LATELY WE’RE SEEING NEWS ABOUT RISING COSTS OF RICE, WHEAT AND CORN—basic food staples we Americans have taken for granted as cheap and plentiful all of our lives. What’s going on?

Globalization. Exploding prosperity in China and India empowers millions more people to buy food, just when new biofuel production here and abroad makes less grain available for food. At this moment, farmers in America and around the world are rushing to plant more food grain, motivated by rising market prices.

Over the past few generations, globalization has brought about phenomenal rises in standards of living around the world. And it has caused American jobs to be lost to overseas competition. It has flooded our stores with abundant, cheap goods from clothing to electronics, and it next will be treating us to such bizarre experiences as pulling up to the fast food drive-thru speaker and placing our order with someone halfway around the world. “Your total will be $3.94. Have a nice day. Please proceed to the first window.” Greetings from Karachi.

So is globalization good or bad? People often react negatively to the term, but the resourceful approach is to find productive ways to adapt to the realities of globalization. Which is what this issue of Northampton magazine is all about — NCC’s engagement with international opportunities.

In this issue, we look at NCC as a community college for the “world community.” We focus on the ways NCC prepares students for the global economy they will be entering as working adults. We explore international influences on campus, and we look at NCC’s forays into overseas ventures.

NCC being a rare Eastern U.S. community college with dorms, international students from around the world enroll here, adding a whole extra level of diversity to the campus culture. And the international exchange works in both directions. The College runs foreign exposure group trips for students each semester, and routinely contracts with overseas companies to provide training and consulting assistance through the Center for Business and Industry.

We guarantee you’ll be impressed and surprised by the variety and depth of Northampton’s international ties. At first glance, it may seem contradictory for a community college to take such a global perspective. Maybe you could say we’re out there redefining community. Or more accurately, that community has already been redefined by rushing, undeniable developments, and that Northampton’s simply doing what we’ve always done best—engaging with the community.
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SUMMER 2008 • NCC
What a Difference a Decade Makes
NCC Celebrates 10 Years of Online Learning

FOR 10 YEARS NOW, IT’S been possible to take a class in your jammies – or, for that matter, in another country! – through Northampton Community College’s online learning program. That milestone was celebrated this semester with a talk by Dr. Gary Miller, founder of the Penn State World Campus. The audience included those physically present in Lipkin Theatre, as well as faculty members and online learning coordinators from other colleges who attended “virtually” via a live Web conference.

Miller began his presentation with a brief history of distance learning, from the open university movement of the 1970s (when NCC offered a correspondence-based “College-at-Home” program) through the advent of satellite video and cable TV, to the current and ever-increasing popularity of online courses via the Internet.

“The growth you’re seeing in online learning at NCC is happening around the country – the number of online learners is over 3.2 million in the United States,” Miller told the audience. “Two-year institutions have the highest growth rates, accounting for more than half of all online enrollments for the last five years.”

NCC’s online learning program is definitely seeing growth. According to Dr. Kelvin Bentley, director of online learning for NCC, more than 4,500 NCC students took at least one course for credit online during the 2006-07 academic year. This represents 35 percent of the student body. The College now has over 150 unique online courses available to students. There are also several degree programs and certificates that can be completed entirely online. The course requirements and topics covered are the same as for courses offered on campus. “It
is more tech-savvy now. Learning has to be integrated into life for adult learners – they need flexibility,” which online learning provides.

What does the future hold for online learning? Miller said one challenge will be how to create learning communities for students and instructors in cyberspace, perhaps with a global scope. Teacher education will change, since more instructors will need to know how to teach online, in addition to the face-to-face classroom.

Institutions will change as more “blended” programs and degrees are offered – those that combine online learning with a classroom component. Miller also foresees an “aggregating of academic resources” by sharing faculty across institutional boundaries. “Take foreign languages as an example. A professor at one college may teach Mandarin Chinese to students at several different colleges.” Miller also believes there will be more online collaboration between educational institutions and industry in order to train a specialized work force.

In conclusion, Miller warned, “Don’t define yourself by technology. Online learning will transform – be prepared for it. Don’t hold on too tightly to what you have now – keep one hand free to grab what’s coming in the future.”

To learn more about the courses and degrees available through NCC’s online learning program, go to http://northampton.edu/onlinelearning

by Cynthia Tintorri

Jessica Allen, first Honors Program graduate.

“OFF the Beaten Path”

SOMETIMES YOU LEARN ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW.

Other times, learning takes you off the beaten path. That was the case for Jessica Allen, the first graduate of Northampton Community College’s honors program. A graduate of Easton Area High School, Jessica says she was attracted to the honors program because it was new at NCC “and I thought it would be cool to be in the first group.” Not only was she the first student to complete the program, she also got to participate in NCC’s first winter commencement this past January.

The honors program’s overall goal is to provide an academic atmosphere in which students learn to think critically, creatively, and independently, and to take responsibility for their own learning. Allen found that to be the case. “The professors offered open-ended syllabi, so, in a way, we got to design our own program. I got to explore things I was interested in, in addition to what the professors wanted to teach me.”

The small class size in the honors program also made an impression on Allen. “There were not more than 15 students in my classes, so I really got a lot of one-on-one with professors. I got to know my classmates really well, and that allowed for a lot of great discussion,” she says.

Allen’s favorite class was Irish Literature, the highlights of which included “picking apart” the symbolism of W. B. Yeats’ poem “The Second Coming,” and a field trip to Princeton University to see a production by an Irish playwright. Allen’s professor for the course, Cara McClintock-Walsh, says Allen was “the kind of student a professor dreams of having: dedicated, creative, hard working and inspired.”

Asked if she would recommend the program to others, Allen’s response is quick and enthusiastic. “Absolutely! It’s a good program for anyone. I don’t think people should be discouraged by the ‘honors’ designation – it’s just a different style of learning. It helped me reorganize my thinking so it’s not so ‘one-track.’ I look at things now in ways I wouldn’t have looked at them before the program. I call it ‘off the beaten path’ learning.”

Allen currently attends Moravian College, where she’s majoring in English language and literature. She hopes to enter the field of publishing or editing, “something where I can do what I love, which is reading.” Professor McClintock-Walsh has no doubt Allen will succeed. “She’s a talented student who I am sure will do very well wherever she goes.”
EARTH DAY

A Planet is a Terrible Thing To Waste  By Cynthia Tintorri and Heidi Butler

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY to celebrate the earth on April 22, and students and staff alike took to the quad to experience NCC’s first-ever Earth Day Sustainable Living Expo. Organized by the Environmental Task Force, the event featured over 20 exhibitors with information or products related to green living.

You could measure the size of your “carbon footprint.” You could also watch a video of the Environmental Task Force’s winning public service announcement on sustainable living, produced by Radio/TV major Henry Yeska IV. You could view sculptures made of recycled materials, courtesy of art professor Jason Zulli’s talented students. You could learn how to refashion plastic shopping bags into colorful hand-crafted wallets, and you could get a peek at the tiny “smart fortwo” car that recently became available in the United States after a successful debut in Europe.

At the Monroe Campus, you could learn about ancient life hidden in rocks from geology professor Dr. Susana Palamarcuz, watch the film “The Story of Stuff” or see posters prepared by Biology I students.

In the area of the Main Campus near Penn and Commonwealth Hall, you could look to the future, as ground was broken for a “Tribute Garden” that will provide a natural oasis for study, reflection and special events in years to come. The two-acre preserve will feature native trees and plants, a memorial walkway, a fountain plaza, an art garden and plenty of comfortable seating.

At the groundbreaking, Karl Stackhouse, the chair of NCC’s board of trustees, noted that the garden symbolizes NCC’s commitment to “serve as a model of environmental sustainability and of putting knowledge into action,” a worthy goal not just for Earth Day, but for every day.
getting out the VOTE

THE FACT OF THE MATTER
is that in a democracy, civic engagement always matters. This spring it seemed to matter more than ever with a presidential election coming up in the fall and the Democratic Party’s candidate undetermined going into the Pennsylvania primary.

It would have been hard for that message to go unheard at NCC this spring. The calendar was full of political forums, debates, straw polls, displays and even a surprise visit from Chelsea Clinton, stumping on behalf of her mother, aka Hillary.

Many of the programs were sponsored by NCC’s Political Science Club. The club’s advisor, Dr. Vasiliki Anastasakos, says “The club worked hard not to advance a political agenda, but to generate interest in the primary and the general election and to motivate students to educate themselves about the issues and the candidates.”

The conversation will continue in the fall.
The Coating and Ink Research Institute (CIRI) is NCC’s newest answer to finding low-cost, environmentally friendly methods of ink plate manufacturing. For over 15 years, the Electrotechnology Application Center in Hartzell Hall has been home to many exciting projects. Scientists there recently created CIRI to further advance this important work. Located at NCC’s Fowler Family Southside Center, CIRI will soon expand thanks to state-of-the-art testing equipment on loan from Testprint, a Dutch instrument company. In the coming months, researchers at CIRI will assist in testing new resin developments, and help the efforts of a start-up company, Adept. According to Al Fuchs, NCC’s director of CIRI, the lab is also working with the United Soybean Board to develop new ink formulations using chemically modified soybean oil, a renewable material. Local businesses have a new campus tour lately, you’re in for a treat. And a few surprises! For this walkabout, you won’t need a compass, a GPS, a car or a new pair of sneakers. Let your eyes travel across the pages for a peek at some recent additions and enhancements to NCC’s Main Campus and to the College’s educational centers in South Bethlehem and Monroe County.
including Martin Guitar, Pennwood (a wood floor manufacturer) and Sartomer (a raw material manufacturer) are set to benefit from the lab’s more efficient and “green” ideas for their manufacturing processes. These partnerships are supported by a grant from the Ben Franklin Technology Partners.

MAIN CAMPUS

CHILDREN’S LITERATURE ROOM
Imagine your favorite childhood stories all housed in one room for your reading pleasure. A dream collection of 700 children’s and young adult books were donated to NCC’s Paul and Harriett Mack Library by Dr. Robert Dornish and his wife Alice. Robert, a former children’s literature professor at Kutztown University, and Alice, who taught in NCC’s office administration program for 30 years, share a passion for children’s literature. The volumes they have donated to NCC are ones they hope will benefit and inspire NCC students. The impressive collection contains books that have been autographed by authors and illustrators, as well as many first-edition copies. Unsigned copies of books are available to check out of the library’s general collection.

BRIGHTER LIGHTS & MORE PARKING
Cruising around NCC’s Main Campus, you will notice some upgrades that are sure to be a hit with students and visitors alike, including brighter lights in parking lots and walkways and additional parking. By the end of the summer, the lots to the east of Kopecek Hall (just beyond Lot D) will be able to accommodate approximately 190 more cars.

A “CLEANROOM”
Look, but don’t enter, and certainly don’t sneeze, in the new “cleanroom” in Hartzell Hall. This sterile environment will be used to prepare students to work in state-of-the-art facilities found in manufacturing and biomedical research.

ART GALLERY
Do enter the lounge in Communications Hall that has been converted to a professional art gallery. The gallery, completed last fall, is equipped with 12-foot-high ceilings, new sheetrock-covered walls, track lighting and signage. The space increases NCC’s ability to display a variety of art work, especially large pieces, sculptures and installations. Much of the work on the gallery was done by Associate Professor of Art Bruce Wall.

MONROE CAMPUS UPDATE
Architects from MKSD met with hundreds of NCC students, faculty, staff and community members this spring to hear their hopes and dreams for the new campus that will be built on a 71-acre tract of land the College has acquired along Route 715. In March, the board of trustees approved a site “footprint” that will include three buildings, each one- to three-stories high, according to Mark Culp, NCC’s director of buildings and grounds. The board will review more detailed plans in June. If all goes according to schedule, final designs will be approved by the winter, and construction will begin in the summer of 2009. The estimated completion date for the campus is 2010.

By Meghan Decker
As an intern in Institutional Advancement at NCC, Meghan Decker learned her way around the College quickly!
The accomplishments and expertise of NCC students, faculty and staff continue to attract attention well beyond the campus:

how about these students?

REMARKABLE STORIES: Four recent graduates of NCC have been named to the All-Pennsylvania Academic Team, an honor that recognizes academic excellence among students attending community colleges. The honorees are, left to right: Evette Olszyk, Lorna OFarrell, Diana Hernandez and Ray Herron. English is a second language for Hernandez who moved here from Puerto Rico while in high school. She earned a 3.6 grade point average as a biology major while helping her aunt with child care and other responsibilities. She hopes to become a pediatrician. Herron is a single father who maintained almost a perfect grade point average while raising six children and helping his father in his automotive repair shop. He majored in computer information technology, specializing both in networking and in computer security. OFarrell returned to college 30 years after graduating from high school to change careers after being injured on the job as a paramedic in New York City. Olszyk was a widow with two young children when she enrolled at NCC. She is a past president of the Monroe chapter of the international honor society Phi Theta Kappa and was recognized twice as an outstanding presenter at the Beacon Competition for student scholars from two-year colleges.

HAZARDS ON THE MATS: Three Northampton Community College wrestlers earned All-American status at the National Collegiate Wrestling Association Championships held in March. Adam Atiyeh, Russ Krobul and Cody Struening all finished among the top six wrestlers in the country in their weight categories. Cody is now a two-time All-American.

ARTISTS ON A WINNING STREAK: For the sixth consecutive year, a student from NCC won an ADDY in a contest described as “the world’s largest and arguably toughest advertising competition.” At a dinner sponsored by the Greater Lehigh Valley Ad Club, Russell Maura was presented with a silver ADDY for a poster he designed to promote the College’s annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MAKING US PROUD: Victoria Montero ’06 was honored as an outstanding Latino college student during this year’s Pennsylvania Summit on Educational Excellence for Latino Students. Since graduating from NCC, Victoria has gone on to study health service administration at East Stroudsburg University.

BUILDING A NEW CAREER: Dannie Hill, an Act 101 student from NCC, was featured in The Chronicle of Higher Education in an article describing how community colleges are helping baby-boomers employed in physically demanding jobs retrain for careers that require more brains and less brawn. Dannie, who previously worked in construction, said that in starting college at age 46, he was thrilled to discover that his brain had not stopped working. He also noted, “I don’t have time to fail . . . I have to get it right the first time.”

WISE WOMAN: Brandy Barbera ’07 was quoted in the 2008 edition of “Movin’ On,” a national full-color magazine distributed to high school students to promote the advantages of two-year colleges. Brandy tells students, “Planning for a two-year college is different than planning for other types of schools. Decisions are a little easier because it’s just two years, so you don’t feel like you are planning for the rest of your life.”

REACHING OUT TO OTHERS: Students from Christine Armstrong’s small group communications class were presented with the “Youth Community Leadership Award” by the United Way of Monroe County. Given the challenge of creating and publicizing a campus event, the students came up with the idea of sponsoring a fun night and an American Idol-type competition to benefit United Way. They raised over $800 for the cause.
leaders in their fields

IN DEMAND: Faculty and staff members are frequently invited to present at regional and national conferences. Among those asked to share their expertise during the spring semester were: Wendi Achey (Business/Marketing), Amy Roche and Joe Scoozza (Instructional Technology), who were among the speakers at the Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference; Dr. James Benner (Center for Teaching and Learning), Carolyn Bortz (Allied Health and Sciences) and Pamela Bradley (Humanities and Social Sciences), who spoke at the North Carolina State Undergraduate Assessment Symposium; Faye Freer (early childhood education), who presented at the National Coalition for Campus Children’s Centers; Donna Goss and Don Robertson (Leadership Development Institute), who discussed “Talent Management, Leadership Development and Business Results” at the 2008 Enterprise Learning Strategies Conference; Hope Horowitz (Sociology/Social Work), who shared information on grassroots social action at the Social Welfare Action Alliance Conference; President Arthur Scott, who spoke on increasing accessibility to community colleges for non-traditional students at a colloquium for college presidents sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and Dr. James Von Schilling (English), who presented a paper titled “Meet the Grandboomers – Grayin’ and Groovin’” at a gathering of the American Culture and Popular Culture Association.

AUTHOR, AUTHOR: The biographies of Maya Angelou; Tiger Woods; Sammy Davis, Jr.; B.B. King; author Jean Toomer and 40 other individuals that appear in the most recent edition of The African American National Biography, released by Oxford University Press were written by NCC’s own Sholomo Levy, assistant professor of history. Levy served as both a research editor and contributor for the eight-volume work.

ARTIST, ARTIST: A set of five paintings created by Associate Professor of Art Bruce Wall has been selected for the permanent art collection at Lehigh Valley Hospital’s Kaysch Pavilion. Works by Tom Shiliea, NCC’s director of art programs, were featured in a one-man show at Reading Area Community College.

IN GOOD COMPANY: Susan Kubik, NCC’s vice president for institutional advancement, continues to garner national accolades for her leadership in educational fundraising. This spring, she received the Commonfund Award, presented to individuals who have excelled in the development of their own organizations and provided significant service to the community of institutionally-related foundations. Past recipients include CEOs of the Minnesota Medical Foundation, the University of Maryland Foundation, the University of Maryland Foundation, Inc., and the Indiana University Foundation.

what an impact!

SWEET 16: According to a recent Morning Call survey, NCC is the 16th largest employer in the Lehigh Valley with 1,308 full- and part-time employees. Health care organizations lead the list with Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network in the #1 spot and St. Luke’s Hospital & Health Network at #2.

LEADING THE WAY: Early in the Spring semester NCC was one of three organizations honored by the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce for leadership in economic development. John Callahan, mayor of Bethlehem, presented the College with the Chamber’s “Community Investment Award” for providing local employers with a well prepared work force and for the creation of the Fowler Family Southside Center.

INDUSTRIAL SUPERHEROES: The scientists at NCC’s Electrotechnology Applications Center were praised in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s “Daily Update” for helping a manufacturing company in Lycoming County save $50,000 a year through a heat-containment system and for identifying other changes that could reduce costs and environmental impact. This is one of many projects the ETAC team has undertaken for manufacturers across the state.

AND, OH, BY THE WAY: For the second year in a row, NCC has been named the President Bush’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, a distinction that recognizes the College’s leadership in building a culture of service and civic engagement. NCC also has become one of only 29 organizations in the country chosen by the State Farm Youth Advisory Board to receive a grant for a second consecutive year to support student projects related to disaster preparedness.

YOU’RE HOLDING GOLD IN YOUR HANDS! The NCC magazine took first place among community college magazines in the Middle Atlantic states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Ontario in a competition sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The College’s annual report also won a bronze award in this competition and bronze awards in two national communications contests. As if that weren’t enough excitement, NCC’s online news site and school district newsletter both were rated “best in class” by the Pennsylvania Press Club, so do read on!
I traveled to South America in the beginning of January to pursue a series of photographic projects that would end up taking me from the slums of Buenos Aires to the southernmost tip of the continent. I was going to Patagonia.

A geographic region one and a quarter times the size of Texas, Patagonia is shared by both Chile and Argentina as an epic, borderless territory of cowboys, expatriates and wanderers. Romanticized in literature, revered among travelers, Patagonia is a land of myth. For Americans, Patagonia is a brand of clothing, not a culture. The label brand draws its inspiration from the brutal extremes of its namesake.

Method of my travel? Buses, trains and an old-fashioned roadside thumb pointed to the sky.

The reason? To photograph everything from an international expedition race at the bottom of the world to an annual rodeo in Cerro Castillo to the scenes of the energy crisis in Chile. And before it was over, I would ride with cowboys, I would share mate, a brewed herbal drink, with displaced indigenous natives along the Rio Bio Bio, a lifeline river dammed by an energy conglomerate in an ongoing struggle to sate Chile’s ever-growing energy demands. I would sail on a schooner through the Beagle Channel; I would freeze in the pouring rain in Tierra del Fuego, the mythical land of fire. But more important than the places I visited, it was the people I met that changed me more than wonderful vistas ever could.

I was a journalism major at Northampton Community College when I started thinking about this trip. The seeds for my career in photojournalism were planted early, in winter morning classes with Professor Rob Hays. From there, freelancing and a summer internship with The Morning Call helped solidify the skills and awareness I needed to strike out on my own.

While I packed my bags for a South American summer, snow flurries howled outside my apartment in Philadelphia. It was the very start of January. Two cameras, two lenses, 50 odd rolls of 36-shot film, handfuls of 4GB digital flash cards: it seemed I was packing more things to work than to survive.

The place I was going was harsh. It was sweltering in the day, freezing at night, and windy all the time. I packed like any professional photographer going on assignment: ready for the worst, hoping for the best.

When I left the states, I didn’t know what I’d see. My impressions of Patagonia — the cross-border region where I’d spend close to three months working — were
Gauchos work in the fading twilight to set salmon nets in the waters off Peninsula Varas.
severely limited. Of course, I had Wiki-ed it and downloaded Google Earth; partially to see what all the hype was, and partially to scope out just how big of a mess I had gotten myself into.

What I read was like a slap in the face: vast swathes of empty, unmarked territory accessible via unpaved roads used only by those living on them. Like a wall built too fast, my hopes for the trip began to show fault lines. I started doubting my decision. Was I being too naïve? No one I knew had ever embarked on a trip like this at my age.

On top of that, how would I communicate? I understood more Spanish than I spoke. I should’ve paid more attention in Spanish class. How would I get around? The places I needed to go were far flung, off the beaten track. Would it be safe? Some parts of South America are often regarded as dangerous for travelers. I was going by myself, with camera gear worth thousands of dollars, for three months, and I was just 21 years old.

I’d been planning this project for nearly a year. From the start, I’d been jumping over hurdles. An eBay seller had swindled me when I had tried to sell off my old Nikon gear to switch to Canon. I just barely missed out on winning a large grant that would have covered my travel expenses.

I’d been living and breathing Patagonia before I ever stepped foot on its soil. Maps hung duct taped on my walls, black lines crisscrossing from coast to coast, a spider web of my future passage. The pre-game jitters I was feeling were nothing new.

I headed to the airport.

My stories would focus on the progression of Patagonia’s cultural and socio-economic issues into the 21st century. Plain and simple: my focus was the people, not the scenery. I wasn’t interested in the cliché pictures of Patagonia, of postcard rivers and screensaver mountains.

Riding on a red-eye flight to Buenos Aires, I stared out a rain-speckled window and thought about this. I’d said goodbye to my fiancé, to my family, to everything familiar. I was on my own. Patagonia was my baptism by fire, my way of throwing myself into the pool to see if I sank or swam. If I swam, I would gain the experience and confidence as photojournalist to cover international issues. If I sank, well, I didn’t want to think about that.

Buenos Aires was like a punch in the face. I found my way to a hostel near a barrio. At night, thumping Latin music seeped through the tan cracked walls. I inhaled my first breath of South America: the thick humid air that you could cut with a knife; the blistering noonday sun that washed out the brightly colored walls into aged echoes of themselves and turned the human form into deep black shadows.

I spent two weeks in Buenos Aires, seeking out the grit underneath the flash of the international travel hotspot once rated behind Florence, Italy, as the second most desirable city by travelers.

I didn’t have to search very far.

I ventured into the slums around the La Boca neighborhood, famous for its passionate football clubs and tourism. In a matter of a hundred feet, there were sections for tourists patrolled by the police and then there was the town for the locals. Two separate worlds, one of wealth, one of squalor, the latter I was warned more than once to avoid.

On the old subway, you can’t sit for more than one stop before someone comes by to put a pamphlet or trinket on your lap. If you’re interested in buying it, then you fork over some pesos when they come back around. If not, you let them take it off your lap. Kids no older than my 11-year-old brother with faces smeared with grime press themselves against windows of posh restaurants to beg for food. Tourists and locals alike avert their eyes. Security guards shoo them off, sometimes swatting a few with their batons.

Leaving Buenos Aires, I met a girl selling used newspapers. She asked for the last of my water, which I gave. Without thanks or looking up, she continued to yell her sales pitch, downed the water, and threw the bottle into the nearby traffic.

I’d never witnessed such clashes of privilege and poverty up close. Everywhere I went the contrast was there. It was on Avenue Florida, where tourists bought cups of mate while...
Neheun, of Patagonia: his face splattered with construction cement, creased by hard life.
bands of street children slept in the shade. It was in La Boca, where scowling police would whistle loudly if a visitor wandered too far from the colorful, busy shops. And everywhere, everywhere, I was being sold something.

This view would prove to be something I would see over and over again in Patagonia: the influence of modernity, of consumerism and travel in a land still hailed as the last outpost of mythic wilderness in the world. It was no different in Montevideo or Santiago, the later of which has begun to sprout Starbucks coffee shops.

In Patagonia, I met as peculiar and kind people as I’ve never met anywhere else.

On a chance trip to the Milodon Cave near the outpost town of Puerto Natales, I met an old construction worker named Neheun. His family was Mapuche, one of the indigenous tribes in Patagonia. He had a face etched by toil, eyes watered by the high winds and hands the texture of dusty, broken leather. In the sweltering heat, as his fellow workers mixed cement, we shared river water from my bottle. He asked me about New York City. I asked him about Patagonia.

“Are there many people there, in Nueve York?” he asked.


He had shaken his head. “Too many for me, my friend.”

I asked him how many people lived in the town he came from.

“Cuauenta y cinco.”

Forty-five.

We were complete strangers, each fascinated by the unknown of each other’s home. I knew no more than his first name, he no more than mine, and in 10 minutes he had invited me to stay at his family’s new home in Cerro Castillo, a shantytown I later visited. I would have dinner with Neheun and his granddaughter and share mate with his grandsons.

In Viedma, I met street kids who woke up early to swim and fish in the Rio Negro River. With sticks and string foraged from dumpsters, they caught their lunch; small fish they would grill inside the city limits, where a fire-pit would not attract attention. I befriended them and ended up shucking my cameras and swimming in the cool morning water, the sound of feet pattering on mud mixing with the rumbling of a coming storm.

During a rodeo, I jumped into the arena to get closer to the cowboys. I want to make my pictures feel like you’re there, and often times, that requires me to get very close. Impressed by either my audacity or stupidity, the cowboys accepted me as their own. Later that night, we roasted lamb and sang songs around a fire. One gaucho played drums, the other guitar. Cigarettes dangled from their lips while lyrics of love won and lost rose from their hearts. I did not know the words, but in the flickering firelight on the open plains of Patagonia, I almost felt I did.

In the deep bottom of the southern hemisphere, the wind howls into your face, cutting off sound from your ears. Along the Andes, the steep mountains block your advance. In the southern plains, the endless expanse promises nothing but madness as your progress is measured only in the tilt of the next thorny bush you pass.

But all of Patagonia is not only loneliness and melancholy. It is the people, both Chilean and Argentinean that breath life into this remote corner of the world. I have been fed by people who have just enough to feed themselves. I have been given shelter in homes, in hostels and in barns. I have asked for little and been given an incredible amount of kindness in return. And when, after two months I left for Santiago, it was with a deep sense of conviction in my heart: even at the end of the world, there is kindness and compassion in the unlikeliest places.

Out there, in lands you’ve yet to see, among the waves and mountains, lay discovery. The world is large and oftentimes, new countries can seem daunting for students or young travelers.

It took three months, but in the end Patagonia taught me to let go, to fall into the current: let life’s river take me around the next, unknown bend.

So my advice to my fellow students: pick a new path, read about somewhere far off, and take a chance. After all, the journey is the destination.
In high school, Thomas Janis of Nazareth thought he wanted to pursue a career in music. But while a student at Northampton, where he majored in individualized transfer studies, he participated in two study abroad opportunities – one to Turkey in summer ‘06 and one to France in spring ’07. After an exchange program with the Lycée Jean Lurçat in Paris, Janis arranged to stay in France for two months and work on an organic farm in the southern region. Now, Janis, who works about 20 hours a week at the College’s English as a Second Language (ESL) lab, is passionate about international relations, and plans to study at a four-year university so he can pursue a career in that field.

“My experiences in Turkey and France have really gotten me excited about international work,” Janis says.

That Janis would have not one but two opportunities to study abroad while attending a community college is not as unusual as it may seem.

Community colleges such as Northampton have recognized that in this time of deepening globalization, an important part of their mission is to expose their students to people and places outside their comfort zone. “It is so obvious that we need to expose our students to other societies, other cultures, other ways of doing business,” says President Dr. Art Scott. “It is very important for an educated person today to have a global perspective. Very few companies are not dealing in some way in the global marketplace. That’s just a given.”

However, the challenge to provide international experiences may be greater for community colleges than for four-year colleges and universities, where more students can afford to study abroad for a semester or perhaps even two.

Many students at community colleges are non-traditional and, with their work and family commitments, it is hard for them to study abroad and still graduate within a reasonable timeframe, says Manuel Gonzalez, director of international programs at NCC. Also, Dr. Scott says, “many of our students don’t have the means to travel abroad or to pursue international experiences independently.”

Northampton has risen to the globalization challenge in many ways, not only providing shorter, lower-cost study abroad opportunities for faculty and for students such as providing the spring break trips to Paris and Turkey in which students like Janis participated, but also by infusing global perspectives into the classroom and encouraging its faculty to bring international experiences to life. Northampton also is encouraging international students to come to campus, so students from a wide range of nations can meet in the classroom or cafeteria or gym or in other activities and forge friendships.

A large part of Patrice Boulous’ job as assistant director of admissions/international students is to recruit students from around the globe to Northampton. “Over the last 10, 15 years, we’ve done a lot of armchair and a lot of active recruitment internationally,” she says. “This year, we didn’t travel. We chose to update our Web site instead, but I have been to at least 10 to 15 countries in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Far East to participate in recruitment fairs and visit high schools.”

When foreign students come, NCC rolls out the welcome mat. “On campus, we celebrate the international students,” Dr. Scott says. “Throughout our hallways, you will see tributes to their countries. The flags of their countries are in our cafeteria, and whenever an international student graduates, the flag from his or her country is on the stage at graduation. It’s really quite nice.”
Northampton has an advantage when it comes to recruiting international students because, although it is a community college, it has dormitories where students can live while they are in school, says Boulous ’82. “Housing is not a requirement for foreign students, but it’s a huge plus for Northampton because it’s hard to find host families. It’s so much easier when they have a place to stay on your campus.”

Northampton also has an excellent ESL program, and foreign students often need to improve their English skills before they can take courses. The College also offers an ESL culture class that is hands-on, says Carole Collins, assistant professor of ESL. The curriculum varies depending on who is enrolled, who is teaching it and what is happening locally at the time, she says, “but we plan group activities and take small trips and tours of the area to help students get acclimated to life in America and in the Lehigh Valley.”

This school year, Northampton is host to more than 100 international students from 36 countries from Australia to Yemen. The number of international students has grown over the last six or seven years, Boulous says. A number of schools were affected by 9/11 because Homeland-Security reforms made it more difficult for foreign students to come to this country. “While 9/11 was an issue for a lot of schools, we weren’t affected as greatly as others,” Boulous says.

Foreign students, who have long prized American education, have been discovering community colleges in recent years for the same reasons that many Americans have—tuition is low and quality is high. Even though foreign students pay more per credit to attend Northampton than county residents, tuition still is much less than they would pay if they came to study at a state or private college or university.

Northampton has been a member of Community Colleges for International Development (CCID), a nonprofit consortium of U.S. and international colleges founded in 1976, for a number of years. Its active participation in CCID has led to some unique study abroad opportunities for its students.

The study abroad program in Turkey that Janis participated in and that the college has offered for the past three years is a good example. Vasiliki Anastasakos, assistant professor of political science, takes students to Turkey where they study the politics, geography and culture of the country. The trip, a three-credit course, is typically from 12 to 21 days and is offered in June during the first summer session.

The college needs 18 to 20 people to keep the cost of the trip around $2,300 per student. “Every year, we could not get 20 students from the same school,” Anastasakos says. Through CCID, the program is open to students from Northampton, Delaware Technical & Community College, and Howard Community College in Columbia, Md. “By working with the consortium, we are able to get the numbers we need every year,” she says.

The students stay in college dorms and hotels, if necessary. They attend lectures and visit cultural sites and museums. “We visit a number of towns and cities including Cappadocia, world famous for its underground cities,” Anastasakos says. The students are required to keep a reflective journal during their trip, and it is interesting to see how the trip challenges their preconceived ideas about Turkey and its people, she says. The Turkish students have an opportunity to come to Northampton, and many in both groups make new friendships, which they are able to maintain long distance thanks to the Internet, Anastasakos says.

In addition to Moscow and Turkey, NCC offers study abroad opportunities and faculty exchanges with community colleges and technical schools in France, the Ukraine and Azerbaijan, one of the former Soviet Union Republics. “Our relationships with these colleges usually starts small and grows over the years,” Gonzalez says. Gonzalez also is close to establishing exchange programs with community colleges in Denmark and Argentina as well as other countries in Latin America. “South America is crucial,” Gonzalez says. “We’re going to have to deal with and have so many Spanish-speaking folks in the Lehigh Valley, and to have our students visit countries in Latin America and be exposed to their language and culture will only better prepare them for the world of work.”

The study abroad programs are open to all majors. Gonzalez once took a group of automotive students to Moscow. The program with Kharkiv National University in the Ukraine involves microelectronics, nanofabrication and optoelectronics students. Anastasakos finds that many who participate in the Turkey trip are from the political science or international relations classes that she teaches. Their interest is probably piqued because she talks about the trip in her classes, she says. But she also has had students from nursing, general studies, journalism and business. “It’s a wide range,” she says. Very often, she adds, returning students talk so excitedly about their experiences that their friends and classmates are eager to be the next to go.

Some students like Janis, who graduated in December ’06, even go on more than one trip. The College has been running the Paris trip he participated in with the Lycée Jean Lurçat for more than 15 years. It is one of its oldest international exchange programs.

Although Northampton tries to keep its study abroad trips short and costs down to make them more accessible, it recognizes that still

“Employers have liked the fact that students have studied or traveled abroad. They look for that on their resumes.”
Heath took a lot of photographs, which he assembled in a slideshow and universities. On the weekends, they traveled. Throughout the trip, wonderful opportunity for me and my students to benefit from it.

Heath also uses his travels to complement his lectures and bring the world into his classroom. In summer 2006, Heath accompanied Gonzalez on a CCID-sponsored two-week tour of the post-secondary educational institutions in Argentina. During the week, they met with government officials and representatives of vocational schools and universities. On the weekends, they traveled. Throughout the trip, Heath took a lot of photographs, which he assembled in a slideshow that he now uses in his world geography classes. Geographers often divide South America into four different regions depending on the culture and the economy of the people. The regions cut across the boundaries of the different countries, Heath explains. Heath's Argentina trip took him to three of the four regions. Earlier, Heath had traveled to Jamaica, which is representative of the fourth. "So I was able, through my own previous travels plus this, to put together a comprehensive picture of Latin America for my students. It was really, really a wonderful opportunity for me and my students to benefit a lot from it."

Yet another aspect of Northampton's globalization efforts is to encourage international students to come to campus to learn and to share. The idea, says Gonzalez, is that "the more folks we bring on campus and expose them to our faculty, to our students, the more comfortable our folks will be with them."

The College works to attract not only international students who enroll in its degree programs, but those who also will participate in its ESL and family literacy programs. Often spouses of international students studying at Lehigh University will come to Northampton so that they can improve their English skills and learn about life in the Lehigh Valley, says Nancy Leary, assistant director of family literacy. "The spouses themselves may be physicians or teachers and well educated in their own countries, but while their husbands are students at Lehigh, they are stuck here with no way of learning English," she says. Northampton offers both ESL and GED classes at the Bethlehem and Monroe campuses.

Because the program attracts so many international families, Leary says, it's often like the United Nations. "We have so many different countries represented in the same class, and everyone has had to learn how to get along with each other. We've never had any problems, which is wonderful."

Gonzalez believes the exposure to other cultures will help Northampton graduates no matter what career path they pursue. In today's world, he says, it is not uncommon to be working for a company in the Lehigh Valley that is owned by another in Europe or Asia. "You could work for a company where you're a manager, but your call center is in India and your factory is China and you have to interface with all those folks," he says. "If we don't continue to develop our global initiatives here, our students are going to be at a disadvantage. I do know that employers have liked the fact that students have studied or traveled abroad. They look for that on their resumes."

Students who have participated in the global exchanges say even more than the impact it may have on their jobs, the value is the lasting friendships they forge with people who live around the globe.

Over the summer, Josh Phillips '08 of Slatington took four courses at Northampton and lived in the dorms where he quickly became friends with several of the international students. He remembers how three of them – two from Turkey and one from Brazil – talked non-stop about wanting to go to Philadelphia to see Slayer and Marilyn Manson, heavy metal bands, perform. "Heavy metal is not something I really enjoy," Phillips says. "I never would have gone and spent the money." But Phillips wasn't about to let his friends, whose English was good but not great, make the trip to the big city and go to the concert themselves. So he agreed to go with them, and he's glad that he did because it turned out he had a great time, too.

Paola Mero of Bethlehem Township, a general studies major who will graduate in the fall, remembers meeting Murat Dede during a tour of his school, Çankiri College of Arts and Technology in Turkey. After the tour, the Northampton students had lunch with their Turkish host families. "Murat's mother, aunt and his cousin awaited us in the dining room of their home where a table was filled to the brim with Turkish delicacies," Mero recalls. "Although we were with them for a short time, they instinctively treated us as one of their own family members." When they said their goodbyes, Dede's last words to Mero were: "I hope you don't forget about me." Mero answered by promising Dede that when he came to Northampton on his reciprocal visit, he would be her “erkek kardeþ” (which means brother) because, she says, "that is precisely how he felt to me that afternoon."

Beth W. Orenstein of Northampton, Pa., is a freelance writer.
If your travels have taken you beyond the borders of the United States, you know what it’s like to step out of your comfort zone into a totally new environment. Such is the case for 12 international students who are completing their first year at NCC, pursuing technical knowledge and cultural understanding they will be able to take back to their homelands. NCC is one of only seven colleges nationwide chosen to host such students in a pilot program funded by the U.S. State Department and administered through Community Colleges for International Development, Inc. (CCID).

What insights and observations do the students have to share based on their experiences thus far? As most were accustomed to public transportation in their urban home areas, in an interview earlier this year, they spoke frequently of that most-cherished American possession — the car. “In my home country, we don’t have 90 percent of students driving,” Motale Moropa of South Africa said. Gilbert Maloma noted, “America is huge compared to my country of South Africa … and it’s kind of difficult if you don’t have a car.”

On the topic of academia, reviews were mixed. Lazarus Morudi said American students “don’t value education as much as we do in South Africa.” Moropa said, “I was surprised when I came to math class. In South Africa we learn to draw the graphs without using the calculator, but here they allow us to use it.”

Josie Ferrao focused on the welcome availability of technology at NCC. “In my college in Brazil, we don’t have access to computers,” she said. “We just have a room with 10 computers for more than 2,000 students.”

This forced fraternization might account for another cultural difference. Douglas Bartz had been warned by his tutors in Brazil not to invade personal space. “When I got here, I was a little bit scared to talk to people.” But he soon realized, “people like to talk, and they’re interested in who you are. When I say I’m from Brazil, they say, ‘Ho, from Brazil — I want to go there — Rio de Janeiro, Carnivale.’”

Just as Americans think of Carnivale when they think of Rio, the international students associated certain images with the United States prior to their arrival. Bartz said for him, it was Miami Beach. Fellow Brazil-
ian Renan Bertolazzi echoed these remarks, although he said his interest shifted to the northeast once he learned of his chance to come to the U.S. “It is the most developed part for education,” he said.

Maloma mentioned New York “because it’s the city that is most talked about. We see it on television — the Statue of Liberty, the Twin Towers, before the incident — and also Philadelphia.”

And on the topic of the tube, Bartz said, "In Brazil, we have shows similar to Big Brother and American Idol," although he mentioned that far fewer Brazilians watch TV than Americans.

Nokuthula Khumalo spoke about her take on U.S. television news coverage. “Americans … do not know much about our countries and our cultures. They only know stuff about themselves.” She said in South Africa, “our news will report things happening all over the world,” adding that she felt “out of touch with what’s going on in the world” since coming here. Her compatriot Isaac Mhlongo said that various groups in the U.S. stereotype each other, which he said leads to dissension.

Since these comments preceded the international students’ experience with their host families that began in the spring ‘08 semester, a follow-up question was asked to see how their perceptions might have changed.

“At first the thought of living with the host family was scaring me a bit … however, we got to know each other, and now everything is fine,” Maloma said. “Living with a host family has changed my perceptions about the U.S. because … they showed me that both their friends and the family itself are willing to learn about where I come from. “Even though I still think that the U.S. is not much exposed to the outside world like where I come from, I do believe they are willing to invite people like me into their hearts and share our cultural differences with each other,” he added.

Bertolazzi said that prior to his arrival, he had heard “that Americans are difficult to relate to, close-minded.” Now he realizes, “They are people, just like us … America is a country like every other one. It has rich people and poor people. The great difference is that the poor people here are not as poor as Brazilians.”

Bartz affirmed that observation and noted that in the U.S. there is a better quality of life and heightened “access to so many things, which in Brazil you don’t have,” adding that in his country, “you have to work a lot more to have success.”

Despite their differences, these bright, articulate students are united by a common desire to share their experiences and knowledge to help improve conditions in their countries. Maloma said, “the biggest achievement a person can have is to give back to the community.” He added, “When I compare the U.S. and my country, there’s a huge difference because in South Africa they think, What I have is what I have. Here, people are more giving.”

Mary Ann Leone ’00 is an Allentown-based freelance writer and editor and a self-fashioned goodwill ambassador.
Learning English as children came naturally to many of us. If you’d moved here from China, Japan, Switzerland, France or Argentina as an adult, you might have found the process a little more difficult.

Hala is typical of many newcomers. She came to America for a better life for her and her family, including freedom of speech and job opportunities. Since moving here from Syria, she has found it difficult to work, continue with her studies, or become involved in the community due in part to the age of her children, and in part due to her limited English.

To help her and others, NCC sponsors English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) classes and family literacy classes in four counties: Northampton, Monroe, Pike and Wayne. These classes provide a bridge to a new life for children and adults from all over the world who now call northeastern Pennsylvania home.

Each year, more than 1,000 students enroll in the ESL classes that NCC offers in community centers and schools. Some barely speak English. Others can communicate reasonably well in conversation, but struggle with reading and/or writing. There are classes to meet all needs.

In the past, some parents of young children were unable to attend because of child care responsibilities, but in 1998 two NCC staff members, Beth Kuehn and Nancy Leary, started a family literacy program. Now, thanks to grant funding, the College can help parents master English, learn about American culture and child development, and prepare to become citizens while their children interact with other children in NCC’s child care centers.

The program includes activities in which parents and children learn together. “Parents are their child’s first teacher,” Nancy points out. “Students learn about their child’s development during interactive learning activities,” says William Schaffer, director of adult literacy.

Beth, better known as Mrs. Beth to her students, notes that family literacy classes also help parents with older children: “Our school systems require parents to participate in their child’s learning process. Many of these students come from a country where that is not necessary, sometimes forbidden.”

Beth is in the process of helping Hala return to the medical field. Hala was a pediatrician in Syria. She is not licensed to practice in the United States, but when her youngest child gets a little bit older and when her English improves, Hala may begin a physician’s assistant program.

“Often families come with very little English, and it is wonderful to see them progress and conquer the challenges in their lives,” Beth says of her students. “I’ve had students from all over the globe. I teach English in my classroom, so that is what I insist the students speak. I am the interpreter between the background they come from and American customs.”

Each year, more than 1,000 students enroll in the ESL classes that NCC offers in community centers and schools.
On a chilly Saturday morning in late January, teens checking cell phones and preschoolers toting pint-sized backpacks cross paths at NCC’s Laub Lounge before splitting off in different directions to classrooms on the College Center’s second floor. Their parents, both mothers and fathers, settle down at tables, greeting each other in Chinese. Several women pull out their knitting.

The Lehigh Valley HuaXia (proounced Hwa Sha) School, which meets on Saturdays in the fall and spring, is a beloved institution for first-generation Chinese Americans and their American-born children. In the fall of 2007, the Lehigh Valley branch enrolled 197 children in 20 classes.

The school is a part of the largest Chinese school system in the United States, with headquarters in New Jersey and 18 branches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut and New York. The phonetic system used by the school, Pinyin, transcribes Mandarin sounds into Roman characters – a schema also employed by the United Nations and around the world.

“The goals of our school are to teach children born in the United States to read, write and comprehend Chinese,” Principal Jin Cao says. Classes begin with basic words and rhymes and build upon each other as a springboard to modern Chinese literature and advanced composition. At the same time, the youngsters, ages 3 through 17, delve into their Chinese heritage, learning dance, geography, history and martial arts. Holidays such as Chinese New Year and an autumn festival are celebrated every year. The school even offers a course in math. The program is further enriched through arts festivals, track-and-field events and basketball games held with other schools in the greater HuaXia system.

This comprehensive approach to Chinese culture appeals to the students’ parents, relatively new immigrants who want to ensure that their children do not forget their Chinese language and traditions. “About 80 percent of our students’ parents came to the United States from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore within the last decade or so,” says Cao. And, although Chinese is the primary language at home, there is nothing as inspiring, Cao says, as studying with peers from similar backgrounds.

Families come from areas as distant as Reading, Lansdale and Lancaster to benefit from this experience.

Students also come from beyond the Chinese community. Classes include youth of Vietnamese, Thai and other ethnic derivations. Children born in China and their American-born, non-Chinese adoptive parents attend the school to learn the language and legacy of the children’s native land.

Another beneficiary of the school is the Lehigh Valley economy. The existence of a Chinese school in the area helps attract candidates to local industry, Cao points out. The Chinese community contributes to the work force at Air Products, PPL, area hospitals and other companies.

On a global economic scale, growing business with China increasingly requires proficiency in the Chinese language. Within a decade, knowledge of Chinese will be essential in many industries, Cao predicts.

Now, however, on this midwinter day, 6-year-old Daisy Zheng gets in a few notes on the piano before heading to class. Her mother, Kelly Zhu,spares a moment to comment on the Lehigh Valley HuaXia School. “The teachers here are wonderful. Everything is just great,” she says.

Parents took the lead in starting the Lehigh Valley HuaXia School in 1998. Jimmy Li, one of the founders, remembers searching for a place where his 4-year-old son could study Chinese. Since there were none, he and his friends decided to establish one themselves. After scouting churches and other organizations, they were thrilled when NCC agreed to collaborate with them. The school began with 68 students, surpassing its founders’ expectations and indicating the Chinese community’s enthusiasm.

As part of the collaboration, NCC provides facilities and handles finances. Parents find the teachers or serve as teachers themselves. Curricula are supplied by the larger, regional HuaXia school system. “It is great working with Horizons for Youth,” says Cao. “We treasure our long relationship.”
LOOKING TO UP YOUR CULTURE QUOTIENT?

Below is just a sampling of upcoming noncredit courses running soon. Check out the course search tool at www.northampton.edu for the full listing of open classes and more details.

languages
Japanese
Polish
Sign Language
Spanish
Arabic
Italian

cooking
Any Day Indian Food
Thai Made Easy
It’s All Greek to Me!
Tartine - Easy Appetizers for a Summer Evening

wine & spirits
Wine Appreciation: The Best of Italy
Wine Appreciation: White Wines of France
Wine Appreciation: Will the Real Pinot Noir Please Stand Up?
Wine Appreciation: Wines of Portugal

dance
Salsa Dance
African Dance
Flamenco
Gypsy Middle Eastern Fusion Dance
Latin Basics
Belly Dancing
Danse Orientale

NCC’s Main Campus cafeteria is always bustling at lunchtime. Students talking, laughing, singing and even dancing; faculty and staff seated together, chatting and eating. Amidst all the noise, one table is encouraging conversation as a way of learning. Welcome to the Spanish Conversation Group!

Sandra Del Cueto, professor of Spanish and founder of the group, greets all those who sit down with a pin that says in both English and Spanish, “Speak Spanish to me. I want to practice.”

Students, faculty, staff and community members have been practicing with the group for years now. Del Cueto first held get-togethers in the library. Anyone interested in practicing Spanish was welcome to participate and learn in a non-formal, friendly environment. Fluent Spanish-speakers were encouraged to attend to help new learners. The group eventually met at Fuddruckers restaurant, then Wegmans before moving back to NCC.

“It’s opened a lot of doors for students to ask questions about Spanish as well as those planning to take the course,” Del Cueto, who keeps a copy of the textbook on the table for students to peruse, said. “It makes it easy to practice when you have native speakers helping you. I want them to make connections with each other on campus. These types of connections are what kept me in school and helped develop friendships that have lasted a lifetime.”

Lasting community connections were made at Wegmans. Although the Spanish Conversation Group officially moved back to NCC this semester, some community members decided to keep it going at the popular supermarket. They still meet and Del Cueto recently visited to see how they were doing.

“They told me you don’t have to come – we don’t need you!” she said with a smile. “It’s every teacher’s dream, when the student surpasses the teacher.”

Professor Del Cueto’s Spanish Conversation Group meets every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. in the cafeteria at the Main Campus. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please phone Professor Del Cueto at 610-861-5538.

By Katherine Noll
multi-language media reflects our shifting populations

Whether penned with a quill in 1808 or launched over the airwaves in 2008, media in the Lehigh Valley have always been multilingual. As immigrants from across the world embarked for America and our area, their languages sailed in tandem.

German, rather than English, was the predominant written language – for church, business and communal records – for a large portion of our region’s history. Diaries, memoirs and church registers were recorded in German for more than a century, from the 1740s to the 1860s. A German language newspaper existed in Allentown as recently as the 20th century.

Later newcomers, from Eastern and Southern Europe, added Polish, Italian, Portuguese and other tongues to the Lehigh Valley.

Today’s Spanish newspapers and broadcast media reflect the origins of the vast majority of our area’s newest arrivals. Hispanics have maintained vibrant communities in Allentown and Bethlehem since 1923, when Bethlehem Steel recruited Mexicans to work at its plant, and the 1950s and 1960s, when Operation Bootstrap, a federal program for economic development, attracted many Puerto Ricans to urban areas of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, including Bethlehem.

It is in the last 25 years, however, that the Lehigh Valley’s Latino population has burgeoned. According to the United States census figures, the Latino population tripled between 1980 and 2000, jumping from about 16,000 to over 50,000 people. By 1990, 11% of Allentown residents, 13% of Bethlehem’s and 5% of Easton’s was Latino. In 2000, Hispanics accounted for 24% of Allentown’s, 18% of Bethlehem’s and 10% of Easton’s residents. The Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) conservatively estimates that 1/3 of Allentown’s population and 1/4 of Bethlehem’s is now Latino.

While 2/3 of Hispanics in the Lehigh Valley are Puerto Rican, the population is, in fact, of multiple derivations, with Mexicans, Dominicans, and South and Central Americans well represented. According to the LVEDC, “Latinos in the Lehigh Valley in the new millennium are an ethnically, socially, politically, educationally and economically diverse group.”

To serve the needs of this expanding population, new Spanish-language newspapers, radio and television stations have arisen in the Lehigh Valley:

■ La Cronica, a three-year-old biweekly newspaper, entirely in Spanish, informs readers of local as well as national and world news, especially that of Latin America. Advice and entertainment columns, comic strips and puzzles round out the newspaper’s offerings.

■ Begun in 1997, the newspaper El Torrero is also in Spanish and covers local, national and international stories.

■ WMZ television station 69 broadcasts a Spanish-language news edition every evening at 11 p.m.

■ Radio stations WHOL (1600 AM) and WXLV (90.3 FM) play merengue, salsa, regga, and other Latin American music. WHOL’s programming is 100% bilingual while WXLV features the “Enfuego” music and interview show, from 9 – 11 every Sunday.

■ On PBS station WLVT 39, young listeners can hear a character from the children’s program “Dragon Tales” speaking in Spanish and learn the Spanish word of the day on “Sesame Street.”

Spanish language media play important roles in the Latino community, according to Maria Teresa Donate, NCC associate professor of counseling. “They showcase the positive contributions Latinos are making in the Lehigh Valley. They also promote a sense of identity among Latinos, keep the language fresh for earlier immigrants, and teach the language to non-Spanish speakers.”

Although most international language media produced in the Lehigh Valley is in Spanish, listeners from other language backgrounds can also enjoy their native tongues on local music programs. National Public Radio Station WDIY (88.1 FM) features music from all over the world including “The Music of India,” “The Arabic Program,” and “World Bob,” from 1 – 5:30 p.m. on Sundays. That the Arabic and Jewish programs are adjacent on the schedule is not accidental, according to program manager, Neil Hever. “The neighboring time slots make a statement,” he says, “that in this community and country, Arabs and Jews get along well.”

WMUH (91.7 FM) also programs international music via “Middle Eastern Music,” “The Music of India,” “Kol Ha Emek” (Jewish music), and “Latin Sunday.” WGPA (1100 AM) airs Polish and German dance tunes.

As for the written word, the bulletin for Holy Infancy Church, in multiethnic southside Bethlehem, is published in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Be it through 18th century German script or modern Spanish words transmitted through the air, the Lehigh Valley’s diverse population has enriched and continues to enrich our region’s media and culture.

By Myra Saturen
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Many of Doug Heath’s geography students do a double take when he pulls down the world map that hangs above the whiteboard in his Penn Hall classroom. The map, which Heath uses to begin his lecture on the new global economy, is different from what most have known. It splits the Atlantic Ocean and puts the Pacific Ocean in the center.

Heath uses the large Pacific-centered colored map to demonstrate what has been an economic reality for the last 20 years – the dollar value of everything traded across the Pacific Ocean has been greater than the dollar value of everything traded across the Atlantic.

Most of the students seeing the map for the first time “believe it’s not natural or normal,” Heath says. “They’re used to seeing a world where the Atlantic Ocean is the center.”

While the map may surprise his students, many recognize that the economics they know is very different from that of their parents and grandparents. All his students have to do is look at where their mobile phones, MP3 players and computer games were manufactured, and they will realize they live in a world with a very global economy.

Paul Pierpoint, vice president of community education and dean of the College’s Fowler Family Southside Center, says the reality of the changing world economy can be seen out the window of his office on the sixth floor of the former structural products headquarters for Bethlehem Steel, once one of the largest employers in the Lehigh Valley. “Steel disappeared from Bethlehem because the global market just became too competitive,” Pierpoint says. Today, Bethlehem Steel and its nearby mills are silent. Newly milled steel trucked in from North Carolina is rising to form a new casino complex.

Heath says that when he came to teach at Northampton in the late 1970s, no one could have ever imagined the Valley without Bethlehem Steel. “In 1977, the idea that the Valley economy could be good and there would be no Bethlehem Steel was inconceivable. But more than 30 years later, we do have a pretty well functioning economy around here, and it’s largely because of globalization,” Heath says.

The Lehigh Valley has survived because it has diversified, and its companies – large, medium and small – have headquarters and plants and call centers and partners overseas, the faculty agree.

No job seems immune from the changes the expansion of international trade has brought. Kathryn Clark ’80 is a senior analyst in the preschool department for Toys R Us, headquartered in Wayne, N.J. A buyer selects the toys that will stock the retailer’s shelves and then Clark must supply forecasts for those items.
“Because most of our product in the preschool department is imported,” she says, “I have to work around long lead times. I have to allow them enough time that they can produce the items and ship them so they will be received here in time to sell in the appropriate season.”

Because the marketplace has become so global, it is critical, Pierpoint says, for Northampton, as a community college, to train its students not for a specific industry or job, “but to be flexible and adaptable so that when changes occur, they can find other opportunities.”

The College also has taken an active role in helping companies compete in the new world order and global marketplace.

“As a community college,” Pierpoint says, “we try to identify and to tap into opportunities that allow us to help support our own businesses here compete over there. It’s a philosophical as well as a business commitment that we have.”

The College’s strong commitment to playing a role in a global economy can be traced to President Robert Kopeczek who saw the world shrinking and economic changes on the way. Its continuation says Pierpoint can be credited to Arthur Scott, president since 2003, who fully supports the international business-assistance efforts that were begun over the last 30 years.

The College routinely helps companies compete in the global marketplace. In 2003, NCC was one of a small group of community colleges to receive a grant from the U.S. State Department to provide training for microelectronics manufacturers in the Ukraine, a former Soviet state.

Instructors from the College’s National Training Center for Microelectronics (NTCμ), which was established in 1985, assisted faculty at Kharkiv University in the Ukraine in modernizing their curriculum and developing new methods of teaching microelectronics, nanofabrication and optoelectronics. NCC faculty flew to the Ukraine, and Kharkiv faculty came here in an exchange of ideas and information.

Another example of the College’s international business outreach is its Leadership Development Institute, headed by Don Robertson and Donna Goss. Robertson and Goss have helped global Fortune 500 companies headquartered in and outside the Lehigh Valley develop leadership training programs for their employees, no matter where in the world they are located.

In recent years, the Institute has helped a pharmaceutical firm enhance its safety training program by adding a leadership element that it could deliver to its employees worldwide.

“They had treated safety like a technical program,” Robertson says. “Their program was very direct and lecture based. Our goal was to make it much more interactive and much more engaging and to do that in a way that their facilitators could deliver it.”

The program the Institute developed has since been translated into nine different languages so that it could be used at all of its company locations, Goss says.

Robertson and Goss also have worked with Air Products in Trexlertown, which has more than 22,000 employees and operations in 40 countries. The co-directors of the Institute worked in partnership with Air Products to develop a weeklong management training program that the supplier of atmospheric, process and specialty gases, performance materials, and equipment and services has since employed throughout its entire organization.

Professor Heath says many people might assume that technology and the Internet are responsible for the incredible growth in international trade the world has seen in the last few decades.

Certainly, technology has played a role, Heath says. Technological advances have made it possible to transfer billions of dollars instantaneously and for companies to communicate with their employees in different locations worldwide simultaneously.

Yet most scholars agree the current global marketplace has its origins in the end of World War II. That is when the world’s major powers realized that they had to do something to prevent World War III and saw increased international trade as a solution. “Accelerating globalization and international trade would stimulate economic growth and make it hard for major powers to go to war against each other,” Heath explains.

The increase in international trade obviously has not stopped all wars. “The U.S. still went to war with Vietnam and to war with Iraq. The Soviets went to war with Afghanistan, but you don’t see Germany attacking France or the U.S. attacking China. I do think it has had considerable success helping us achieve the kind of world that the survivors of World War II wanted,” Heath says.

While international trade raises many issues, including the loss of domestic jobs as manufacturers and other employers are able to more easily chase cheap labor, it appears to be accelerating more all the time and is long past the point of return, Heath says.

“We’re certainly seeing more of the larger companies we’re working with having a global presence,” Robertson says. “But we’re starting to see it now in mid-size companies because of the whole mergers and acquisition piece.”

A year ago, Robertson says, he and Goss were working with a company that had two locations on the East Coast. “Now they’re part of a global organization that has operations outside the U.S.”

In 2008, he says, “you don’t know from one day to the next what organization you’re going to be part of. It doesn’t matter if one day you’re working for a small company in the Lehigh Valley. You may be part of an entrepreneurial group that has discovered something a bigger company wants, and the next day you’re working for a global organization.”

And thanks to Northampton’s three-decade commitment to helping the region adapt to the global economy, when such things happen, Pierpoint says, more people will be prepared.
It was a Friday. John Kratz was in an airport in Europe, returning from visiting a client in the Ukraine when his cell phone rang. The caller was from an electronics company in Austria with a problem similar to the one Kratz had just solved for the electronics company in the Ukraine.

Kratz flew home but stayed only long enough to catch up with his wife and do his laundry, he says with a laugh. Monday morning he boarded a plane back to Europe to work his magic.

Kratz is a troubleshooter for Northampton's National Center for Microelectronics and these days, as electronics manufacturing has moved overseas, such a crazy schedule is not that unusual.

"With the activity I do, I am probably headed overseas every 45 to 50 days," he says. Indeed, Kratz travels overseas so much that he had to apply for a new passport after only five years. "I had so many stamps on it that no one would stamp it anymore, so I had to apply for a replacement in five instead of 10 years," he says. In his 20 years at the Center, he figures he has visited nearly 35 countries, many of them multiple times.

When Kratz started at the Center in 1988, he worked largely with electronics manufacturers in America. "In the late 1980s, electronics manufacturing in the United States was very prolific," he says. "You could go down any interstate highway and pull off into any industrial park and find at least one manufacturer in that park that made electronics equipment. That’s not the case now."

In the early to mid-'90s, chasing cheaper labor, electronics manufacturing moved to Mexico, and Kratz found himself heading south of the border more and more. "Now," he says, "you definitely see the trend having gone to Asia because that’s where the cheaper labor is. I have one customer that I used to service in New York. I represented them in Mexico, and now they’re over in Asia. They’re a model of what’s happened [to manufacturing]."

When Kratz visits a client, it is usually because they’ve got a problem no one else can solve. Kratz starts on the manufacturing floor, auditing every step to see if he can determine the root cause of the trouble.

Kratz’s customers manufacture high-reliability electronic parts for the aerospace and automotive industries. He also works with those who manufacture assemblies for drilling equipment.

Kratz had sold an engineering business he had started near Philadelphia when the College landed a grant to establish the Microelectronics Center and help electronics companies improve their processes, yields and reliability. He had “opportunity and time!” on his hands when President Robert Kopecek asked him to help build the Center and its manufacturing expertise. Ever since, Kratz says, “instead of making product for people, I am selling the technology and the understanding of how to do it.”

Everyone who calls Kratz seems to have a situation that needs to be rectified yesterday. So Kratz has learned to keep his suitcase handy. “My motto,” he says, “has become ‘have suitcase, will travel.’”

By Beth W. Orenstein
GENOCIDES IN HISTORY. Ancient and Medieval.

The morning headline takes your breath away: 800,000 DEAD; and just below that, the subhead: Hacked to Death by Machete. Disgust rises in you like stale cold coffee. You skim the type and learn that the bloodbath lasted for 100 days. A country called Rwanda, somewhere in Africa. “How terrible,” you say aloud. You shake cereal into your bowl, pour on milk, sip your juice. After filling your mug for a second coffee, you sit down again. Turn the page.

Unless horror shows like this happen inside one’s country, or directly affect us in some other way, this scene or a variation of it is how most of us react to such atrocities. It’s part of human nature, we may reason; this is how it’s always been. And after all, what can we as individuals do about it?

The truth is it has always been this way. Ever since Cato the Elder, scholar and statesman of ancient Rome, harangued his fellow senators into making a third, and final, war on Carthage. At the end of it (the Third Punic War) that city and its way of life, along with hundreds of thousands of Carthaginians, was utterly destroyed. That was in 149 B.C., long before we had a name for such terror; yet it was one of the first of its kind.

We have a name for it now. We call it genocide. Rwanda in 1994, like most genocides, was a planned massacre. It was a slaughter of the Tutsi people by radical members of rival Hutu tribes. An average of 8,000 victims every day for over three months. Men, women, children, the young, the old, the healthy, the infirm – indiscriminate murder. If you were Tutsi, you died.

DEFINING GENOCIDE

In 1948 the United Nations convened the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. From that gathering, genocide was defined: “as any of a number of acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.” That convention officially condemned it “whether committed in time of peace or in time of war … as a crime under international law.”

But if it is the law, and we – at least the great majority of us – agree to live under the rule of law, why does it go on? “The ’48 Convention established some clear characteristics that, when they exist, it is considered genocide,” says Northampton’s Assistant Professor of Political Science, Dr. Vasiliki Anastasakos. “The genocide convention is a very significant piece of international law; but one of its primary weaknesses is that the prosecutor has to prove that the authorities intentionally tried to exterminate a group based on ethnicity or religion or race.”

And there is the rub; or at least one of them. The UN document is more complex than a simple wording of crime and its punishment. “What happens when you have a civil war for the last 20 years or so, in Sudan?” Anastasakos asks. “And their government argues the killing is not intentional? It is very easy to claim they are only going after the rebels and in the process civilians get hurt.”

Anastasakos also notes that the UN does not use language specifying numbers killed; there is no stated line to cross. Which
makes it convenient for a government defending its actions to say “Well, there were only seven thousand killed, so how does that compare with, say, the Holocaust, the largest genocide in recent history, where six to eight million were killed?” How many must die to meet the criteria? Ten thousand? A half million? That part of the document is rather vague. Just one reason why it is so difficult for the international community to bring governments and their leaders to justice for their actions. Darfur, for example, has yet to even be declared a genocide by the United Nations. And in the case of Rwanda, justice has been very slow, with only 27 people out of the hundreds who took part in the genocide having been convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

“I am fascinated by how genocide is defined,” Anastasakos says, countering the narrow guidelines of the UN. “I define it in much broader terms. We pay more attention when large numbers of people are killed, especially in a short time, like in Rwanda or Darfur. But what about a system that commits acts that have genocidal consequences such as ethnic cleansing – the forced removal of an ethnic group from their homes to refugee camps, denying them for 50 or more years goods essential to their survival, such as food, shelter, water, clothing and medical supplies? They are talked about as human rights issues, of course. But, in my book, they should also be treated as genocidal acts.”

It is difficult for even a world body to demand of a sovereign state compliance to the expectations of others. Yet another rub. That’s where sanctions, especially trade and the work of diplomats, come into play. It’s an exhausting back and forth that often sounds to the rest of us like so much talk, without true resolution. And those best positioned to make the most difference are often those with special interests that gum up the works with nonparticipation, or worse.

SHRUGGING IT OFF

In the meantime, guilty governments and their leaders get away with murder. They walk, and the world, much of it, forgets. Adolf Hitler understood the failings of the world’s collective memory as he and his henchmen plotted the “final solution” of the Jews. The Nazi leader laughed, and referring to the Armenian genocide mere decades before, sneered: “Who, after all, remembers the Armenians?” Unfortunately, he was right.

Even in the throes of the act itself, the world ignores or denies what is happening. Jonathan Glover, in his book, “Humanity,” in a section on the Nazi Holocaust, reminds us that the ordinary German or Austrian citizen was aware of the ethnic cleansing going on around him. Homes became suddenly empty, the occupants no more to be seen; co-workers and acquaintances one day were not only gone, they were never mentioned in public again. And once the nightmare of the crematoriums began, those living nearby brushed ashes from their shoulders that were human remains.

The responses to the Nazi’s mass homicide ranged from passivity and feigned ignorance to the zealotry of active participation. More often though, it was the silence of the German every-man that helped condemn those people who only a short while before were their neighbors – and often, their friends.

Granted, it is easy to play armchair moralist, ignoring the fear and intimidation that surely comes down on the general populace. Nor is silence exactly our finger on the trigger; but if we don’t speak out against madness such as this, don’t we, in a very real sense, allow the madman an unobstructed target?

As the 20th Century philosopher Karl Jaspers said on turning a blind eye, “… passivity knows itself morally guilty of every failure, every neglect to act whenever possible …” Or, more poetically put by the writer Bodie Thoene: “Apathy is the glove into which evil slips its hand.”

THE SAME OLD STORY

When it comes to committing bloodbaths, not much has changed in two thousand-plus years. Counting forward from ancient times, all subsequent genocides could have been scripted by Cato and his “performance” before the Roman senate. Historians and social critics have long noted near formulaic similarities.

For nearly four years prior to the Third Punic War, Cato ended every speech before his fellow senators, on any subject, with the words, “Delenda est Carthago,” Carthage must be destroyed. According to the Greek historian, Plutarch, Cato knew well that “his countrymen were growing wanton and insolent, obstinate and disobedient.” And though Carthage posed no immediate threat, they were an old enemy, a twice-defeated foe. Who better to pick on, and what better way to unite Romans than in a patriotic call to arms?

In “The First Genocide: Carthage, 146 BC”, Ben Kiernan notes that “Some features of the ideology motivating the Roman destruction of Carthage . . . have surprisingly modern echoes in 20th-century genocides. Racial, religious or cultural prejudices, gender and other social hierarchies . . . all characterize the thinking of Cato the Censor, like that of more recent perpetrators.”

Like genocides since, Cato used exaggerated propaganda to dehumanize the enemy, reducing them to subhuman status. He created a larger-than-life evil and “proved” it had to be destroyed to safeguard the homeland.

Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot in Cambodia – the perpetrators of genocide understand the need for a scapegoat at the end of the pointed finger. In Rwanda, they pointed at Tutsi. Rwandan Prime Minister Jean Kambanda, in his testimony before the International Criminal Tribunal, testified that genocide was openly discussed in cabinet meetings. “One cabinet minister,” Kambanda revealed, “said she was personally in favor of getting rid of all Tutsi; without the Tutsi, she told ministers, all of Rwanda’s problems would be over.”

This past March, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide, Jacqueline Murekatete, spoke to a packed Lipkin Theatre as part of the Cohen Lecture Series in the Humanities. Growing up Tutsi in a predominantly Hutu country, Murekatete knew that her ethnic group was reviled. In schools, curricula designated Tutsis as enemies and undesirables. They were called “cockroaches” and “snakes.” People were taught to believe that being a Tutsi was a crime deserving of death. Tutsis were denied educational and occupational opportunities. Hutus could kill Tutsis with impunity.

THE HOPE!

With such a well-laid, seemingly successful “script” for murder on the grand scale, and those with a gift for dark oratory to appeal to the basest part of humankind, can we ever find a way to stop the insanity?

Murekatete believes we can. “People can resist genocide,” she
tells her audiences. “People always have the option to do the right thing.” Murekatete lost her parents, six siblings, a grandmother, and numerous aunts and uncles. But in the midst of hatred, she has known kindness as well. Her life was saved from the Hutu machetes by a caring Hutu family who hid her and her grandmother for as long as they could.

Perhaps we can have equal hope. It is an enormous mountain to climb, but step after slow step, there are those who are climbing it along with Murekatete.

Much of the cause must be fought at international levels, through such organizations as the International Criminal Court, an independent court supported by 105 countries that tries persons accused of crimes against humanity. And the World Court, which tries only nations themselves, not individuals. And the United Nations, that even supporters like Anastasakos believes “we need to strengthen, because it is obvious they totally failed in the case of Rwanda – and with Darfur, they are sitting on their hands and have never responded adequately.”

The students of Northampton Community College have heard the message and have taken up the cause, especially with fundraisers like charity rock shows and world music concerts. The money was donated to international humanitarian organizations such as the International Rescue Committee committed to helping the people of Darfur, and Miracle Corners of the World /Jacqueline’s Human Rights Corner, a genocide education and prevention organization founded by one of their inspirations, Jacqueline Murekatete.

But they know that raising funds is not enough. To end genocide, you need to bring people face to face with its horror; up front and personal. Who better to represent terror than the terrorized themselves. Ms. Murekatete’s words brought the message home in a powerful way. And last year, Benjamin Ajak, one of the so-called “lost boys of Sudan” spoke about how he and his cousins lost their parents and their homes at the age of 6 and were forced to live in refugee camps for several years before being able to come to the United States. Students on both campuses built on his presentation with an exhibit of wall art, depicting genocide throughout the 20th century, and a series, “Genocide in Film,” which also benefited the Genocide Refugee Fund, and student-produced plays and speakers like Tom Breslauer, a Holocaust survivor.

“It is especially our students,” Anastasakos says proudly, “with help from members of the College’s peace forum, and faculty and administrators across campus, who are making these things happen. As for the students, I can give them knowledge, but what they do with it – that’s the part I like – they decide. They have decided.”

Anastasakos is hopeful for the future. “ I am often a pessimist,” she says. “History makes you that. But I don’t want to be a pessimist. And really, I think education is key. What we try to do here [at NCC] when we teach diversity – not just tolerance of diversity, but respect and acceptance of diversity – is what we need more of. To recognize biases, get rid of them, and learn to respect and work and live together. But we must speak up. All it takes for evil to take over is for the good people to stay silent. We all have a big role to play. And have a long way to go.”

The 8 Stages of Genocide

In order to prevent genocide, we must first understand it. We must study and compare genocides and develop a working theory about its process. There are many Centers for the Study of Genocide that are doing that vital work.

But studying genocide is not enough. Our next task should be to create the international institutions and political will to prevent it.

1. Classification: All cultures have categories, putting people into “us and them” by ethnicity or race, etc. Bipolar societies, such as Rwanda and Burundi, are the most likely to have genocide. A search for common ground is crucial.

2. Symbolization: Classification and symbolization are human and don’t necessarily result in genocide, unless they lead to dehumanization. When combined with hatred, symbols may be forced upon members of pariah groups. If widely supported, denial of symbolization [swastikas, hate speech, tribal scarring, etc.] can be powerful.

3. Dehumanization: One group denies the humanity of another, equating it with animals or vermin. Dehumanization overcomes the normal revulsion against murder. Hate crimes and atrocities should be promptly punished. Inclusion to genocide, however, should not be confused with protected speech.

4. Organization: Genocide is always organized, by the state or informally, or by terrorist groups. Special militias are established. To combat this, membership in these militias should be outlawed and their leaders denied visas for foreign travel. The U.N. should impose arms embargoes.

5. Polarization: Extremists drive the groups apart. Hate groups broadcast propaganda. Laws may forbid social interaction. Prevention may mean security protection for moderate leaders or assistance to human rights groups. Assets of extremists may be seized, and visas denied.

6. Identification: Death lists are drawn up, victims identified. Members of victim groups are forced to wear identifying symbols, often segregated into ghettos or camps, or confined to a famine-struck region and starved. At this stage, a Genocide Alert must be called.

7. Extermination: The mass killing legally called “genocide”, or, to the killers, “extermination”, because they believe their victims are nonhuman. When sponsored by the state, the armed forces often work with militias. At this stage, only rapid and overwhelming armed intervention can stop genocide.

8. Denial: The eighth stage that always follows a genocide. It is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres. Evidence is covered up, witnesses intimidated, the crimes denied; the perpetrators continue to govern until driven from power by force. The response is punishment by international tribunal or national courts.

Culled from How We Can Prevent Genocide, by Dr. Gregory H. Stanton, President, Genocide Watch. For the full text, go to: www.genocidewatch.org/HOWWECANPREVENTGENOCIDE.htm
Accounting
1997 Cara Reitbauer is an inventory clerk at International Polymers Corporation in Allentown. She and her husband, Louis, live in Allentown and have a son, Michael. ▲

1994 Jennifer Flory is a stay-at-home mom with her three children: Sabrina, Jase and Paige. She and her husband, Mark, live in Fort Wayne, Ind. ▲

Advertising Design
1990 Celia Strouse of Bethlehem is a senior creative specialist at Motorola in Horsham. She also received a computer graphics diploma in 1999 at NCC. ▲

Architectural Technology
1989 Mark Stettler of Mount Sinai, N.Y., is a principal architect/CEO of Vector Architecture and Design Services, P.C. in Mount Sinai. He received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Wentworth Institute of Technology in 2002. ▲

Automotive Technology

Business Administration
1982 Matthew DiVietro and Karen Marie Nodoline of Forks Township were married on October 6th at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Catholic Church in Palmer Township. Matthew is employed with Supervalu.

1995 Janice Muland of Nazareth received a bachelor’s degree from Kutztown University. She is a senior reimbursement analyst at St. Luke’s Hospital & Health Network in Bethlehem. Janice has one child, Christina. ▲

1993 Roger DeBlois of Salem, Va., is the lead engineer of nuclear controls at General Electric in Salem. He received a bachelor’s degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic in 2003. ▲

2000 Omar Bandar of Cambridge, Mass., has worked for the Mayor of Cambridge, where he was a project manager for city initiatives, including social justice efforts, an international biotechnology project and management over a crime and public safety task force. Most recently, he represented the mayor’s office as part of a public diplomacy delegation to the City of Bethlehem in the West Bank, Palestine. ▲

2002 Rachel Thomas of Phillipsburg, N.J., is continuing her studies in accounting at Kutztown University. Her internships include Herbein & Co. and WTAS, LLC both working in tax accounting. ▲

2003 Tiffany Culp of Easton is the store manager for Walgreens in Lansdale.

Business Management
2000 John Rich and Sarah Cannon were married on October 6th at the First United Methodist Church in Somerville, N.J. John is employed by Sotheby’s in New York, N.Y. The couple lives in New Providence, N.J.

CIT – Networking
2005 Daniel Hart recently returned to the Lehigh Valley from Las Vegas. Following his graduation, Daniel moved to Vegas and was employed by the Clark County School District installing computers. He now lives in Walnutport and in 2007 reenrolled in Northampton’s Paralegal and Communications programs.

CIT – Software
2002 Tracy Taylor of continued on page 37
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Attend a book discussion, page through our 72,000 volumes in print, browse the internet ... visit campus. www.northampton.edu/office/library

Hours: Mon – Thurs: 7:45 am – 10 pm, Fri: 7:45 am – 5 pm, Sat: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Sun: 1 pm – 8 pm

Keeping the Connection
www.northampton.edu/alumni
"THE RESTAURANT OF choice was Walps," Kostas Kalogeropoulos says of his first days in the Lehigh Valley, "and there were cornfields everywhere."

It was 1981, and the hotelier, entrepreneur and businessman had come to the area to build the Sheraton Jetport near then-named "Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Airport." Kalogeropoulos was commuting from an apartment in New York City and before that had been overseeing world-class properties in Amsterdam, Nairobi, Athens and Paris. As work on the Jetport neared completion, the native of Athens, Greece, looked around and realized something important. "I had fallen in love with the Lehigh Valley," he recalls. "I knew this would be my home."

Nearly 30 years later, the world-traveling Kalogeropoulos is among the region’s most well-known and respected citizens. Still a leader with Meyer Jabara Hotels, the same company he joined in 1981 so that he could stay in the area. Kalogeropoulos now serves the firm as senior executive vice president. "We only had two hotels back then," he says. "Today, we are in 14 states with more than two dozen hotels and over 4,000 employees. We grew like the Lehigh Valley."

Kalogeropoulos is no longer involved with day-to-day hospitality services, but his office remains located inside one of the company’s Lehigh Valley properties. "I could work from anywhere," he admits, "but I like the atmosphere of a living, breathing hotel." His work is focused primarily on the company’s growth. "Not the operation of today," he explains, "but the operation for tomorrow." At the same time, Kalogeropoulos remains focused on a bigger picture.

"It’s all about service," he says. "Service is a desire. Not just a skill" And clearly, it is in the makeup of this man to serve.

Within the tourism industry, Kostas is known as a leader both in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. He’s served as chairman for the ITT Sheraton Mid-Atlantic Region, as director for the Lehigh Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation. He’s been a U.S. congressional advisor for tourism and now serves on the board of governors for the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority, which oversees the same Lehigh Valley International Airport that drew Kalogeropoulos’s first hotel venture to the Lehigh Valley so many years ago.

Additionally, the list of community boards, organizations and charities that Kalogeropoulos supports with time, generosity and hands-on work would stretch the length of a hotel lobby. They include Northampton Community College, where Kostas served on the hospitality industry advisory board. During NCC’s “Promises to Keep” campaign, he established an endowed scholarship fund for students enrolled in Northampton’s culinary arts and hospitality programs.

“It is very easy to get started in the hospitality business," says Kalogeropoulos. "That’s why 90 percent of your Hollywood actors and actresses have worked in restaurants."
Kostas’s service goes well beyond the tourism industry. Touched by a story he overheard in a hotel restaurant, he started the wish-granting organization “Dream Come True” in 1984 and then “Camelot for Children” in 1987. Both of these local charities help children facing chronic and terminal illnesses. In 1993, he started the “Spirit of Lehigh Valley” Christmas Eve dinner, which provides a great holiday meal every year for more than 3,000 of the area’s less fortunate residents.

In 2006, Kostas pulled local community leaders together to build a “Miracle League Baseball Field” near Schnecksville so that children with disabilities could play ball. “Once you get into this charity business,” explains Kalogeropoulos, who was named Lehigh Valley Philanthropist of the Century in 2000, “it never stops.”

Besides, he adds, offering a final, quick insight that is supposed to be about the community that Kalogeropoulos calls home but might just as well be about himself. “This Lehigh Valley, it is filled with very kind, very generous people. Everybody is helping everybody else. That’s how things get done.”

Bethlehem graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in Management of Information Technology from DeSales University in May 2007. She is employed at PPL Corporation as a technologist in the workstation design group.

**Computer Info Technology**

2006 Marc Burritt of Bethlehem is an account manager at Cooper Electric Supply Company in Phillipsburg, N.J.

2007 Doreen Thorsen of East Stroudsburg is a computer programmer at Picatinny Arsenal in Picatinny, N.J.

**Computer Science**

2006 Jason Robertson and Heather Conger of Bangor were married in October at Cherry Valley United Methodist Church. Jason is employed by Sears in Whitehall.

**Criminal Justice**

2006 Marirose Statler of Easton is a retail sales representative for Mobile Pros in Easton.

**Data Processing**

1981 Alan Paul is a capacity and planning analyst at Fiserv, Inc. in Philadelphia. He and his wife, Ruthy, live in Atco, N.J.

**Dental Hygiene**

1980 Roberta Dowlesky of Minersville is a staff attorney for the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court in Pottsville. She received a J. D. from Widener School of Law in 2001 and a bachelor’s degree from Penn State University in 1998.

1988 Mary Grace Rugh of Shillington is the proud grandmother of seven grandchildren: Emily, Meredith, Calvin, Kayla, Olivia, Abigail and Zeno. She has three children, David, Kelli and Kevin.

2007 Mae Sullivan of Shillington is a registered dental hygienist at Dr. Miller Family Practice in West Reading.

**Design Technology/CAD**

1987 Shelly Christman of Kempton is an assistant project manager at The Whiting Turner Contracting Company in Allentown.

**Early Childhood Education**

1990 Jennifer Bower of Wilmington, Del. is a speech and language pathologist at Pediatric Therapeutic Services. She received a master’s degree from Wilmington College and a bachelor’s degree from Kutztown.

2000 Michelle Sabatino of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Roseto. Michelle is attending East Stroudsburg University and is employed with Colonial Intermediate Unit 20.

**Engineering**

1970 Thomas Adams and his wife, Mary Kathryn, live in Nazareth and have one child. He received a bachelor’s degree from Penn State University.

**Funeral Service**

1989 Edward Chaklos is manager of the Howard-Price Funeral Home in North Palm Beach, Fla. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Port Saint Lucie, Fla. Edward has two stepsons, Zachary and Jacob, and a daughter, Ava.

2005 Diana Belau of Cary, N.C. received a bachelor’s degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2005 and an associate’s degree at Durham Tech Community College in 2006.

**Nursing**

2005 Catherine Burton is a community resource coordinator at Avita Community Partners in Demorest, Ga. She and her husband, Derek, live in Mount Airy, Ga. and have one son, Gavin.

2005 Diana Belau of Cary, N.C. received a bachelor’s degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2005 and an associate’s degree at Durham Tech Community College in 2006.

**Nursing**

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Always HOME

The payoff of perseverance  By James L. Johnson '89

Hatice at Ester, the software company where she works – in her first home of Turkey.

Homer's Heroes Sailed

The Aegean Sea that bounds it on the west. The Black Sea to the north, some argue, was born in the deluge that threatened Noah and his Ark. This is Eskisehir, on the Anatolian Plateau of Turkey, founded in 3,500 BC, and one of the oldest settlements of the region.

Close by runs the Silk Road, the famous trade route that first spanned continents, over 5,000 years ago, connecting China with ancient Egypt and imperial Rome.

Hatice Adar was raised here. She spent her childhood under the same unblinking sun, looking out on the same roads those caravans snaked along on their way through Istanbul, Konya, Ankara. Eskisehir is her land, her people and her culture.

How easy it would be to stay here, the land of her family and her ancestors; where the language fits like the air she breathes, and the air itself shimmers with history, with tradition; here, where she is always home.

Yet, even the oldest lands must face change. Today, Eskisehir is a hub of industry where technology skills and advanced degrees are as much in demand as in the rest of the world. “In 1989, I came to the U.S., to Bethlehem, for the first time,” Adar '95 says about her new, second home. “I was 23 years old, and I was newly married.” Her husband, Nihat, had come to study for his doctorate in education at Lehigh University. Adar, a fourth-year student of electrical engineering at Turkey’s Anadolu University, quit school to come with him.

Although Adar never planned to give up on her education, starting life in a new land brought more changes than she had anticipated.

Hatice Adar was raised "Everybody was saying, 'You should stop your education', but I closed my ears to all of that." to married life and making new friends. It was all very exciting, but all of it was hard for me. My first year in Bethlehem, my brain was very busy with emotion.” And then, on the first anniversary of her marriage, Adar was handed yet another exciting change that, while happy, posed another possible obstacle to her education: “I had my first baby on August 5, 1990; 365 days after I got married.”

But Adar was determined. She had already begun at NCC with an ESL course and an English writing II course, while at the same time pushing ahead with another English course at Liberty High School and attending classes with the Bethlehem South Side Library Tutoring Service. “I still wanted to go to college,” she says. “I wanted my degree. But it was hard. Everybody was saying, ‘You should stop your education’, but I closed my ears to all of that. Stopping my education would have been an inexcusable mistake.”

Because, in 1990, Anadolu University would
not accept credits she might earn in the United States, Adar decided on an associate degree at NCC in Computer Information Systems, the closest she could come to the engineering studies she had pursued in Turkey. Her husband worked a part-time job to pay her college tuition and arranged his schedules to be home with the baby while she attended school in the evenings.

It took her five years, but in 1995, Adar graduated from Northampton with her degree in CIS. With Nihat’s Ph.D. in hand, the couple returned to Eskisehir. Today, with her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration/Business Management from Anadolu University, Adar is a corporate solutions manager at the Ester Company, a software company in mobile communications; her husband works at Eskisehir Osmangazi University.

They have one daughter and one son, “I have a good story to tell my children about success in life,” she says, “in spite of all the barriers.” But in her success, Adar has also learned that not everything does change. She thinks of the friends she made along that new, personal route she forged and one linking her to the West – and she reflects on how “some memories are unforgettable, even if you live over the ocean.”

2002 James Connell, Jr., and Angela Piazza of Bethlehem were married in September at St. Anne’s Catholic Church in Bethlehem. James received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Wilkes University. He is employed with the Connell Funeral Home.

2003 Laura Dixon of Parkesburg is proud to announce the birth of her daughter, Akayla Mariah Towles on January 4, weighing 6 lbs., 7 oz.

2005 Jeffrey Hoelzel

is a funeral director at the Schisler Funeral Home in Northampton. He and his wife, Michelle, live in Treshtown and have three children, Timothy, Ryan and Madison.

2005 Gladyse Nigrone of Catasauqua is a licensed salesperson at Weichert Realtors in Allentown. For 18 years prior, Gladys was a legal assistant/tort liability specialist for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

1980 Richard Farris is a director at SKF USA, Inc. in Kulpsville. Richard and his wife, Mary, live in Coopersburg with their son, Gregory. He received a bachelor’s degree from Bloomsburg University.

General Studies
1994 Wanda Fontanez of Bethlehem is a care coordinator at 1199 National Benefit Funds in New York, N.Y.

Interior Design
1986 Tammy Ferguson of Bethlehem received a bachelor’s degree from DeSales University in 2001.

1992 Shannon Will is a furniture sales representative at Facility & Design Resource in Spring City. Shannon and her husband, Ted, live in Lancaster and have three children, Madison, Theodore and Adam.

Liberal Arts
1994 Zanetta Worthy is a social worker for the State of New Jersey since 1996 in the Department of Law and Public Safety. She and her husband, Robert Groff, live in Easton.

1995 Joel Cortes of Mechanicsburg is a human resources analyst for the PA Department of Insurance in Harrisburg. He received a bachelor’s degree from Penn State University in 1998.

1996 Pauline (Rice) Ribau and her husband, Manny, have recently opened their own business, Pretzel Twister, in the Coventry Mall. They live in Bethlehem.

Medical Administrative Assistant
2005 Lynn Annaoi of Whitehall is very excited to announce that she has a supporting role in Darren Aronofsky’s upcoming film “The Wrestler” starring Mickey Rourke. She will also be moving to Florida in June.

2007 Benita Schafer of Matamoras is a certified surgical technician at the Community Medical Center in Scranton.

Office Administration
2002 Susan Vierheilig of Northampton is a legal secretary at Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin in Bethlehem.

Photography
1995 Scott Strello of Santa Monica, Calif. is employed by Computer Sciences Corporation in El Segundo, Calif. He also received a diploma in filmless imaging at NCC in 1997.

1988 Lisa Hunter of Los Angeles, Calif. is a visitor services lead at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

Practical Nursing
1978 Vickie Schwartz is an emergency department nurse at the Community Medical Center in Scranton. She received a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Penn State University in 2007 and an ADN from Penn State University in 2005. Vickie and her husband, Charles Keefer, live in Clarks Summit and have two children, Tara and Joshua.
IT WAS 1969. BARELY 21 years old and returning to the United States from Southeast Asia as a veteran of the Vietnam War, Robert Reddy ’71 was unsure of his place in the world and the path his future would take.

“I needed to figure out whether or not I wanted to be a soldier for the rest of my life.” recalls Reddy, a former Palmer Township resident.

So Reddy left the Army and enrolled at Northampton Community College. He joined the student council and was president of the student senate. Reddy says he majored in business administration and “making trouble.”

Reddy progressed through the Army and became commander of the Second Battalion in the 26th Infantry. He served time in Somalia, Grenada, and during Desert Storm, before commanding the Army Training Support Center as a colonel.

“And then immediately after 9/11, I went away again,” Reddy notes. “I was retired from the Army three times and recalled back to active duty twice. I had reached my mandatory retirement date, so they would retire me, and then the next day they would call me back to active duty. We did that twice, and then we sat down and said this is getting rather silly. They retired me a third time, so I took two days off, and I came back as a government civilian.”

Now 60 years old and no longer a colonel on active duty, Reddy remains with the Army as a deputy division chief for strategic planning at Fort Monroe in Virginia. In his current position, he is part of a team that is charged with developing the concepts and vision of the Army 25 years from now.

“Much of the job is envisioning what war will look like a quarter of a century into the future. As Reddy says, the dynamics of war on one level—the strategies and operations—have changed fundamentally over the past 15 years. ‘We aren’t fighting nations any more; we are fighting what we call non-state actors.’

Addressing these new threats is becoming extraordinarily difficult, Reddy explains, so the Army has shifted from the threat-based Army of old to a capability-based organization.

“We define those capabilities by looking into a crystal ball and trying to identify what kinds of threats there will be to our safety and security. Based on that stargazing, we come up with plans and programs to reorganize and restructure the Army. It’s very hard work and it’s almost impossible to get right.”

At the same time, Reddy’s team also provides support to the Army that is fighting the global war on terrorism. Although retired from active duty, his job still takes him to the front lines. In February, Reddy was in Tikrit and Mosul in Iraq, working with two battalions that were involved in convoy operations. He was trying to help the forces develop a better system of identifying improvised
explosive devices, and, for Reddy, it was fulfilling work. Asked if he is more comfortable on the frontlines or at Fort Monroe, Reddy doesn’t hesitate.

“I am comfortable being a soldier, where ever soldiers are,” he states proudly. “It’s a profession that is the ugliest and the dirtiest and the nastiest profession that man could think about, on one hand, but because you are a part of a Band of Brothers, it’s probably one of the finest, most honorable, most rewarding professions.”

To this day, he sees a lot in common between the people he met at Northampton Community College and those with whom he serves in the Army. “Northampton Community College is for real people who didn’t grow up with silver spoons in their mouths,” Reddy says. “It is for people who are grounded in reality of what it takes to live in a complicated world and have a commitment to bettering themselves.”

“Harvard is a special place, and Yale is a special place, but the truly special places that are the heart and soul, if you will, are places like Northampton Community College because the people who go there are the ones that will contribute more relative to their ability than the average person who goes to some of these other schools.”

Want proof of what someone can contribute? Just look at the illustrious military career of Robert Reddy.

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1998 Barbara Schia- vone of Stroudsburg is a pediatric nurse in the Stroudsburg Area School District. ♦

Radiography

1993 Joan Wilson
of Richmond, Va. is a mammographer at Henrico Doctors’ Hospital in Richmond. ▲

2003 Angela DiCirola
of East Stroudsburg is an x-ray/ MRI/dexa technician at Advanced Radiology Services. ♦

2006 Danielle Kerle
of Lakeville, N.J. is a registered nurse at Sanofi Pasteur. She has been employed at Sanofi Pasteur for the past 19 years. She is the Deputy Director of Medical Information Services.

2006 Jim Rommens
of Allentown is working as a transfer center coordinator at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown for the critical care triage’s three hospital sites. She received a master’s degree from the University of St. Francis in 2007 and a bachelor’s degree from the University of St. Francis in 2005. Michele lives in Northampton and has two children, Jason and Alison and two grandchildren, Emily and Jared. ♦

1981 Diane Frankenfield of Scottsdale, Ariz. is employed as a med/surg nurse at John C. Lincoln, Deer Valley Hospital in Phoenix, Ariz. She is also a substitute school nurse in the Paradise Valley School District. Diane is currently attending Grand Canyon University, pursing a bachelor’s degree in nursing.

1988 Katharine Clark
is a staff nurse at St. Luke’s Hospital in Allentown. She received a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Villanova University. Katharine and her husband, Richard, live in Easton. ▲

1994 Lois Lawrence
of Palm Bay, Fla. is a registered nurse at Fresenius Medical Care North America in Melbourne, Fla. ●

1994 Donna Schaarschmidt
of Bangor is working fulltime in labor and delivery at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, N.J. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wyoming in 2005. Donna also received an LPN certificate from NCC in 1987.

2003 Nicole Pedrick
of Alburtes has been employed as an operating room nurse at Lehigh Valley Hospital Cedar Crest since graduating in 2003.

2005 Nicole Wernett
is a nurse supervisor at HCR Manor Care in Bethlehem.

She and her husband, Tim, live in Nazareth. ♦

Sport Management

1999 Heather Kreiger
of Catasauqua is an account manager at Infonxx in Bethlehem. ♦

2001 Stevi Tomaszewski
Doran of Douglassville received a bachelor’s degree in sport management from York College in 2003. After gradu-
A Lifetime Loving Books

the librarian of DUNEDIN

Magic in the medieval manuscripts  By Paul Acampora & Meghan Decker

How does a Northampton Community College graduate end up as a librarian managing one of New Zealand’s largest collections of rare books, medieval manuscripts, antiquarian bibles and historical ephemera?

“I wanted the challenge and experience of working overseas,” says Anthony Tedeschi, Rare Books Librarian at the Dunedin Public Library in Dunedin, New Zealand. “And I always admired tweed jackets,” he adds. “Perhaps that has something to do with it.”

Tedeschi grew up in Butler, N.J., and graduated from NCC in 1997 with an associate degree in liberal arts. “I highly doubt I would be where I am today had I not taken those first steps at Northampton,” he says.

“I had professors like Earl Page who brought history to life. He turned it into a living, breathing topic full of stories stranger than fiction. English professors Jim Benner and Len Roberts exposed me to great books. They taught me how to find the meaning behind those stories and critically review them. Geography Professor Doug Heath opened my eyes to a wider world. He showed me how the U.S. interconnects with other countries. He also taught me to be wary of accepting blind faith in maps!”

Tedeschi knows about maps. From Northampton, he transferred to Rutgers University where he earned his B.A. in geography. “Ninety-eight percent of the courses I took at NCC qualified for the general education requirements at Rutgers,” Tedeschi says. “This meant that the majority of my courses [at Rutgers] were in my major, allowing me to truly focus.”

During his senior year at Rutgers, Tedeschi decided upon librarianship as a career. “I was very organized as a child,” Tedeschi admits. “As far back as I can remember, my books or CDs were always alphabetized.” It is likely, however, that Anthony’s love of books was the true deciding factor in his career choice.

“My future as a librarian was definitely influenced by spending a lot of time at the local public library in Butler. I had chronic asthma as a child. I was unable to do much during the summer months, so I spent a lot of time at the library devouring all the books I could.”

After Rutgers, Anthony traveled to Indiana University where he earned a master’s degree in library science, with a specialization in rare books and manuscripts. Following stints in I.U.’s rare books and special collections library, Tedeschi saw his current position while browsing the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Web site. “I thought, ‘Why not apply? You have nothing to lose.’”

As a result, Tedeschi now manages a collection of nearly 20,000 items on behalf of the community served by the Dunedin Public Library. It is clear that he takes great pleasure in the work. “There is something magical about being able to examine and touch a book that is over 500 years old,” Tedeschi says, “one that is completely crafted by hand. The text and the parchment it was written upon, the decoration and illumination, and the binding were all prepared by hand.”
And sharing the work is equally rewarding. “Patrons love to see the medieval manuscripts up close,” according to Tedeschi. “They react greatest to the gold illumination on some of the manuscripts and the vibrancy of the colors, which have held up over the centuries.”

Anthony’s is clearly a life that has been marked by a love for books. In fact, it was a book that led him to Northampton. “I was working in a bookstore,” he recalls, “and two nuns from a local Catholic prep school came in to order guides to two-year and four-year colleges for their school library. When the order arrived, I picked up the guide to two-year schools and began to look at what was available in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Northampton had a good review, and the fact that it had the unusual feature of offering housing appealed to me. The college experience is best spent away from home.” Or perhaps the college experience is a home away from home.

Today, Tedeschi is learning about making a home in New Zealand. “I have been trying to get into rugby and cricket,” he says. “I was having coffee at a café one morning and watching a cricket match on the tellie. The wailer was kind enough to try and explain the basics. When he mentioned the point in the match when the players break for lunch, I could only respond ‘there’s a lunch!’”

Jeffrey Allen Bartges, husband of NCC nursing faculty member, Mali Bartges, passed away in May. Jeff earned a bachelor of arts degree in English literature and literary criticism from Temple University, and also a juris doctor from Temple’s School of Law.

He practiced law for 25 years and believed that law is a ministry when justice prevails. A loving husband and father of four, Jeff will be missed by all who knew him.

Kevin F. Bendzlowicz, a 1979 graduate of Northampton in practical nursing, passed away in April. Kevin was a firefighter and an E.M.T. with the Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company; and a retired nurse. Kevin will be missed by his family and many friends.

Franka Bray-Neith, the daughter of Bonnie and Don Bray, head of Northampton’s automotive program, passed away in April. She received an associate degree in education from NCC in 1992. In her battle with cancer, Franka was an inspiration, never dwelling on her difficulties, but embracing her life. Franka will be missed by her loving family, by her many friends, and by her two faithful dogs, Hemingway and Winslow.

Bertha F. Cohen, a longtime supporter and friend of Northampton Community College, passed away in April. She was devoted to her family, and was a businesswoman, community leader and philanthropist. After operating family jewelry stores in the Lehigh Valley for over 20 years, she and her late husband, Bernie, founded Piercing Pagoda, Inc. in 1968. An activist and humanitarian, Mrs. Cohen’s philanthropy impelled her to co-sponsor with her husband the Cohen Arts and Lecture Series at Northampton. She will be missed, not only by her family, but by the many friends she made across the world, in our community, and certainly here at Northampton.

Lynn Albert Correll, who received his electrician’s certification at Northampton, passed away in March. Lynn was employed by Industrial Engraving and Dixie Cup. Lynn will be missed by his wife, Patricia, his sons and family.

Janice L. Kibler passed away in February. Janice earned an associates degree in library science from Northampton in 1973. She worked for the Pennsylvania Unemployment Office in Bethlehem. Janice will be missed by her husband, William, and her daughters, son and family.

Gwendolynn “Gwen” Joy Michael passed away in March. In addition to an associate degree from Northampton in 1979, Gwen held a BFA from the New York School of Interior Design. Gwen was the husband of John Michael, a long-time professor of architecture at Northampton, and served as adjunct professor at the College as well. The couple celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary last December. She will be missed by her husband, her daughter and her many friends.

James Edward Mory passed away in March. James attended NCC (1999), and was employed as a computer programmer at Berkheimer Outsourcing. He served in the Air Force during Operation Desert Storm. James and his wife, Denise, celebrated their sixth anniversary in August.

Carol Parent, who worked for the past seven years in the College’s records office, passed away in February. Her husband, the late Wayne Parent Sr., died in 2004.

Before coming to Northampton, Carol worked for Surefit Products, in Bethlehem. Her many friends and co-workers will miss her “warmth and friendly encouragement.”

Andrew C. Roos passed away in March. An avid reader, Andrew was a volunteer for Redprint at Northampton Community College. He will be missed by his family and his wife, Erika, with whom he celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary last June.

Thomas R. Santanasto passed away in March. Tom graduated Phi Theta Kappa from NCC in 1998, and was later a writer in its public information office. Tom loved music and was considered to be one of the best trumpet players in the Lehigh Valley. Tom’s many friends will miss his laughter and his warm smile.

Edward Eddie Paul Williams passed away in March. In addition to classes at Northampton, Ed also attended Mansfield University. He was the only pitcher in Bangor High School history to throw a no-hitter. Ed is remembered as a friend to every dog he met. He will be missed by his wife, Joanne, and by his family.
The Fast Pace Of Serving Food

the playground of GOOD EATING

With “players” well fed, and loyal  By Sharon Jones Zondag

Billy, hard at work on the “playground.”

“THE SUN SHINES ON everyone” is just one of the many wisdoms Billy Kounoupis ’83 of Billy’s Downtown Diner has gained over the years. From his window on the world of downtown Bethlehem, Billy and his wife, Yanna, have run a restaurant that gathers patrons from all corners of our community. Their customers come for breakfast and camaraderie, lunch and a meeting, coffee and negotiations. But more than this, they come to a place where Billy and his staff know their names and how they like their omelets.

In a world where we look for heroes, Billy Kounoupis grew up with a hero at home: his father. From the earliest age, he remembers aspiring to be like his dad. A Greek family, his father Pete came to America from Sparta, working in the Key City Diner in Phillipsburg, N.J., as a dishwasher. He could not speak or write English, but knew that he “could steal with his eyes,” and learn the skills of the chef he so desired to be.

Pete achieved his dream by watching other, accomplished chefs, and by saving his money; he went on to own and successfully operate The K Diner, still open today as The City Diner, in Easton. With a unique blend of the Greek and Mediterranean cuisine he knew and loved and the Pennsylvania Dutch menu he anticipated his clienteles would expect, the restaurant thrived.

It was not until the loss of his dad that Billy, working with his uncles to run the family restaurant, came to love the pace and the excitement of the business. Yet, college remained an ambition. In a world where love, loyalty and family mean all, Northampton Community College offered Billy an opportunity to work toward his degree and still live at home. NCC was flexible, affordable and, in Billy’s words, “a blessing.”

Today he calls Billy’s Downtown Diner “his playground,” and the innovative menu changes he and his wife make several times throughout the year reflect both their creativity and the ideas and inspirations of their loyal customers. A restaurateur with imagination, Billy calls his cuisine “comfort food with flair.”

The sold out cooking demonstration Billy gave in 2007 at The Fowler Family Center on NCC’s Southside campus was a showcase for classic Greek dishes Billy learned both at home from mother Georgia and during his 25-plus trips to Greece. From a modern spanikopita to saghanaki, the audience was enthralled. The flurry of e-mails and letters he received after the class spoke volumes about the audience’s reaction and their desire to take away a cooking tip or two, to “steal with their eyes,” the magic of Billy’s Downtown Diner.

Billy credits his success to the good advice he’s had throughout his life and to the hard work he and his wife and family have invested in the business. The Billy-Cristo and the Venetian Sandwich share the contents page of Billy’s first cookbook, Not Your Ordinary Cookbook, with the Downtown wrap and the Opa Omelet (that’s Opa, as in the Greek word for “cheers,” often said before a meal of celebration). It’s an eclectic offering that keeps the restaurant filled from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week with a local and loyal following of patrons, who don’t need a street address when someone suggests: “Let’s have breakfast at Billys.”

PHOTO BY RANDY MONCEAUX
Animals hold a special place in the hearts of people around the world. Early in the spring semester, Pulitzer-prize winning photographer Carol Guzy ’77, who took her first photography class at NCC, returned to campus to talk about her experiences photographing animals caught in the fury of Hurricane Katrina. No one who heard her speak or saw her photographs left unmoved. Here is part of what she had to say. You can read more and see additional images on NCC’s news site: http://northampton.edu/news/topstories/carolguzy.htm.

Katrina’s rampage left in its wake lives shattered, thriving communities reduced to ghost towns and precious mementos scattered amid the debris. Family photographs spoke poignantly of the touchstones of life — graduations, weddings and birthday celebrations. In many homes, the display included a tenderly framed image of the beloved family pet.

The tragedy’s most silent of victims were the animals. Thousands of them were abandoned when archaic policy forbade residents to evacuate with their pets. People left food and water believing they would return in a few days. Some pets were left behind when helicopters plucked their owners from rooftops or when buses and boats refused to take companion animals. Others were tied to posts or locked in bathrooms with no hope of survival. Some were shot to death. Many perished in the floodwaters or died of thirst, hunger or disease. The ones who made it through the storm swam in endless circles in the surreal landscape that was once New Orleans or waited patiently on their own destroyed porches for family that never returned.

The largest rescue effort in U.S. history ensued. A realization emerged from the chaos acknowledging the primal depth of the human/animal bond. Sacrificing pets did not save people. Volunteers came from across the country. Average folks became heroes — a firefighter from New York who lived through the terrorist attacks on September 11, a housewife from Minnesota, an antique dealer from Nebraska, a nurse from Baton Rouge. Power struggles and controversies plagued the groups, but the common thread was the welfare of the helpless, voiceless creatures that touched their hearts.

“"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." — Mahatma Gandhi

Tears flowed every day: Tears of sorrow at the pitiful sight of an injured dog’s eyes still filled with trust. Tears of joy streaming down the face of a young boy tenderly reunited with his pooch. And tears of loss: enough to fill a broken levee.

Heidi Bright Butler

[Image of photographs by Carol Guzy]