guard veteran, Daniel served his country honorably during World War II.

Prior to his retirement in 1987, Daniel was employed as a steam trap tester by W.H. Nicholson & Co., Wilkes-Barre, for 38 years.

Erma and Daniel were members of the Firwood United Methodist Church, Wilkes-Barre. Daniel was also a member of the Boilermakers Union. Erma and Daniel shared a special bond.

Erma and Daniel are survived by their daughters, Margaret Rambus, Sweet Valley; Sharon Engler, Sweet Valley; Wendy O'Donnell, Tunkhannock; 12 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Additionally, Daniel is survived by brothers, Robert McNeill and Ronald McNeill, both of Wilkes-Barre; and sisters, Nancy Wheeler and Helen McGeever, both of Wilkes-Barre.

Memorial donations to the American Cancer Society, 190 Welles St., Suite 118, Forty Fort, PA 18704, or to the American Heart Association, 71 N. Franklin St., Suite 207, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

POPE - Geraldine M., 87, of Plains, formally of Shavertown, died Monday, March 8, 2010.

She was born in Kingston and was a graduate of Dallas Township High School. Geraldine was the owner/operator of Gerry's Beauty Shop for 33 years before retiring.

After retirement, she lived in Arizona and Florida and loved to travel. Upon returning to the area she was very active in the Kingston Senior Center, where she enjoyed shuffle board and other activities.

Surviving are her daughter, Carol Klemish, of Plains Township; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

TOUGH - Vera Grace Whitesell, 91, of Lehman Township, died Thursday, March 4, 2010, in

NANCY JANE MILLS DOMBROSKI

March 15, 2009



In loving memory of Nancy Jane Mills Dombroski, who passed away one year ago, March 15, 2009.

We were so blessed to have her as our mom. Her love will remain with us forever.

Deeply missed by husband, daughters, sons, grandchildren, great-grandson, sisters and brothers.

the Nursing Unit of Mercy Center, Dallas.

She had been a resident for the past 2 1/2 years at the Meadows Manor Assisted Living in Dallas, and lived the majority of her life in Lehman Township.

She was born on Feb. 3, 1919, in Loyalville. She was salutatorian of the 1936 graduating class of Lehman High School. After high school, she was employed as a maid at the Conyngham Estate in Lehman Township, which is now the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus.

Vera was a lifelong member of the Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church, where she was the choir director and organist for many years, a member and officer of the United Methodist Women, the Friendship Class and taught Sunday School.

She was also the Corresponding Secretary of the Lake-Lehman Band Sponsors for 12 years. She was an accomplished pianist, accompanist, and taught private piano lessons to countless children and adults for many decades.

Surviving is her daughter,

Linda Tough Pineno, of Lehman Township; son, Gary D. Tough, of Harrisburg; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several loving nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations to Lehman-Idetown U.M. Church, 1011 Mountain View Drive, Lehman, PA 18627.

WILLIAMS - Arline M. (nee Parsons), 89, of Trucksville, died Wednesday, March 3, 2010, at Our Lady of Peace Retirement Home in Charlottesville, Va.

Arline was born Dec. 30, 1920, in Wilkes-Barre. She married Lewis E. Williams on her 19th birthday on Dec. 30, 1939, and together she and Lew enjoyed and shared more than 70 years of marriage.

She was a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

Surviving is her husband of 70 years, Lew Williams, now residing at Our Lady of Peace Retirement Home; son, Lewis E. Williams Jr., of Charlottesville, Va.; six grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and three nieces.