OUR SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT KOPECEK
An air of anticipation hung over our disheveled piles of photos covering the work table. What memories would we unearth? It was like watching a man’s career take shape along with the institution he was shaping. Watching the milestones of new buildings surface, peopled with the same slowly aging faces. Like shuffling through family history. Only the steamer trunk missing, and rain on an attic roof.

Much care and nostalgia went into selecting the photos for this, our tribute issue to Dr. Robert Kopecek. We also had a lot of fun in the process. It is our way of thanking him for giving virtually his entire career to this one college; and for all that he has done for this college.

Much in this issue is about Bob Kopecek himself. Our photo essay for instance, a pictorial spread that parallels the president’s career with that of the college. Our one disappointment is that we could not include more from the hundreds of pictures that record 26 years of college life. But even brief glimpses ignite memories and the past comes easily back again, especially for the old timers among us.

While photos tell good stories, words are still important. Trustees, alumni, students and community leaders tell us, in their own words, how they feel about Dr. Kopecek and the impact of his tenure. In articles throughout the magazine, our writers asked those who know him best, from Bethlehem to Monroe, to gauge both man and leader. To some he is a no-nonsense professional. To others, often the same people, he is a personal friend. Students and alumni, those who know first-hand the educational fruits of the president’s labor, speak out in tribute as well. And in Heidi Butler’s feature Q & A, “The Man, the Myth and the Mission,” the president speaks for himself.

As successful as Bob Kopecek’s “amazing run” has been, the president would most likely give credit to those around him. To be sure, a good faculty and staff are crucial to the success of the school. But “those around him” must include those behind him ... or perhaps, those to his side. Spend some quiet moments with the lady who has stood by Dr. Kopecek’s side for nearly 45 years. Sue Kopecek shares with us her pride in her husband’s success. But she also shares herself. The wife of Northampton’s president has her own story to tell.

And as always, our alumni stories remind us why Northampton is the special place. Read why we call Alumni Board member Fred Curcio ’90, Mr. Lucky. And be sure to read the mix of luck and fate that gave Eugene Buckley ’03 a second chance on life.

Finally, we, the Northampton Community College Magazine writers and editors, would like to express our personal thanks to Dr. Kopecek for his support of our magazine. It was his belief in us, when we began six years ago, that made our publication possible in the first place. We have enjoyed his support ever since. So we thank you, Bob Kopecek. And we wish you the happiest of retirements.
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DESIGNING OUTSIDE THE BOX IN SOUTH BETHLEHEM

“It’s the talk of the town.”

That’s how one business leader described the architecture studio NCC opened on the South Side of Bethlehem this semester.

The Neighborhood Design Center is the brainchild of Ken Trionfo, who heads Northampton’s architecture program. It came to fruition through a partnership between the College, the City of Bethlehem, and the Spanish-Speaking Council.

The Spanish-Speaking Council provided the space. The city provided guidance in urban planning and a list of design projects that could enhance economic development. Second-year architecture students from Northampton provided the talent and creativity, investing hundreds of hours brainstorming and sketching ideas for interesting building facades that could brighten the city’s “western gateway” in the 400 block of Wyandotte Street and the Third and Fourth street business corridors.

“The hope is that the free designs will give business owners the push to improve their buildings, starting a chain reaction in the neighborhood,” said Bethlehem’s deputy director of economic development Diane Donaher in an interview with The Morning Call. Donaher and economic development specialist Laura Burtner met with the class several times to explain the city’s vision for the South Side in the post-Bethlehem Steel era.

“They gave us good pointers,” says second year architecture student Todd Sell. “They were very receptive to what we were doing.”

Sell was impressed with the ideas that are in the works for the South Side. “It’s already pretty lively,” he says. “If they go ahead with everything they have planned from BethWorks to the Greenway along the railroad tracks, it’s going to be pretty cool.”

Sell’s classmate, Jeff Gendell, was a bit more skeptical. At first he thought the city’s dream for South Bethlehem was “too idealistic,” but after learning more about the redevelopment projects already underway, he became a believer.

Gendell is already seeing one idea move from the drawing board to reality. A design he and another second year architecture student created was chosen for an information kiosk that will be installed at the new “Campus Square” at the entrance to Lehigh University’s campus. With guidance from Dan Ebner, an architect who teaches “Architectural Materials and Methods” at Northampton, Gendell and classmate Kevin Baux not only came up with an aesthetically pleasing form for the kiosk, but also researched the materials from which it will be made. Although they had originally envisioned a wood base, they ultimately decided on metal, both for durability and to reflect the key role Bethlehem Steel played in the history of the South Side.

Trionfo has always been a believer in involving students in community partnerships. “This is the most real world learning experience they can get,” he says. “They work with city officials, with merchants, with residents. That’s what it’s really like in practice. They get to see architecture in a different way. They see the big picture. That’s the mountaintop.”

The students agree. “In a traditional studio, the professor teaches and the students watch,” Gendell reflects. “This has been different.”

The search for more permanent quarters for the design center has already begun. “We’re committed to the partnership,” Trionfo declares, “and we want to work with other communities as well.”
CAMPUS NEWS

ALSO GRADUATING WITH HONORS

Joining the Class of 2003 and President Kopecek in pursuing new opportunities in the months ahead will be 10 long-time members of the faculty and staff who retired this year. At the head of the class were Ann Marie Janders of the library staff and Reg Tauke, registrar and dean of instructional technology. Both were on hand when NCC’s first graduating class claimed their diplomas. Other retirees, listed in order of years of service are: Professor of English Ken Delahunty; Assistant Professor of History/Psychology Thomas Price; Professor of Art Gerry Rowan; Fitness Director Donna Watson; Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education Anne Marie Whildin; Director of Career & Work Life Services Linda Arra; Professional Assistant in Nursing Mary Ann Drey; and Library Service Assistant Rhonda Kolleogy. We wish them well.

SALUTE TO THE CLASS OF 2003

Members of the Class of 2003 can take heart! Despite the continued recession and an increase in layoffs in the local job market, a survey conducted among last year’s graduating class shows a 100 percent placement rate in two-thirds of Northampton’s career programs. Overall, 95 percent of those who responded were either employed or continuing their education. The survey had an outstanding response rate of 94 percent and included graduates who completed their studies in May 2002, December 2001, and August 2001.

Reflecting the strength of the health care job market, the survey showed that graduates in the allied health fields continue to command the highest salaries, with a median annual salary of $47,840 reported by dental hygiene graduates, up 10 percent over last year, followed by $41,163 for registered nursing graduates, and $38,542 for electronics technology grads.

The following 25 programs had placement rates of 100 percent, with automotive technology achieving this figure for 12 consecutive years: applied quality and standards, architecture, automotive technology, banking, chemical technology, communication design, computer information technology/networking option, computer maintenance, criminal justice, culinary arts, early childhood education, electronics technology, emergency services, funeral service education, hotel/restaurant management, interior design, legal administrative assistant, medical administrative assistant, nursing/associate’s degree, nursing/licensed practical, optoelectronics technology, radiography, safety, health & environmental technology, and special education.

Last year 34 percent of respondents continued their education at 41 educational institutions with East Stroudsburg University, Kutztown University, Moravian College, Temple University, and Cedar Crest College receiving the highest number of graduates, respectively. Other colleges and universities selected by members of the Class of 2002 included Lehigh University, Penn State University, Thomas Jefferson University, George Washington University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rochester Institute of Technology, and St. John’s University.

GRADS DEFY THE ODDS

This magazine went to press before one of the most important events of the spring semester: Commencement. For photos of the ceremony and a list of graduates, visit the College’s website at www.northampton.edu.
TEACHING TEACHERS

NORTHAMPTON TAKES THE LEAD

When it comes to teaching teachers, Northampton is moving to the head of the class. Already renowned for leadership in early childhood education, the college is increasingly becoming known for excellence in providing a strong start for students who go on to earn bachelor’s and advanced degrees in education and then to become elementary and secondary school teachers.

Because the public still tends to associate teacher preparation with four-year institutions, many people are surprised to learn that education is the second largest major at Northampton with more than 750 students enrolled in early childhood, elementary and secondary, and special education programs.

The programs are highly regarded at the state level and are beginning to garner national attention as these recent grants attest:

SCIENCE & MATH

This past year Northampton became one of 18 community colleges across the country selected to participate in “Preparing Tomorrow’s Science and Mathematics Teachers,” a project funded by the National Science Foundation’s Advanced Technology Education Division in conjunction with the American Association of Community Colleges and the international honor society Phi Theta Kappa.

The grant enabled the college to develop a special section of introductory biology for education majors to strengthen students’ background in the life sciences and develop appropriate teaching skills. Two similar courses already exist in the mathematics department. They were developed by Dennis Ebersole, an NCC professor and textbook author who has been awarded nine Eisenhower grants to help elementary and secondary math teachers implement new standards in mathematics education.

The project team for the National Science Foundation grant includes Dr. Kathleen Benyo, a former elementary and middle school principal who now heads the education program at Northampton, Dr. Sharon Lee-Bond, assistant professor of biology, and Dr. Debora Plehn-Dujowich, assistant professor of biology and chemistry.

Serving as mentors to the Northampton team are Dr. Kerri Armstrong, assistant professor of biology at the Community College of Philadelphia, and Dr. Penny Hammrich, associate dean of the College of Education at Temple University.

Resource professionals for the team include Joseph Rahs, Jr., principal of Fountain Hill Elementary School and elementary science curriculum coordinator for the Bethlehem Area School District, who is the primary liaison with the public school system, and Dr. Shawn Brown, assistant professor of early childhood and elementary education at East Stroudsburg University.

SPECIAL NEEDS

“No child left behind,” takes on added significance when it comes to children with disabilities. While inclusion of children with disabilities in public school classrooms has increased dramatically, opportunities for younger children to interact with their peers has lagged behind, accord-
According to Rebecca Gorton, director of early childhood education at Northampton. “Parents of children with disabilities still find they have very limited options when it comes to child care,” Gorton says.

Several studies show that the main barrier to acceptance of children with disabilities in day care centers is lack of confidence on the part of staff as a result of lack of training. With a two-year grant from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council, experts from Northampton are now working with 12 child care centers in Northampton, Monroe and Pike counties to help child care professionals become more comfortable and successful in serving children with a variety of needs.

Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education Alison Lutton serves as coordinator for this project. “We are very excited about people who have stepped forward to participate,” she says. “Everyone is eager to bring about change.”

Earlier this year Northampton was chosen by Pennsylvania’s Department of Community and Economic Development to train child care providers across the state in using technology to improve early childhood education and to ensure that Pennsylvania’s children begin school computer-ready. As part of Governor Ridge’s CyberStart initiative, faculty members from Northampton’s early education program and instructional technologists from the college’s academic computing center worked together to develop a course to help teachers incorporate computers into children’s daily play and learning. Offered on the internet, the course is now available to more than 2,000 employees of CyberStart classrooms throughout Pennsylvania.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Northampton also provides continuing education for public, private and parochial school teachers through in-service training and through Act 48 courses offered on both the Main and Monroe campuses and on-site for school districts who request it. In the past two years close to 1,000 teachers have enrolled in Act 48-eligible courses. A wide variety of topics are covered ranging from team building to conflict resolution to “The Significance of Gender in Student Learning” to “Integrating Language Experiences throughout the Curriculum” to “Helping the ADHD Child To Succeed” to training in “Art as a Way of Learning,” an arts-based approach to education developed at Northampton.

**NEW MAJOR IN COMMUNICATIONS DISORDERS**

Beginning in the fall NCC will offer an associate in arts degree in communications disorders. The program will prepare students interested in careers as speech therapists to transfer to East Stroudsburg University or other colleges offering bachelor’s and master’s degrees in a career field that is in high demand.

In addition to general education classes the curriculum will include courses in sign language, phonetics, communications disorders, and clinical observation. Students who earn a minimum of a 2.8 grade point average overall and a 3.0 GPA in their communications classes will be guaranteed their credits will transfer to East Stroudsburg.

Employment projections by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that speech therapy will be among the 30 fastest-growing occupations over the next decade. To practice in Pennsylvania, students need to continue their education through the master’s level.

The communications disorders major joins a growing list of pre-professional programs at Northampton in fields such as architecture, education, engineering, journalism and social work.

Northampton set two new records this year:

- Grants received topped $6 million.
- Financial aid awarded exceeded $9 million.

Northampton has the largest scholarship program of any community college in Pennsylvania.
Between the war on terrorism and the war in Iraq 18 NCC students and one part-time faculty member were called to military service during the spring semester. The College has provided tuition credit to students who had to report for active duty so they can continue their studies when they return.

World events were the topic of animated discussion in classrooms, the cafeteria, and the residence halls, as well as in a faculty panel sponsored by the international honor society Phi Theta Kappa and in a presentation by a foreign policy expert from Kutztown University. While not everyone agreed on the U.S. course of action, there was unanimity in concern for NCC classmates, faculty and alumni serving their country.

Political unrest did not keep other students from venturing abroad. In January, 13 NCC students and two staff members went to Paris to participate in a long-standing exchange program with the Lycee Jean Lurcat School. Staying with French families, the students experienced French culture firsthand, spending mornings in language classes and afternoons touring landmarks such as the Louvre, l’Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, Versailles, and the Sorbonne.

In March, culinary arts and hotel/restaurant management majors traveled to Italy where they visited three culinary schools and got a cook’s tour of a pesto factory, a Parma ham factory, and a parmesan cheese factory in an exchange program that brought culinary students from Genoa to NCC last spring.

NCC’s director of international programs, Dr. Manuel Gonzalez, believes strongly in the value of such trips. “For the majority of the students this was their first time leaving the U.S.,” he says. “They enjoyed the touring and the monuments and buildings, but it’s the relationships that develop with students from other countries that really make a huge impact. Just understanding that we are all just about the same and that we just live in different geographic locations is a great start.”

**OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABS TAPS NCC FOR PILOT PROGRAM**

Officials at Oak Ridge National Laboratory have awarded Northampton a $250,000 subcontract to develop an energy efficiency specialist program that can serve as a model for community colleges and technical schools throughout the country. Funding for this project comes from the United States Department of Energy.

Scientists from Northampton’s Electrotechnology Applications Center (ETAC) have already achieved national acclaim for their success in helping manufacturers from a wide variety of industries comply with environmental regulations, improve energy efficiency and increase productivity through the use of “green technologies.”

ETAC’s director, Dr. Michael Vasilik, will be heavily involved in the development of the new curriculum as will the college’s dean of community education, Dr. Paul Pierpoint. Working with them out of a satellite office in Philadelphia will be three highly respected energy auditors formerly associated with the science center at the University of Pennsylvania: Bill Clark, Jimmy Lew, and Gwen Looby. Representatives from the regional Department of Energy and state energy offices, the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation and regional industrial companies will serve on an advisory team.

The experts will develop a diploma program that responds to the need for energy efficiency specialists who can improve manufacturing processes. The students will learn about how energy efficiencies can be improved in a manufacturing environment, and study methods used in economic decision-making.

The first courses will be taught this coming fall. They will be open to individuals employed in industry who are looking for opportunities to advance their careers, as well as to associate degree candidates who may want to continue their education in energy-related fields.

**WHAT IVORY TOWER?**

NCC student, Jerame Dooly, was deployed to Iraq during the war.

NCC students visiting Paris.
“Sometimes we look at someone successful and think they’re not feeling fear, but that’s not real. If you’re passionate about something, you’re going to walk with some fear.”
— Maria Rivera, counselor at NCC’s Monroe Campus, encouraging students to pursue their dreams during a program called ‘On the Road to Northampton’

“The assault on America [on September 11] didn’t occur in a vacuum. That doesn’t mean we deserved what happened, but how we deal with people does count for something.”
— Dr. Roger Whitcomb, author of The American Approach to Foreign Affairs, speaking to students before the start of the war in Iraq

“This is the world where fine art and technology really come together, and a lot that is going on right now is still experimental ... things like how you wire a shirt to play music matched to mood. Concepts like that aren’t too far in the future.”
— Associate Professor of Art Ira Greenberg in an interview with The Express-Times probing the line between art and science

“The seven deadly habits of highly miserable people:”
Criticizing, blaming, complaining, nagging, threatening, punishing, rewarding.
— Dr. William Glasser, psychiatrist, author and proponent of educational reform, in a workshop held on campus for educators and human service professionals

“My major mistake was going to a four-year college [just] because it was a four-year college ... It was what my family and friends expected me to do. I didn’t find direction until I came home and started at Northampton.”
— Journalism major Heidi Metzger in an interview with The Express-Times regarding public misperceptions about community colleges
Most people perceive community colleges in too small a box. I've never shared their views of the boundaries.

Since he announced his plans for retirement last fall, many people have praised the leadership Dr. Kopecek has provided for NCC and the role he has played in the community over the past 26 years. Does he feel he’s done a good job? What plans does he have for the future? What suggestions does he have for you for summer reading?

Dr. Kopecek answered these questions and more with characteristic candor in this recent interview with Heidi Butler, Northampton’s director of public information. Listen in!
Heidi: Let’s start with an easy question. Ever since you announced your retirement, the same two words have been used over and over again to describe your presidency. The words are “amazing run.” Of all that you’ve accomplished, what are you proudest of?

Dr. Kopecek: That’s not an easy question. Twenty-five years is a long time. At different times, there were different things that I wanted to do, and I was really pleased that we got them done. When I arrived, the first thing we were supposed to do was planning. We didn’t have the computer capacity to do it. It took us three years to put the tools in place, but we finally got it accomplished. The plan showed that we needed to emphasize technology, manufacturing and working with business and industry in the community. The programs that we have now in community education are a result of that. That got the institution thinking in a kind of entrepreneurial way. That was the first big hurdle. Then we went into the phase of building things. I’m certainly pleased about all the different buildings that we built because they increased the ability of the institution to provide excellent instruction.

We also expanded the scope of programs Northampton offers. When we started, we were really a liberal arts college with some allied health and some technical programs. We put together a group of people who believed in the notion of a community college being comprehensive and entrepreneurial and reaching out into the community.

Heidi: It’s hard to imagine that there’s anything that you have been disappointed in, but is there anything you wish you’d been able to accomplish that hasn’t happened?

Dr. Kopecek: The relationships with the school districts are good right now, but I’m still frustrated that through my efforts and through the efforts of my colleagues in the state that we haven’t been able to come up with a more rational system of funding community colleges. I’m also frustrated by the fact that more people don’t recognize the full potential of what community colleges do and the kind of transformation we make in people’s lives. I’ve had the opportunity to work at a four year college, in graduate programs, and here. This is better! This is really working with real people, making significant changes in some of their lives.

Heidi: You started out as a high school teacher and then moved into college teaching in the state system in New York. How did you become interested in community colleges?
Dr. Kopecek: Not by plan! My collegiate career started at an agricultural and technical institution. I had been teaching high school for a couple of years. I loved to teach, but I didn’t think I was going to teach forever. A couple of my fraternity brothers took jobs at Delhi (part of the state university system). I went, too.

I taught there for five or six years, and then got interested in student government. I thought it would be an opportunity to teach social studies in a hands-on way. That was really a pipe dream, but it got me into student affairs. We were small but growing. They appointed me associate dean of students. I handled everything the dean didn’t want to do. It was fun because the major responsibility was programming. We were 170 miles from New York City, and most of the kids we got were either from Long Island or from Buffalo. They thought they were on an island someplace, so we scheduled lots of activities. We were charging the kids $100 a year, so I had $300,000 to spend. That was a lot of money in those days. I was bringing in shows every Friday and Saturday.

I did that for a couple of years and thought, “This isn’t me.” I also was responsible for discipline and that wasn’t very much fun. An opening came along for an associate dean of faculty. I thought I’d enjoy that a little bit more. Just as I became the associate dean, the dean had a heart attack. He was out for about nine months, so I did his job. Then the president of a new community college in Schenectady hired me as dean of the faculty. That was my introduction to community colleges. I had never really thought about them before.

My mentor went to Utica and started an upper division college, and I was hired as vice president for administration over the phone. We had a new campus with about 500 acres and a mandate to develop it to 8,000 students, but after [Gov. Nelson] Rockefeller left New York to become vice president, it became pretty tough. I decided to move on and became a candidate at two four-year institutions and a candidate here.

Heidi: What were your initial impressions of Northampton?

Dr. Kopecek: That’s interesting. I knew of Dick Richardson (NCC’s first president). I hadn’t met him, but I had listened to him at conferences and read a lot of his stuff. I didn’t always agree with it, but I liked what he wrote, so I knew a little bit about the College. I also was on the accrediting committee for medical technology programs. I had read the self-study of the program here, so I had a kind of a feel of the institution. The other thing that made me interested in Northampton was Bethlehem Steel. I thought: “The country’s always going to need steel, so if you’re in a steel area, you’re going to be in an area where there’s strong industrialization.” Well, that was true for the first 10 years!

Heidi: You were very young when you became a college president.

Dr. Kopecek: I was young by today’s standards, but standards were different in 1977. I was 40, but Joe Hankin was president of Westchester Community College when he was 27.

Heidi: Did you expect to spend the rest of your career at Northampton or did you intend to use it as a springboard for other things?

Dr. Kopecek (with a chuckle): The guy who was the chancellor of the state system in New York actually called me up and said, “What are you going to Pennsylvania for?” He said, “You go down there for three years and then we’ll bring you back.” It’s a good thing that didn’t work out.

Heidi: Depending on what you read, the average tenure of a college president is three to seven years. A 26-year presidency is practically unheard of, particularly in the public arena where a president has to marshal support from so many different groups. What does it take in terms of political skills and inner resources to be able to lead effectively for that long?

Dr. Kopecek: You’ve got to be lucky
an idea about what needs and if you’re willing to do it, you can get it done.

and you have to have a Board that is confident in itself and willing to let the president be president. Unlike a lot of community colleges, this one started with people who knew higher education. Dr. Glenn Christianson was chairman for the first 10 years. That provided stability. Other people came on the Board and stayed too. Dr. Christianson was the provost at Lehigh University. He went off the Board before I arrived, but he gave Board members an understanding of the proper role of trustees. I’ve often wondered if I had gone to another institution whether or not I would have been successful. I don’t know.

Heidi: You can’t be serious!

Dr. Kopecek: I have a lot of confidence in myself. I believe I could run most anything. I don’t question my gut very much. That can get you in a lot of trouble. But confidence and ability are only part of the equation. The governance structure here is interesting. Having eight different school districts each worried about their own issues is a challenge, but in some ways it worked to my advantage.

In many public colleges where the boards are elected or where the boards are controlled by a county that has a strong administrator who wants to control things and who looks at the college as another department of county government, I think there’s much more inclination to want to have a lot of say about who gets hired. We were very fortunate that we didn’t have that. We could hire the people that we wanted. Senator [Jeannette] Reibman also could have been very intrusive, saying “you ought to hire this person or that person.” I hear stories from other parts of the state where that was pretty common. Senator Reibman never did that, and that kind of sets the tone. I do believe that the College, the academic community, is really a political entity. It’s collegial, but it’s political. There are three or four major theories about how colleges and universities operate. I believe they operate politically.

Heidi: Do you have a role model who influenced your leadership style or a mentor who guided you along the way?

Dr. Kopecek: I have a mentor whose name is Dr. Bill Kunsela. He was the president who hired me at Delhi. I got a lot of my interest in economic development from him and a lot of my understanding of how organizations work. Did I consult with him once I was president? I never called him up. We would see each other every now and then and play golf, but I never said, “What should I do in this situation?” I did try
to pattern myself after him in the sense that he was probably the biggest visionary I’ve ever worked with.

Heidi: What about leadership style? Is your leadership style similar to his?

**Dr. Kopecek:** I don’t know. I think he was gruffer. I don’t believe I am a gruff kind of person. I don’t think I go around screaming and hollering at people, although they do know when I’m upset. I certainly am not a touchy feely person, and one of the things I’ve always wanted to do and never did do is I should have given a lot more praise to people than I do.

Heidi: You’re known for being open and honest in communicating with people. People respect that.

**Dr. Kopecek:** Maybe that’s one of the things I did pattern. I don’t try to tell the staff anything different than I would tell a student. I’ve always kidded around that I’m not smart enough to keep different stories straight, so I have to stick to the truth.

Heidi: What’s the most fun about being a college president?

**Dr. Kopecek:** The job! I can’t understand people who say, “You must have so much pressure.” It’s a great job. I wouldn’t want to do anything else.

Heidi: If you could change one aspect of the job what would it be? What’s most frustrating?

**Dr. Kopecek:** What I would change is that I’m getting old and I can’t eat three meals a day and go to all these bloody meetings. If I could do that, I’d stay, but I’d weigh 900 pounds!

Heidi: During your presidency, you’ve been an advocate for education not only locally, but also on the state level. You served twice as president of the Pennsylvania Commission on Community Colleges and also as president of the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Universities. With all you had to do at Northampton, why did you feel involve

ment in these organizations was important? Did you see it as an obligation or did you have an agenda?

**Dr. Kopecek:** I didn’t have an agenda. I enjoyed it. You learn a lot by interacting with people from other institutions, and it helps your own organization if you’re active. I never really got involved with national associations, though. They bored me. The politics to get elected was something I really didn’t want to do. The state organizations don’t take that much time, and they’re beneficial.

Heidi: You’re known for your leadership in economic development. You’ve often said that community colleges should be the engine that drives economic development. Some people would say that Bob Kopecek is the engine that drove economic development in Northampton County for many years. Is that an arena in which you will stay active?

**Dr. Kopecek:** I hope I can stay active in some phase of economic development. I’ve got a number of years left on the executive board of LVIP (Lehigh Valley Industrial Park). I enjoy that very much.

Heidi: What do you think the outlook is for the region?

**Dr. Kopecek:** We’re in a great place in Northampton County because of the Bethlehem Steel property. Where else do you have 1,600 acres inside the city with rail access and all kinds of power just sitting there waiting to be developed? That is going to be a tremendous opportunity for the next 20 years. So is the Route 33 corridor, although there are real issues that have to be addressed. We have to be very careful that we don’t get strip mall development there. We should develop parallel service roads along the way so that industry can get in deeper on both sides of the
the institution to take risks was definitely important.

road.

The Valley is marketing itself as one valley, and I think that’s a good thing. People have said that I was opposed to it. I’m not opposed to it, but I believe we need more volunteer involvement. You can build a community from the top down with a few people calling the shots or you can go from the bottom up. I’m a proponent of building from the bottom up. Communities ought to have the opportunity to have their lay people involved, including small to mid-size businessmen. They can be a tremendous resource.

The Lehigh Valley is a great place. I can’t believe that electronics is not going to come back. When it comes back, we’re in a great spot. We have to be careful not to become just a transportation hub, however. We’re in a prime location for that, but we need to guard against it.

Heidi: How about education? You’re known as a futurist, but you’re an historian by training. What are the most significant changes you’ve seen in higher education in your career and what are the challenges that lie ahead?

Dr. Kopecek: The number one change that has occurred in the last 30 to 40 years is the emphasis on access. We have a fundamental belief in this country that everyone who could possibly benefit from higher education deserves to be given an opportunity. As that comes closer to becoming a reality, you have to do more with remedial education. All colleges and universities, except for perhaps 50 or 60 very select institutions, are doing remediation. Higher education has also been affected by the multicultural explosion that’s going on. That’s good, but it’s caused a lot of different issues.

From an instructional point of view, we’re moving from teacher-centered to learner-centered. We’ve just scratched the surface of what that means. It involves fundamental change. I’m very concerned that we’re going the wrong way in mathematics. We’ve made some changes, declared victory and said it’s fine. I think that’s a mistake. Thousands of kids are taking calculus in high school, but the number of people who come to college who are able to deal with college algebra and/or analytic geometry and calculus is smaller.

The cost of education has also changed. It’s a big business. This institution has a total expenditure budget for all purposes of about $52 million. That’s kind of astounding. There’s obviously a lot of concern about accountability. That comes in part because so much money is being spent. It affects the four-year institutions more than it affects us. A lot of people are now spending a lot of money to send their kids to college. The kids are getting out and not getting very good jobs. Our grads tend to do well and they haven’t incurred as much debt, but the disconnect elsewhere is causing people to be concerned.

Heidi: Looking ahead to the future of higher education, what excites you and what worries you?

Dr. Kopecek: Educational technology is like “The Tale of Two Cities.” It represents the best of times and the worst of times. There is so much potential to make education and information more readily available, but there’s a downside. Some of the most important things we do in education happen outside the classroom. They involve socialization. If that were to be lost, it would be a problem. There’s also a danger of haves and have nots when it comes to technology.

What excites me? It still isn’t possible for everyone who really should go to college to be able to go to college. It’s a goal that has yet to be realized. The college experience may not be for everybody, but we have to figure out a way to make basic education available to everyone. If you happen to be good with your hands, you can be a furniture maker or you can build houses, but that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t have a good liberal arts background that helps you with your life. Plumbers may make more than people with advanced degrees, but their lifestyles may be significantly different. Education has a role to play in that as far as I am concerned. How do you work at that? That’s one of the roles of the community college.
Heidi: What are the biggest challenges you think Dr. [Art] Scott [NCC’s next president] will face? And what advice do you have for him?

Dr. Kopecek: The challenges are always: How do you provide quality instruction at an affordable price to students? That really means: How do you get public money? That’s a state issue and a regional issue.

If you look at the areas of the country right now where economic development is booming, you’re not looking at the Northeast. You’re looking at places that are continuing to invest in the infrastructure of education. The correlation is not one to one, but strong public education is something that citizens need to invest in if you’re going to have a thriving economy. There’s another challenge that’s kind of the reverse of that. Community colleges can play a central role in workforce training. Other states are ahead of Pennsylvania in this regard. As that role grows, there is the potential for the public to perceive community colleges as trade schools. Somehow you have to keep a balance. I don’t have advice for Art. He will do very, very well.

Heidi: How about your own future? What’s on your priority list?

Dr. Kopecek: People ask me if I’m going to do some consulting. Sure, if the right thing comes along, but I don’t really know what the right thing is. People say, “What do you want to consult in?” That’s my problem. I’ve been a generalist all my life. I guess I will “generally consult!” But in the beginning I’m just going to sit back and be retired. I’ve never been retired. I don’t know how that will be. I like to read and I like to ruminate. I hope I’ll be able to do that, and I hope that I’ll be able to see my grandkids more — maybe more than they want to see me! The plan is to spend summers in upstate New York, parts of the winter here, and parts of the winter someplace where it’s warmer. Seems good to me!

Heidi: You mentioned reading. Do you have anything specific on your retirement reading list, and do you have any recommendations for the rest of us?

Dr. Kopecek: I go through stages. Right now I’m a real fan of Richard Russo. He won a Pulitzer for “Empire Falls.” It’s about a small town in Maine. If you’re a faculty member, you’ve got to read “Straight Man.” It’s about an English department at a fictional college in Pennsylvania. “Nobody’s Fool” and “The Risk Pool” are also good.

Heidi: What will you be reading?

Dr. Kopecek: I’m going to try to read some history. When I’m tired, I can’t read history. I fall asleep. I have to get rested enough so that I can do some serious reading. I never liked military history, but I think I’m going to read some of that. I’ve always been an avid follower of politics and foreign affairs. Recently I haven’t read enough to know what’s really going on. Just look at Africa. I don’t even know all the names of the countries, so I’ve got a lot of catching up to do there.

Heidi: Last question: People will remember a lot about the Kopecek years at NCC, but if they only remember one thing, what do you hope it will be?

Dr. Kopecek, (after a long pause): I hope they remember that students got a good education here, that we served them well, and that they came out proud of the institution they went to.

Heidi: Is there anything else you would like to say?

Dr. Kopecek: I’d like to go back to the first question, the one about what I take the greatest pride in. That is a very difficult question, but one thing that I really take a lot of pride in is that I’ve been able to keep a very talented group of people together for a long time. A lot of presidents praise themselves on the fact that they’ve trained other presidents. In the 10 years that Dick Richardson was here, a number of people went on to become college presidents. I can’t claim that, but it’s very satisfying to put together a good team and have them stay together. The people part of the institution is the thing I am going
To Bob With Love,
From the Whole Family
The photos on these pages show the range of Dr. Kopecek’s service to our college family down through the years. Thanks for the memories, Bob.

With fond appreciation,
From ‘the family’
When the call came from North Carolina, Sue Kopecek was giving her 8th grade class an algebra exam. It was the call she had been waiting for. Karen, Sue’s daughter, was a new mom, and Sue’s grandson would be named John.

“My students insisted that John would be a mathematical genius,” says Sue, “because he was born in the middle of our exam.” Could be; John’s career is still a question for the future. But his addition to the world made Sue look at both sides of her own equation. Though her classroom meant much to her, she had no qualms about retirement. “I taught math at Moravian [Academy] for 17 years,” she says, and smiles. “Then I had a grandchild, and that was the end of that.”

John, now nearly six years old, was the first of two grandchildren for Sue and her husband, NCC President Bob Kopecek; Joshua is three.

While she has no regrets on trading in her math career, leaving the classroom was not a decision Sue made lightly. “I loved teaching at Moravian,” she says. “It is a small school and the faculty become close friends. You really get to know the kids and to share in their successes.” Some of Sue’s favorite times were with the success of her “MathCounts” teams, an extracurricular activity made up of students who “absolutely loved math.” MathCounts is a competition run by the Society of Professional Engineers that competes at the regional, state and national levels. “I’ve taken teams to all three,” she says, proudly. “Teaching math was very rewarding for me. I would not have done any other thing.”

Her classroom days were interrupted only once, when the Academy lost the director of their middle school and Sue was tapped to pinch hit. “I did not want the job,” she recalls. “For the educational part, I never had doubts. But I had never really handled budgets other than at home. And it put me in a different relationship with my colleagues, having to evaluate them.” Sue rates her yearlong stint as administrator an “interesting experience,” but when a new director was found, she went eagerly back to teaching math.

Sue’s passion for math not only sparked a satisfying career, it also helped her meet Bob.

The couple met at the State University in New York, where Sue did her undergraduate and graduate work in math. NCC’s future president was, no surprise, in a group of student leaders who were involved in decisions that affected the student body as a whole. While she may not have known that Bob was a college president in the making, she “knew he was going somewhere.” After their first date, a play at the university, the couple joined their friends to dance the evening away. “After that first date,” she says, “I thought, this might be something.” It was. Next December, the Kopeceks will celebrate 45 years of marriage.

The couple plans to keep Bethlehem as home base, with summers
at their lake house in upstate New York. And of course, they’ll take time to visit the children. In addition to their daughter Karen and her husband, Ken Bernd, and the grandkids in North Carolina, the Kopeceks have a son, David, and his wife, Barbara, in Wichita, KS. Their children have given them good reason to be proud. David, a political science major, is also a self-taught computer whiz who turned his electronic savvy into a successful business, LineSight Inc. e-business services. And in addition to being a mom, Karen holds a doctorate in molecular biology from Princeton University and teaches at Davidson College in North Carolina.

Sue recently participated on a project for New Bethany Ministries, the Bethlehem shelter that gives temporary housing to needy families. “The building gets a lot of wear and tear,” says Sue. “We raised the money needed to paint every room, refurbish the kitchen, buy new furniture and make it a homey place for situations that often are desperate.” She has held the board presidency of both Girl’s, Inc. and the Northampton County Association for the Blind. She also served as volunteer coordinator, and later, Board president, for RADPRIN, the radio reading service for the blind, whose main office is housed at Northampton. In fact, it was Sue who laid the groundwork for the volunteer program when the organization started up.

Organizing volunteers was something she knew well. During the time Dr. Kopecek was dean of faculty at Schenectady Community College, Sue had begun a volunteer reading service that translated the written word into the spoken. “Our babysitter told me about her mother, who was taking classes at the college,” she says. “She only had partial vision and needed help having her books read to her.” Sue spearheaded the formation of a group, working out of the community college, to read textbooks students needed onto tape. She has been involved with the blind ever since.

She still does volunteer work with the Association for the Blind. “They have a giant fabric sale every year at the Municipal Skating Rink on Illick’s Mill Road,” she says. “I help clean the building, sort materials, put prices on things. Then when it starts I work the sale.” Actually, when it comes to the fabric sale, Sue fills two roles: volunteer, and customer. Sewing is a strong rival even to math in her list of passions. She is a member in good standing with her group, the Easton Couturiere Workshop “It sounds fancy,” says Sue, “but what it is is a fairly sizable group of women who love to sew. Some design and sew garments, others quilt, cross-stitch, embroider or knit. It truly is an art form.” The Workshop meets at the Third Street Alliance in Easton. All 70 to 80 lovers of needle and thread hold membership with the Alliance. They also contribute to it through their craft with donated items for the women and children staying at the shelter, and with the proceeds of their annual fashion show.

As everyone knows, Sue also fills the role of a college president’s wife. She shares her husband’s deep feelings for Northampton, and is proud when people approach them and share stories about what the community college has done for them. “It’s rare that we meet someone in Bethlehem who hasn’t been affected by NCC,” she says. “Right down to their toes, they are enthusiastic fans.” She is even more proud of the amazing run her husband has had in his tenure as president. The growth, in all facets of College life, has been phenomenal. “I’m very proud of him,” says Sue. “In my heart I say, he’s doing wonderful things. It’s rewarding for me that other people think so, too. Bob would be the first one to tell you that it took a lot of people to make the campus what it is today. But I guess you need a spark, someone to say, ‘Look what we’ve done already. We can do this.’ That’s what he does. I think it’s amazing!”

There is no doubt the College’s success is bound tightly to the success of Bob Kopecek’s career. But as one-time prime minister of Britain, Harold Macmillan observed, “No man succeeds without a good woman behind him. Wife or mother, if it is both, he is twice blessed indeed.” This math is basic: multiply a 26-year tenure at Northampton by two children, two grandchildren, and one proud wife. The answer: Bob Kopecek is a man twice blessed indeed.
“Bob’s legacy is the unbelievable metamorphosis of the campus. If you go back and look at what the college was when he came and what it has become, you don’t have to say much more.”

Mike Caruso, Principal, Caruso Benefits Group

“Bob has the discipline, training and experience of an educator intertwined with the inquisitive spirit of a college student. Bob has a positive outlook and always assumes the possibility of success of any undertaking. The negotiations, or ‘arm wrestling’ as Bob likes to call it, for that success are his forte and endearing quality.”

Bill Murphy, Herster, Newton & Murphy Law Firm, College Solicitor

“Bob had a down-to-earth, low-key style, but he knew where he wanted to go and he got everybody to go there.”

Mike Albarell, President, Albarell Electric

“Very early on, Bob recognized the importance of workforce development as an economic development tool. And, as a result of that, he developed, I believe, one of the best business and industry community college relationships in the country.”

Bob Spillman, Spillman Farmer Architects

“He found a way to meet the academic needs of students and to identify and meet the needs of local businesses. Under his leadership, the college has become ingrained in every part of this community.”

Jody Piagesi, Chairman, NCC Alumni Association, Training Manager, T-Mobile
“He’ll be remembered for putting Northampton Community College on the map. I’m amazed every time I look at the site at the changes that have occurred.”

Chuck Werkheiser, President, CC Inc. Construction Services

“What jumps into my mind first when I think about Bob was his ability to gather around him a capable, loyal, tremendously talented administrative staff.”

Paul Mack, Chairman, Northampton Community College Foundation Board
Retired President, Mack Printing (now Cadmus Mack)

“He’s been the heart and soul of the community college. He understood the community college concept and its potential. He’s been able to change according to customer and marketplace needs over a 27-year period.”

Ralph Tarola, Superintendent, Saucon Valley School District

“The enrollment and physical facilities growth under Bob has been impressive. It’s hard for me to imagine the same proportionate growth in the next 27 years that the institution has seen in the last 27.”

Bill Hecht, President & CEO, PPL, Inc.

“He’s unique in that he’s a study of opposites. He has the capability of being able to see the big picture and, at the same time, be brutally analytical. He’s a consensus builder, but at the same time, he’s relentless in seeing a program through or seeing a project get done.”

Paul Brunswick, President of the Board & Executive Director, MM

“He’s got a strange and wonderful mind — one that is able to look around corners and see what could be. He’s a catalyst. He gets thing going and energizes people. He makes you think. He loves to discuss and debate. He flourishes on it.”

Eleanor Boylston, Retired, Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation
In fiscal year 2002, individuals and organizations contributed a total of $23.9 billion to colleges and universities, including nearly $1.2 million to Northampton Community College.

It wasn’t always so!

When Dr. Robert Kopeck came to Northampton Community College 26 years ago, there was but one full-time professional, supplemented by a part-time staff member, engaged in anything resembling what we now know as advancement work. And, at that time, it occurred to comparatively few people that typical advancement activities, like marketing, alumni affairs or even fundraising, were needed or even appropriate at a community college.

Dr. Kopecek recognized early on that a unified advancement effort could pay dividends for the college, both in terms of the bottom line and the college’s standing within the community. He supported the concept, funded the offices associated with it, set high expectations and stood behind the programs with an occasionally skeptical college community. Even in tight budget years, Kopecek realized that the college’s vision, image and message needed to be communicated. He also supported the professional growth and development of his advancement staff.

The advancement function has had a seat at the management table since Dr. Kopecek’s first year as president. Sue Kubik, initially as director, and later as vice president, has served as the college’s point person for development responsibilities for nearly as long as Dr. Kopecek has been president. He supported Kubik’s professional involvement on a state and national level, including a term as chair of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), an international group of advancement professionals.

And the fruits of Dr. Kopecek’s vision? In 1993, Northampton Community College received its first CASE Circle of Excellence Award in Educational Fundraising, and a second in 2001. Northampton’s endowment places it in the top 10 percent of community colleges nationally and Northampton has always ranked among the top 35 community colleges in the country in fund raising results. The college has a strong alumni program and award-winning programs in marketing and in public relations.

“Bob’s vision and determination have paved the way and provided the foundation for our fundraising efforts,” said Paul Mack, chairman of the Foundation board. “His tremendous credibility has made fundraising for the community college a rewarding experience for both the solicitor and the donor.”

Never one to hide a good idea, Dr. Kopecek “hit the road” in the late 1970s, giving presentations on such topics as “Why and How Community Colleges Should Be Committed to Alumni Affairs.”

From the importance of marketing to the contributions of the alumni association to the promise of fund-raising, Dr. Kopecek has preached the message more than occasionally to presidential colleagues who weren’t, at first, enthusiastic about hearing it.

Advancement has had a hand in shaping nearly every aspect of the college over the past few decades. Bigger opportunities and higher aspirations beckon in the future, and institutional advancement will play a major role in helping the college progress and in meeting the most important goal of all — helping students realize their dreams.

David Shaffer ’78, co-president of Just Born, sums it up this way: “Bob Kopecek has a keen understanding of NCC’s role in providing opportunities for students to fulfill their post-secondary educational goals. For many students, the financial burden is too great to allow them to go to college. Providing scholarships to these students so they might achieve their dreams is one of Dr. Kopecek’s highest priorities. It is also one of his great dreams.”

And remains today.
AN IMPACT PLAYER
BY JAMES W. HARPER

An impact player. That’s what all sports teams look for. That’s what every community needs. And in the Lehigh Valley community, it was Dr. Bob Kopecek who provided not just impact to the community college world, but to the world around him.

To simply list the variety of community service he has provided seems inadequate. But there are outstanding examples. He became a board member of the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce in 1977. He served a term as president from 1986 to 1988. In addition, he is presently on both the finance committee and the Chamber’s Foundation board of directors.

Dale Kochard, current staff executive of the Bethlehem Area Chamber of Commerce, noted, “The reason the Lehigh Valley is such a robust place to run a business is due in large part to the quality of the workforce. It’s been through Bob Kopecek’s leadership that Northampton Community College has become one of the premier institutions in our state, providing skilled individuals prepared to enter, or in some cases re-enter the workforce.”

The Bethlehem Chamber, recognizing Dr. Kopecek’s leadership, honored him with the 2003 Priscilla Payne Hurd Award, “for his great influence upon the enhancement of life in the community through education.”

Kochard’s predecessor as Chamber chief was Candace Curie, now head of the Gaithersburg, Maryland Chamber. “I was asked to serve on a Northampton County appointed Task Force in 1997 which reviewed potential county financial support for Northampton Community College,” she remembers. “The Task Force tackled the project with great enthusiasm because Northampton was such an important asset to our area. What we did not know was that NCC served as a model for other community colleges in Pennsylvania. NCC clearly evolved into that model because it was under Bob’s leadership.”

Curie refers to Dr. Kopeck as “the consummate educator.” She said, “In the Chamber, we saw his belief in the power of an education to change personal lives and communities. His contribution to the work of the Chamber was invaluable.”

Dr. Kopecek was appointed to the Lehigh Valley Region Advisory Board of the Ben Franklin Technology Partners,
based at Lehigh University, in 2002. The chief executive officer of Ben Franklin is Chad Paul.

“Bob has been a tireless warrior for economic development in the Lehigh Valley,” says Paul. “His stewardship on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and his work for Northampton County Development Corporation (NCDC) recognized the importance of creating jobs along with the use of precious resources to make this a better place to work and live. Bob always gave of himself, which as president of a major institution was really not necessary. But he always believed strongly in his mission and holds a passion for this community.”

Social services in the community also have benefited from Dr. Kopecek’s leadership. He began service on the Minsi Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America, in 1977. “Dr. Kopecek’s service on the executive board of the Minsi Trails Council for the past 25 years is an outstanding record,” notes Tom Harrington, current Council executive. “He has chaired numerous committees and served as our Council Commissioner, our top uniformed position in the Council. Over the years, Bob has typified the qualities of a good Scout — trustworthy, helpful, friendly, courteous and cheerful. He’s easy to work with, an effective administrator and willing to use his wide contacts throughout the community for the betterment of the scouting program. I salute Bob Kopecek and thank him for his years of service to the youth of our community.”

Dr. Kopecek has provided long-term service to many other health and welfare organizations in the Valley. Of particular note has been his continuing service to Easton Hospital. His board tenure began in 1977 and continued until 2001. He was elected as chair of that board in 1984 and served until 1987. The challenges to health care services then, as now, were significant, a tremendous commitment of volunteer time.

His other community activities include his chairmanship of the board of AIDSNET, board member of the Two Rivers Health & Wellness Foundation, and chair of Valley Health System, serving in that capacity from 1987 to 1989.

Bob Kopecek has also been involved in a wide variety of community advisory committees, a list that might fill this magazine. Community leaders contacted for this article were unanimous in describing their appreciation for Dr. Kopecek’s dedication and vigor that has characterized his service to the Lehigh Valley. Clearly he has been the impact player every team needs.

James W. Harper, an advancement consultant to NCC, is the former director of community relations at Lehigh University.
ACCOUNTING
◆ 1973 Nicholas Moralis works for Banko Beverage Company and resides in Allentown with his wife, Maria, and their two children, Demetra and John.
◆ 1996 Sook Lee Choi received her bachelor’s degree from Moravian and is an accounting supervisor for the Borough of Fountain Hill. Sook and her husband, Hazem Tadros, reside in Easton and have two children, Hong and Lola.

ADVERTISING DESIGN
◆ 1995 Corey Meckes is an orthophoto specialist at L. Robert Kimball & Associates and resides in Ebensburg.

ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY
◆ 1976 Joseph McLaughlin is president of Rescom Construction in Greenville, SC. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Greer, SC and have two children, Tripp and Lane.
◆ 1982 Carla M. Frable Binder is the owner of Creative Framing by Carla. She and her husband, Philip, reside in Palmerston and have two children, John and Sarah.

AUTOCAD DESIGN AND DRAFTING

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
◆ 1994 Heather McMurtie and her husband, Jeff, are very proud to announce the birth of their baby girl, Katelyn Evie, who was born on August 19, 2002 in Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, and weighed 7 lbs., 15 oz. The happy family resides in Allentown.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
◆ 1988 Kelly Statler Illick of Easton is an ancillary clerk/purchaser at Country Meadows Nursing Center in Bethlehem.
◆ 1995 Doreen Berkowitz Gumhold is a production planner at Orasure Technologies in Bethlehem. She and her husband, William, were married in Las Vegas, NV on September 13, 2001 and reside in Allentown. Doreen’s daughter, Heather McMurtie graduated from NCC in 1994 with a degree in business administration.
◆ 1996 Joanne Dyer Fekete is a homemaker who resides in Bethlehem with her husband, Stephen and their children, S. Geoffrey, Christopher and Joseph.
◆ 1998 Alene Kuhns of Allentown is a customer service consultant at Dun & Bradstreet in Bethlehem.
◆ 1999 Kristy Morone Arthofer works at B. Braun Medical, Inc., in Bethlehem. She and her husband, Lorin, reside in Bethlehem and are expecting their first child in July.

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY
◆ 1999 Alan Daugherty of Bethlehem is retired from the Bethlehem Steel Corporation. He is thankful to the NCC community for the “outstanding foundational education” he received a few years ago which enabled him to earn a bachelor’s degree in sociology at Moravian College. He intends to pursue his graduate studies at Marywood University.

COMMERCIAL ART
◆ 1973 Maria Hollenbach received a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from Parsons School of Design in New York City. She started her own advertising and public relations business in March of 2002 and resides in Womelsdorf.
◆ 1985 Christina Gaugler received a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from Temple University’s Tyler School of Art. She is a senior book designer at Rodale, Inc., and resides in Bethlehem with her daughter, Alexandra.

COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN
◆ 1991 Donald Lynch received a bachelor’s degree from Fairmont State College and is a project engineer at Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. He and his wife, Doris ’00 (medical transcription), reside in Easton. Doris is self-employed.

COMPUTER DATA PROCESSING
◆ 1993 Elizabeth Kralick is a computer teacher at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Roseto. She and her husband, Joseph, reside in Bath and have five children, Valerie, Sherry, Stephanie, Diane and JoAnn.

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS
◆ 1995 Hatice Adar is a computer technologies specialist at Ester Electronics, Ltd., in Eskisehir, Turkey.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
◆ 1996 Roseanne Iresabal of Easton received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Moravian College in 1998. She is a social worker for the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission in Glen Gardner, NJ. She works with adjudicated juveniles (16-20 years old), does probation reviews, intakes, assessments, counseling, teaches and trains anger regression to staff and juveniles throughout the state of New Jersey, and plans aftercare for them upon release.

CULINARY ARTS
◆ 1996 Troy L. Gulick received an associate’s degree from the Culinary Institute of America in 1997 and is the executive chef and co-owner of The Sage Inn Restaurant in Phillipsburg, NJ. He and his wife, Heather, reside in Belvidere, NJ.

DATA PROCESSING
◆ 1980 Brian Beegle received a BT from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a master's
degree from the State University of New York. He is a software engineer at IBM Corporation in Poughkeepsie, NY and resides in Endwell, NY.

1985 Edward Ellston received a bachelor's degree from DeSales University in 1987 and is an adjunct professor at NCC's Monroe Campus in Tannersville. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Bath.

**DENTAL HYGIENE**

1989 Theresa (Zuech) Cesari received a bachelor’s degree from Thomas Jefferson University and is a dental hygienist for Christopher Sichler, DMD in Hershey. She and her husband, Joe, reside in Palmmyra and have a daughter, Christin.

1994 Melissa (Booth) Duncan is a dental hygienist for Dr. Charles King in Willow Street. She and her husband, Patrick, reside in Willow Street and celebrated their first wedding anniversary in New York City on October 27.

1996 Jennifer (Ebner) Combs is a dental hygienist for the U.S. Coast Guard. She and her husband, Jason, reside in Villas, NJ.

1997 Dana Herrmann is a dental hygienist for Samuel Cramer, DMD in Hatboro. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Fort Washington.

1998 Jane (Pieczynski) Hearn is a dental hygienist for Thomas McGalliard, DDS and is a member of the American Dental Hygienist Association. She resides in Cathedral City, CA with her husband, William.

1999 Lorraine Gallagher and Danny Boys are happy to announce their engagement. They are planning a summer 2004 wedding, which will take place in Winston-Salem, NC. Lorraine resides in Winston-Salem, NC.

2001 Melinda (Godovin) Bartholomew is a dental hygienist for Dr. Bruce Lanke in Pittsburgh. She and her husband, Josh, reside in Canonsburg with their daughter, Alexis.

**DESIGN TECHNOLOGY**

1991 Robert W. Boice is a manufacturing engineer at American Turned Products in Fairview. He resides in Fairview with his wife, Troyann and their children, Jordan and Meredith.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**

1985 Kerri L. (Warner) Gerencer received her bachelor’s degree in sales and marketing and is a college health specialist at Aventis Pasteur in Swiftwater. She and her husband, John, reside in Nazareth with Sierra Adison, their first child, who was born on September 19.

1993 Paula A. Mullane is majoring in elementary education at DeSales University and will graduate in the fall of 2004. She is a school supervisor for the Bethlehem Area School District and resides in Paltmerton.

1994 Staci [Falcone] George received a bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg University and is currently taking graduate courses there. She is a second grade teacher in the Pen Argyl School District. She and her husband, Robert, have built a new home in Bangor.

1995 Kimberly [Dickinson] Ambrosino received her bachelor's degree in speech pathology from East Stroudsburg University in 1998 and is a speech therapist at Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 in Easton. Kimberly resides in Forks Township with her husband, Sal, and their son, Vincent.

1997 Erin [Walsh] Deppe is a child care center supervisor in the Bethlehem Area School District. She and her husband, Craig, reside in Allentown.

1998 Jennifer [Hughes] Ivins is the director of the Bangor Nursery. She and her husband, James, reside in Pen Argyl with their son, Matthew.

1999 Sue Frey recently became engaged. She is on an extended vacation in San Diego, CA with her fiancé, Tom. They met on the internet. Tom lives in San Diego and they will reside there after they get married.

**EDUCATION**

1975 Julie Frye received a bachelor’s degree from California State University at Pennsylvania and a master's degree from Winona State College. She is a logical security manager for IBM in Boulder, CO. Julie and her husband, Hal, reside in Superior, CO with their children, Jessica and Ryan.

1989 Jane Hudak received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Kutztown University. She is the associate dean of the Wescoe School at Muhlenberg College in Allentown. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Macungie with their children, Andrew and Matthew.

1991 Susan Marie Kline received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from East Stroudsburg University. She is a first grade teacher in the Easton Area School District. Susan married Jason Todd Costenbader on October 5, 2002 in St. Anthony of Padua Church in Easton.

They currently reside in Palmer.

1999 Marlene M. Hargrove of Philadelphia is pursuing a bachelor's degree in early childhood education/special education at Cheyney University. She works at the Head Start Learning Tree of Philadelphia.

2001 Debra Kelley is attending East Stroudsburg University, and plans to graduate in May of 2003. She is currently pledging for Kappa Delta Pi. Debra and her husband, Robert, reside in Bangor and have two children, Kyle and Christopher.

Deborah Evans received a bachelor's degree in education from Kutztown University and a master's degree in education from Wilkes College. For the past 14 years she has been a social studies teacher in the Whitehall-Coplay School District. Her plans are to enter a doctorate program in order to seek a position in education at the college level. Deborah resides in Northampton and has three children: Blake, Joel, Cody and a grandson, Jacob.

**ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY**

1982 Robert Legath received an associate's degree in business administration from Luzerne College, a BSEE from Penn State University Harrisburg, and a MS/MBA from Marywood University. He works for Hewlett-Packard Corporation in the crisis management/site escalation section and resides in White Haven with his wife, Christina, and their two children, Michael and Christian.

1983 Sandra Campbell of Coopersburg received a BSEE degree in 2001 from Lafayette College and is a manufacturing difficulties investigator at Agere Systems in Allentown.

**ENGINEERING**

1970 John M. Kulick received a bachelor's degree in physics from Moravian College and is a manager of nuclear fuels at PPL, Inc. He and his wife, Jacqueline, reside in Nazareth and have two children, Jessica and Jaime.

1991 Nick Fischer received an associate's degree in chemistry at NCC in 1992, a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering at Penn State University in 1996, a master's degree in education from East Stroudsburg University in 2001, and is currently pursuing a doctorate of education from East Stroudsburg University. He is a science teacher in the Easton Area School District and resides in Easton with his wife, Wendy and their four children, Nicholas II, Daniel, Jonathan, and Hailey.
FASHION MERCHANDISING

◆ 1990 Cheryl (Sigman) Moore received a bachelor’s degree in fashion merchandising from IUP and is a planner at the Knart Corporation in Troy, MI. She and her husband, Greg, were married on August 31, 2002 and reside in Clawson, MI.

◆ 1994 Michelle Worley is employed by the John V. Morris Funeral Home in Wilkes Barre and is currently obtaining certification as a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP). She and her husband, John, reside in Wilkes Barre and have two children, Johnny and Richard.

FUNERAL SERVICE

◆ 1993 Kevin Fallon is employed by the Connell Funeral Home in Bethlehem and resides in Phillipsburg, NJ.

◆ 1999 Helena A. Morris is a funeral director at the John V. Morris Funeral Home in Wilkes Barre and is currently obtaining certification as a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP). She and her husband, John, reside in Wilkes Barre and have three children, Mary, Gretchen and Jaimee.

FIRE TECHNOLOGY

◆ Michael Black received a bachelor’s degree from Lock Haven University and is a safety specialist at Roche Vitamins, Inc., in Belvidere, NJ. Michael and his wife, Susan, reside in Bangor and have three children, Mary, Gretchen and Jaimee.

GENERAL STUDIES

◆ 1993 John DiBiagio received a Business Computer Specialist degree at Allentown Business School this past winter and resides in Easton. He is a supervisor at Milian E. Rodriguez Funeral Home on Hunting Park Avenue in Philadelphia. His four-page article about his experiences volunteering in New York after Sept. 11 was reprinted in the October 2002 issue of the National Funeral Director Association (NFDA) magazine, The Director. The article is titled “Joining Heroes” and was originally published in Manor College’s Alumni Annual Review 2002. He is called occasionally as a background character on the TV show “Hack” and has been featured three times on http://www.davidmorse.org under “Hack: Up Close and Personal.”

◆ 1994 Peter Dodge is a naturopathic doctor (N.D.) and a member of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians. He and his wife, Akemi, reside in Bothell, WA with their children, Ruby and Aina.

◆ Mike Berger received a bachelor’s degree in marine biology from Kutztown University in December of 1997. He is a resource manager at Nestle Waters of America in Breiningsville. Mike is engaged to Tara Sillett ’02 (registered nursing program) and resides in Nazareth.

◆ Joseph D. Haas is self-employed and resides in Bethlehem with his wife, Tina, and their daughter, Kathryn who was born on September 2, 2002.

LIBERAL ARTS

◆ 1972 Anthony Altenbach received a bachelor’s degree from Kutztown University and a master’s degree in social work from Marywood University in Scranton. He is a social worker at Kaiser HMO. Anthony and his wife, Marcy, reside in Redlands, CA and have two children, Mark and Susan.

◆ 1989 Michelle (Turillo) Frame received a bachelor’s degree in social studies from Kutztown University in 1992 and is a senior child care counselor at KidsPeace. She and her husband, Sean, reside in Catasauqua and have one child, Mason, who was born on October 31, 2001.

◆ 1996 Shelley Dague received her bachelor’s degree in theatre from East Stroudsburg University in 1998 and is an actress and legal assistant in New York City.

LIBRARY ASSISTANT

◆ 1985 Sarah P. Foster is an assistant teacher at Little People East. She has seven grandchildren (ages 7-21) and resides in Catasauqua. Sarah enjoys traveling to Europe and Australia.

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION

◆ 1982 Theresa M. Hossler received an associate’s degree from Bucks County Community College in 1997 and a bachelor’s degree in communications from Cedar Crest College in 1999. She is an admissions director at the Easton Nursing Center and is applying for graduate studies at Annenberg School of Communications. Theresa and her husband, Frederick, reside in Kintnersville and have two children, Heidi and Frederick.

INTERIOR DESIGN

◆ 1998 Maria Dantas of Bethlehem is an interior designer at F. J. Haberle, Inc., in Allentown and is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

◆ 1999 Melanie Ann Anthony and Michael John Berwick were married on September 7, 2002 in St. Peter’s United Methodist Church in Saylorsburg. She is a secretary for Eric J. Schenkel, M.D. in Easton.

◆ 1999 Christina L. (Gerberich) Horvath is a secretary for Pocono Oil in East Stroudsburg. She and her husband, David, reside in Nazareth.

GENERAL EDUCATION

◆ 1986 Monica (Migliazza) Moore received a bachelor’s degree from Penn State University in 1989 and is a consumer promotions manager at Campbell Soup Company. She and her husband, John, reside in Wayne.
THE VIRTUE OF PATIENCE

Frederick R. Curcio, Sr., Northampton Class of '91, likes to take his time and do things right. It takes a patient and careful hand to perfectly decorate a wedding cake, something he practices as an avocation. He spent more than 40 years perfecting a career at the same institution, and more than 20 years in obtaining his college degree, a goal since childhood. It also took him 20 years of playing the slot machines in Atlantic City before hitting it big and becoming a millionaire.

Last November, Curcio parlayed the final three out of 20 dollars he had allotted himself to play on a Harrah's Casino slot machine into a $1.8 million jackpot. Bells were ringing, lights were flashing, strangers were talking to him — and Curcio was making sure that the champagne he was given “on the house” was offered around to the small group of friends he had been traveling with to the casinos for years.

Among the group of bankers and brokers who routinely get on the bus in Easton to try their hand with Lady Luck down by the shore, this win is obviously ‘the big one’. Curcio, however, has always made sure that he didn’t leave the casinos empty handed — even if it was just the roll of quarters given out to passengers on the bus trips he frequented.

“I always win,” said Curcio. “I took a one-time night course on gambling at Northampton, and the instructor told us to always put that money away and not spend it. Then, even if you gamble away all your money, you have something to come home with. I always did that.”

Curcio was never a stranger to self-restraint and priority setting. He started taking classes at Northampton when its doors opened in 1967, but was interrupted shortly thereafter when the responsibilities of becoming a husband and father took precedence over schooling. Curcio began work as a bookkeeper at The Merchants National Bank of Bangor, and spent his entire career there, working his way up to Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He retired this February, but not before earning his associate’s degree in 1991 from Northampton, 24 years after he started. Along with allowing him to see his goal of graduating from college come to fruition, Curcio says about Northampton, “the people I met in the classes and became friends with throughout the years’ hold valuable memories.

Curcio remains an active member of the Northampton community, serving on the College’s Alumni Association Board of Directors. He is also an active volunteer in the Bangor community, serving on several boards including the library, the historical society, and the planning commission. Curcio is also a member of the Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce, and handles the financial accounting for his church. With retirement freeing up his time and computers as another hobby, he plans to give up his manual keeping of the church’s books in favor of moving the process into the computer age!

Only several months into his millionaire status, Curcio
finds it difficult to predict exactly how his life will change. People Magazine interviewed him and photographed him at Harrah’s for a profile in an upcoming issue (Curcio declined to wear a tuxedo). He has received the requisite phone calls from around the country after an Associated Press article was circulated about his big win. While life as a rich man has yet to play itself out, he and Kathleen, his wife of 33 years, have purchased a few new items and contributed financially to several non-profit organizations in the Slate Belt.

The events of that November day undoubtedly changed Curcio life in an unexpected way, but he is also no stranger to life-changing events. The Curcios lost their son, Fred, Jr. to leukemia in 1997, one week before his 26th birthday. Fred, Jr. has never been very far from Curcio, Sr.’s heart and mind since, including the day he won the jackpot.

“Before I went to Atlantic City, I talked to my son,” said Curcio, Sr. “I said, ‘I’d like to win a big amount…over a million dollars so I could give it to people and help people out’.”

Whether through a little help from above, sheer luck or simple perseverance, the windfall that landed in the lap of Frederick R. Curcio, Sr. will undoubtedly be dealt with as he has dealt with all else in his life — he’ll take his time and do things right. Look for Fred in an upcoming issue of People magazine.

—By Marlene Bayer

Fred Curcio, Sr., (left) in a snapshot taken by a friend on the day he won $1 million at Harrah’s Casino.

and plans to graduate in 2004. Her goal is to work in the education field. Suzanne resides in Kingsley with her husband, Irvan.

1993 Melissa (Randall) Kulp is a licensed practical nurse at Valley Sports & Arthritis Surgeons in Allentown. She and her husband, Douglas, reside in Freemansburg with their daughter, Sabrina.

2002 Rebecca Mulrooney is a staff nurse at Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital in the head trauma/brain injury unit. She works with patients who have had strokes, brain tumors, brain surgery or experienced any type of head trauma. Rebecca feels that her job at Good Shepherd is “rewarding and challenging.” She and her husband, Robert, reside in Easton with their children, Jonathan (I01 Culinary Arts) and Kailin.
It is mid-September 1996 and Eugene Buckley is in his eighth month as a crack addict. The drug has taken everything from him: his home, his job, two cars, and the respect of those around him. It has also robbed him of his health, and now, as he stands on line in the soup kitchen of a church, sickly and a hundred pounds underweight, he is about to experience the best thing that could happen. He is about to have a seizure.

Though emergency room crews will judge him dead in a week, the tubes and needles that will greet him on waking will be his welcome into a new life. “You’ve heard the expression, ‘you need to be hit in the head with a brick before getting the message?’” Buckley ’03 says, looking back from a vantage of seven years. “Well, for me it took a whole church.” They will take Eugene to the veterans hospital in Wilkes-Barre clothed in just a sweatshirt, pants and sneakers. “I didn’t even have socks or underwear,” he says. Eight days in the hospital will show that he has high blood pressure and suffers from diabetes and epilepsy. His doctors will prescribe a bagful of medications.

Buckley counts himself lucky HIV was not among the blood diseases picked up through drug addiction. Lucky may be an understatement. After a stint in the Navy, where he enlisted to get away from drugs, he came home to a neighborhood where drugs still ruled the streets. Trying to fit in with his buddies again, he succumbed to peer pressure. For 35 years, Buckley was an on-again, off-again user of heroin.

Eugene Buckley in the kitchen of Victory House in Bethlehem. His graduation this year marked a personal victory of huge proportions.
and pills. But he describes himself in those years as a functional addict. “I was a walking drug store,” he says. “But I never robbed nobody. And I always held a job.” In fact, just before drugs brought him down, Buckley was sous chef for East Stroudsburg University’s dining services, with 11 people reporting to him. Always a half hour early for work, Buckley won Employee of the Month twice in one year. He was well respected as a team player, both by management and by his crew. And then he tried crack.

“Crack cocaine is a monster,” he says. “The more you feed it, the bigger it gets. It’s one of those drugs you just can’t get enough of.” It took his fall to rock bottom to get the monster off his back. Buckley also thinks himself fortunate that his wake-up call came in a church and not in the woods where he had been living. “My doctor joked that it was good I fell out where I did,” he says, laughing. “‘cause not too many chipmunks know how to dial 911.” However he may have made it to the hospital, his near-death brush turned him around. With the help of the Veterans Administration, Eugene booked into Victory House, a homeless shelter and treatment center on Bethlehem’s south side. He was “sick and tired.” Not only tired of drugs, not only of living outside, but of being on the outside of life. “It’s like you lost your pass to society,” Buckley says. “I really think God had a plan for me.”

That plan began to play itself out the day Buckley checked into the shelter. He set two goals for himself: to get his health back on track and to go to college. As a former cook, he knew his major would be culinary arts. He didn’t know that he would become the shelter’s manager and chef, cooking for 20-plus guests, three times a day. “At first I had a hard time remembering how to make spaghetti sauce,” he says. “But being able to cook was the beginning of my mental recovery.” Being busy was good therapy, but college was still firm in his sites. Fortunately, his hours at the shelter were flexible. Even so, his normal day included working eight- to nine-hour shifts before he came to school. And as if work and school weren’t busy enough, Buckley began speaking engagements on behalf of Victory House. He has told his story before many Lehigh Valley church, college, and community audiences. For him, it is payback to the organization that did so much for him. But Buckley also believes that he was spared for this, that this is his calling, a kind of payback to a higher power.

Now Eugene Buckley is taking back his life. This spring, after six years of study, he graduated with a college degree from Northampton in culinary arts. He has his health, he has a car, he has a little money in the bank. And he has a home of his own. There are no illusions of overnight success, but he’s ready to “keep on pushing.” Though he could stay on as shelter manager and chef at Victory House, his future is focused on catering, and he feels the need to test himself in the world. “There’s sacrifices that come along with it,” he says. “But I know I got to do this because it’s the only way I’ll be satisfied that Eugene has gained.” Then he pulls a quote from the air so easily you just know he lives his life by it. “For some people success is destined to. For other people success is determined to. I am determined to be a success.”

— By James L. Johnson, ’89
ALUMNI NOTES

SECRETARIAL SCIENCE — MEDICAL
* 1983 Patricia Heckman is employed by Georgia Pacific Corporation in Easton as a staff assistant IV. She resides in Bangor with her husband, Randy, and their two children, Crystal and Rebecca.
* 1986 Rhonda (Millheim) Fries works from home as a medical transcriptionist. She and her husband, Keith, built a new house in Wexford and have two children, Erica and Brianna.

TRAVEL/TOURISM
* 1993 Lisa M. (Weaver) Epler and her husband, James, are the proud parents of Marissa Renee, who was born on December 13, 2002 in St. Luke’s Hospital in Bethlehem. The happy family resides in Bethlehem.
* 1999 Colleen Anderson received a bachelor’s degree from Moravian College and is working toward a master’s degree from New York University. She anticipates graduating in 2004. Colleen is a corporate marketing representative at Kerzner International in New York City.

CORRECTION:
It was incorrectly stated in the Winter 2003 issue that Charles B. Harrison ’81, Architectural Technology, is a sales executive at Woodbury Automotive Warehouse in Amityville, NY. Charles is currently a Vice President/Architectural at Blair Custom Homes, Inc., in Bethlehem. He and his wife, Betsy, reside in Bethlehem with their children, David and Kristin. We apologize for the error and for any inconvenience this may have caused.

IN MEMORIAM

Janice E. Robouski, ’76, Early Childhood graduate, was a teacher’s reading aide for Lincoln Elementary School, Canton.

Cynthia Hoffich-Reynolds, ’87, Registered Nursing graduate, was a registered nurse for Newton, (NJ) Memorial Hospital and previously for Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, Warren Hospital, Phillipsburg, and Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia. She also worked for the Warren County medical examiner’s office and had a real estate license.

Linda Kaintz, assistant director of community programs, passed away in April. She began working at the college in 1997.

Thomas J. Mayock Jr., the College’s registrar, died in February. Hired as associate registrar in 1998 and promoted to registrar last September, he came to Northampton after a long and distinguished career in the military, where he earned several awards and medals.

Ronald L. Taylor, executive vice president of Reeb Millwork Corp. in Bethlehem, was a member of the board of directors of the College Foundation. He and his wife, Francine, were passionate supporters of the college, and their generosity enabled many students to pursue their goals at Northampton.

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“A strong president, a successful president provides the framework and atmosphere for the board to be a cohesive unit, working for the mutual benefit of the College. He or she is the glue that holds the board together.” With those words, David Reed began a conversation about the president with whom he has served for 26 of the 28 years he has been on the College’s Board of Trustees. Characterizing Dr. Robert Kopecek as “forthright, honest, a no-surprises kind of guy,” Reed reflected that “the man has done so much yet he’s very human.” Reed, who has been the board’s chairman since 1989, described Dr. Kopecek’s style as one of “inclusiveness.”

“There was never any privileged information,” the chairman elaborated. “Any information that could be shared with everyone always was. The amount of information sharing that typified Bob’s style was unusual. It hasn’t been my experience on any other board with which I’ve been associated.”

Tom Doluisio, retired superintendent of the Bethlehem Area School District and a trustee, echoed Reed’s comments. “Bob’s a good communicator,” he explained. “Board members never seemed to lack for information. That made decision making a lot easier.”

Trustee Bob Fehnel agrees, noting: “Bob’s open and he listens. He has kept trustees informed and, as a result, there’s a high level of trust between senior management and the trustees.”

Several trustees interviewed for this article cited monthly updates written to the board by the president through the years. They all noted that, while the tone of the updates was usually informal, the information they contained was often critical to the trustees’ understanding of a given situation. Also critical, although not as common as the monthly updates, according to Reed, were long phone conversations when necessary. “You always knew when Bob called, that he called for a reason. And those conversations tended to be long. At the end, I always felt involved in and comfortable with whatever decision was reached.”

Comfort with the decision making process was another common theme mentioned by trustees. “I cannot remember a time in 18 years when the board and Dr. Kopecek were at odds,” remarked Karl Stackhouse, vice-chairman. “I would say this is mainly because of his great interest in the institution, his thoughtfulness in generating ideas and his vision for the institution to be able to deliver the goods when it’s necessary.”

Monroe liaison trustee Chuck Hannig elaborated, “Bob always had a focus on his target. He had the command and presence to guide people and reach consensus. He built on the college’s reputation of success by methodically developing consensus in all of the various groups involved in any project. As a result, he managed to have successful outcomes on top of one another.”

Trustee Bob Litz compares the trust level established between Dr. Kopecek and the board to the level of trust shared by board members with one another. And, Hannig adds, “Bob also had an ability to attract very qualified individuals and to empower those people to do their jobs and to contribute to the overall mission of the institution. The management team had such a sense of belonging that we’ve had very little turnover in the talent pool. We’ve had a cohesive unit to develop and fulfill the college’s mission.”

Even when things didn’t go as planned, the trustees gave Dr. Kopecek
Continued from page 35

Michael Bentt who won critical acclaim for his portrayal of Sonny Liston in the movie “Ali” will return to the NCC stage next fall to pay tribute to Norman Roberts, the drama professor whom he credits with “planting the seed.” Bentt will have a chance to play a role he always wanted to play: Othello. The opportunity to see Bentt in a live performance will be exciting for the audience and a memorable experience for student actors and actresses who will work with him and Roberts in bringing the Shakespearean drama to life. The play will open on October 31 and run though November 8 in Lipkin Theatre.

THERE ONCE WAS A WOMAN WHO LIVED IN A SHOE

She had so many children, she didn’t know what to do. The nursery rhyme might well describe the growth at NCC’s Monroe Campus. Ever since the College found a home — not in a shoe factory, but in a renovated blouse factory back in 1992 — enrollment has grown and grown, pushing the limits of an addition that tripled the size of the building in 2000. This past fall construction crews returned to build another wing that will provide more classroom space, faculty offices, a student activities area, and a bookstore. The dedication ceremony will take place on September 29.

FROM NCC TO HOLLYWOOD ... AND BACK AGAIN

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LOOKING AHEAD

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LOOKING AHEAD

PROMISES TO KEEP

The inauguration of a new president is a special moment in time for a college or university — a time to celebrate the past and to glimpse the future. Plan now to participate in the festivities at NCC during the week of September 29. Classes will go on as usual, supplemented by an academic symposium, cultural events, an appearance by a nationally known speaker, and special programs for students, for business leaders, and for the community on both the Bethlehem and Monroe campuses. The installation of Dr. Arthur Scott as NCC’s third president will take place on October 2 — 36 years to the day since credit classes began at the College. In honor of the occasion, representatives from many other colleges and universities will join in the pageantry of an academic procession — a tradition dating back to the middle ages. A dinner dance on Friday night will benefit the scholarship fund and future generations of students. Watch for details on the College’s website: http://www.northampton.edu.
DATA PROCESSING
- 1980 Brian Beegle received a BT from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a master’s degree from the State University of New York. He is a software engineer at IBM in Rochester and resides in Pittsford, NY.
- 1985 Edward Ellston received a bachelor’s degree from DeSales University in 1987 and is an adjunct professor at NCC’s Monroe Campus in Tannersville. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Tannersville.

DENTAL HYGIENE
- 1989 Theresa (Zuech) Cesari received a bachelor’s degree from Thomas Jefferson University and is a dental hygienist for Community Health Care System of Philadelphia. She and her husband, Joe, reside in Palmerton.
- 1999 Lorraine Gallagher received a bachelor’s degree from DeSales University in 1998 and is a dental hygienist for Dr. Bruce Lanke in Willow Street. She and her husband, Sal, and their son, Vincent, reside in Palmerton.

DESIGN
- 1990 Cheryl (Sigman) Moore received a bachelor’s degree from DeSales University and is a design manager for PPL, Inc. She and her husband, Eric, reside in Northampton.

EARLY CHILDHOOD
- 1985 Kerri L. (Warner) Gerencher received her bachelor’s degree in early childhood education from DeSales University in 1999 and is an early childhood specialist at PennDOT in Allentown. She and her husband, John, reside in Nazareth with Sierra Adison, their first child, who was born on September 19.

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 Northampton Community College

Northampton’s Alumni Online Community now offers an Alumni Notes section! Share your news and events (with photos if you like) by submitting a “live” note on NCC’s Online Community. At the same time, find out what your fellow alums are up to. The Alumni Online Community is a great networking tool and offers other features such as permanent e-mail, an alumni directory and events calendar. Take a moment today to register for Northampton’s Alumni Online Community and reconnect with your alma mater.

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http://www.northampton.edu/alumni