ON THE COMMONS



The Northeastern Pennsylvania phase of the 1992 Annual Fund was launched Jan. 17 with a reception for volunteers. This year's campaign has a record \$1 million goal. From left are University President Rev. J.A. Panuska, S.J.; Marie Trovato, Annual Fund director; and general co-chairpersons John E., '68, and Cynthia Brennan, Old Tappan, N.J.; and Lynda and Edward J. Lynett Jr., '65, Clarks Summit.

AIDS Awareness Week Set for May 4-9

The University will hold its first AIDS Awareness Week from May 4-9 to foster understanding and compassion for those who have contracted the HIV virus. A committee of students and the University's AIDS Education Committee have planned various activities throughout the week.

"Our goal is to begin, in careful consideration of Catholic doctrine, the educational process of heightening awareness and knowledge of AIDS," said James T. Bryan, Ed.D., vice president for student affairs. "We need to make issues surrounding AIDS/HIV talkable on this campus. There are medical, moral and social implications. An appropriate educational effort has to give people the opportunity to make critical and informed decisions about their behavior."

One of the main components of AIDS Awareness Week will be a display of a portion of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. The Quilt consists of 3' x 6' panels made by friends and family members of people who have died from AIDS. To date there are more than 14,000 panels from every U.S. state and 26 foreign countries, covering an area the size of eight football fields.

A section of the Quilt will be on display in the John Long Center throughout the week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday evenings until 8 p.m. The Northeast Support Network, a local group of people whose lives have somehow been affected by the AIDS

crisis, is making panels to be added to the Quilt and others are also invited to submit a panel for a specific loved one.

Henry Nicols, an 18-year-old hemophiliac who acquired the HIV virus through a blood transfusion, will speak on Wednesday, May 6, at 8 p.m. in the Long Center. His lecture, which is open to the public at no charge, will deal with "Living With AIDS." Following the talk, a candlelight vigil will be held on the Commons.

Students and members of University Health Services, Campus Ministry and the nursing department will present awareness programs in the residence halls. The program will go beyond medical information to include discussions about relationships, communication, substance and moral issues.

University Health Services will offer free, confidential HIV testing for students. The tests will be administered by the state Department of Public Health, including pre- and post-test counseling.

The AIDS Awareness Week Committee is conducting various fundraising activities and seeking donations to cover the cost of bringing the Quilt to campus and to provide a donation to the Northeast Support Network, a local support group for people with HIV infection and AIDS and their loved ones.

The public is invited to participate in all AIDS Awareness Week events.

Yolanda King Highlights Black History Month

Yolanda King, eldest daughter of Coretta Scott King and the late Martin Luther King Jr., spoke at the University in February. Her appearance was part of the Student Government lecture series "The Faces Behind the Issues and The Issues Behind the Faces" in conjunction with the observance of Black History Month.

Ms. King's lecture/ performance blended poetry, prose and dramatic monologues focusing on the theme "A Dream Deferred."

She serves on the board of directors for the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change Inc., and directs the center's Cultural Affairs Program.

In a related event, the University participated in an African-American Writer's Conference at Keystone Junior College. The theme of the daylong conference was "Succeeding Despite the Struggle."

For Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January, the University hosted an ecumenical service featuring students, University officials and members of the community. The Rev. Richard Cox, pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Scranton, was the guest speaker.

English Facility with Three Theaters to be Built

The University's English department will soon have a new home in a \$4.25 million facility that will include two indoor theaters, an outdoor theater, classrooms, labs, offices and meeting space. Construction of the three-story building is scheduled to begin this spring and be completed in the summer of 1993.

The over 30,000 sq. ft., L-shaped building will be located at Linden Street and Monroe Avenue on the site of the former Lackawanna County Juvenile Detention Center.

A major feature of the building will be a theater designed by consultant Roger Morgan of New York City together with the project's architect, Leung, Hemmler and Camayd of Scranton. It will be capable of seating over 350 people on the main floor and balconies, while still maintaining an intimate setting.

"A main danger when you put students on a stage is that it can dwarf them," said Stephen E. Whittaker, Ph.D., associate professor of English. "Even though this theater can seat over 350 people, the people farthest from the stage are only nine rows back. It will be so intimate."

In addition to accommodating theater productions, the building will include several features to support the department's writing track. It will have a computer writing and instruction lab, a seminar room and an office for the student literary magazine, *Esprit*. It will also have a small screening room for film courses.