

 Obituaries

James A. Conway, retired UB professor

James Arthur Conway, 74, of Siesta Key, Fla., and West Hartford, Conn., and formerly of Amherst, a retired University at Buffalo professor, died Thursday, June 28, 2007.

Born in Bronxville, N.Y., he was raised in Riverdale and graduated from Fordham Preparatory School and then the University at Albany in 1954. He received a master's degree in school administration from Columbia University in 1955. He then entered the Army, serving with the counter-intelligence corps in Japan. Returning from the United States, he taught eighth-grade mathematics at the Benjamin Franklin Junior High School in Yonkers.

In 1963, he received the first earned doctorate to be awarded by UB. During the last year of his doctoral program, he was acting principal of Saratoga Springs Junior High, where he met his future wife, Linda Hyde. They were married in 1963 and moved to Buffalo.

Mr. Conway first taught for Buffalo State College, then in 1967, joined UB's faculty in educational administration. In his stay at UB, he authored several books and numerous articles focusing on various aspects of leadership in education.



Conway

He had been a visiting professor at the University of Miami; Didsbury College, England; the University College, Galway, Ireland; the Principal's Center at Harvard University; and was a consultant at Oxford University, England.

Mr. Conway was a life member of Phi Delta Kappa, the Edward Eldred Potter Club, AERA, an executive committee member of the University Council for Educational Administration, the Great Debate Society of UB, and the Erie-Niagara School Superintendent Association.

He was a communicant at Christ the King Church in Snyder, Newman Center at UB, and St. Michael the Archangel Church in Siesta Key. His wood carving skills were exhibited in shows in Florida and in homes of family and friends. He was also an avid gardener.

Mr. Conway is survived by his wife of 44 years, Linda Hyde; three sons, Dr. James of Madison, Wis., Matthew of West Hartford, Conn., and Christopher of Chicago; two sisters, Betty Ricciardi of Croton, N.Y., and Barbara Burchell of Riverdale, N.J.; and six grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 7 at the Newman Center at UB, 495 Skinnersville Road, Amherst.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Newman Center at the University at Buffalo.

Sister Mary Damian Cookingham, OSF

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Mary of the Angels Chapel,

Williamsville, on Tuesday, July 3 for Sister Mary Damian Cookingham, OSF. Sister Mary Damian, 90, died Saturday, June 30, 2007.

Born in Schenectady, N.Y., the former Laura Cookingham was educated in the Kenmore school system and Mt. St. Mary's Academy.

On Sept. 8, 1935, she entered

the former Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Divine Child where she received the name of Sister Mary Damian. She made her final vows on Aug. 27, 1942. She received a Bachelor of Science degree and then her Master of Science in education from Mount St. Joseph's Teachers College, later known as Medaille College. In November 2003, Sister Mary Damian became a Sister of St. Francis of the Third Order Regular of Buffalo when her congregation merged with them.

A dedicated educator for 65 years, Sister Mary Damian taught religious education at Holy Cross and Our Lady of Loretto parishes

in Buffalo. She was principal and teacher at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Buffalo and at the Divine Child Kindergarten in Williamsville. She taught also at Our Lady of Miracles in Brooklyn, N.Y. Her last 30 years in active ministry were spent teaching religious education to children in parishes in Cattaraugus County.

She also served as vicar general, counselor and treasurer for the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Divine Child. Her last seven years were dedicated to the ministry of prayer.

Gere F. Otterbein, welder

Gere F. Otterbein, 36, formerly of Williamsville, a welder for Pipe Fitters Union, Local 13 in Rochester, died Thursday, June 21, 2007 at his home in Newark, N.Y.

Born in Buffalo, he was a 1988 graduate of Williamsville South High School. He attended Fredonia State College and graduated from Buffalo State College with a degree in history.

Mr. Otterbein is survived by his fiancée, Bonnie Jones, of Newark; a daughter, Angela, and stepson, Matthew McGahan, both of Newark; and his parents, Keith and Charlotte of Williamsville.

Services were held Tuesday, June 26 at Paul L. Murphy & Sons Funeral Home.

James R. Riedel, self-employed independent contractor

James R. Riedel, 52, a self-employed independent contractor, died Sunday, June 17, 2007 in his Getzville home.

Born in Buffalo, he was a graduate of Williamsville North High School and attended the University at Buffalo on a full baseball scholarship. Mr. Riedel was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 38th round, 709th overall, of the 1976 Major League Draft.

He enjoyed boating and was an avid hunter and fisherman.

Mr. Riedel is survived by two daughters, Katie L. Worrell and Jennifer L. of Colorado Springs, Colo.; a son, Christopher J. of Colorado Springs; a sister, Karen Ganzenmuller of Williamsville; two brothers, Arthur C. of Williamsville and Jeffrey of Southbury, Conn.; and one grandchild.

A committal service was held Saturday, June 23 in Acacia Park Cemetery.

Joyce Swartney, pioneer in science education

Joyce Swartney, 71, of Sarasota, Fla., and formerly of Detroit, Mich., and Williamsville, a pioneer in science education, died Sunday, June 3, 2007.

After earning degrees in chemistry and science education from the University of Detroit and University of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Swartney was the first female recipient of the Ph.D. in science education from the University of Wisconsin. She studied one year in Germany and taught chemistry and math at the Air Force Dependents School in Itazuke, Japan.

Mrs. Swartney was involved with Shell Fellow, an elite program honoring excellence in science teaching.

She joined Buffalo State College in 1968 and later became the associate dean of natural and social sciences. She retired in 1994.

Highly sought after for her expertise in education and science, she was an educational consultant to the Peace Corps in Afghanistan, served on the U.S. Department of Education panels for science award programs, received several National Science Foundation grants, and helped select the "Blue Ribbon Schools" in America.

Mrs. Swartney was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Western Section of the Science Teachers Association of New York State in 2004.

She loved learning languages and traveling and enjoyed bridge, photography, Elderhostel workshops, mystery books, bell ringing and collecting paperweights.

A science education scholarship fund is being arranged in her honor. Memorial donations can be sent to Buffalo State College Foundation "In Memory of Dr. Joyce Swartney," 1300 Elmwood Ave., Cleveland Hall 319, Buffalo, N.Y. 14222.

A memorial Mass will be held in September at the Newman Center at Buffalo State College.

Mark A. Rieman Sr., accountant

A Mass of Christian Burial for Mark A. Rieman Sr. will be offered at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, July 7, at St. Gregory the Great Church, 250 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville.

Mr. Rieman, 76, of Williamsville, a longtime accountant and folk dancing instructor, died Monday, June 25, 2007.

Born in Buffalo, he graduated from Canisius High School, Erie County Technical Institute, and Canisius College. He was retired from Buffalo Technologies.

Mr. Rieman taught folk dancing at the Buffalo International Institute and various other ethnic clubs in Western New York. He was a member of the Amherst Museum Victorian Dancers. He also taught Ukrainian egg painting. He was a member of the Buffalo Museum of Science photography club in the 1960s. He was also past president of the Buffalo chapter of the National Accounting Association.

Mr. Rieman is survived by his wife of 51 years, the former Joan M. Roach; three daughters, Barbara J. Bopp, Janet M. Craft and Nancy L. Bowman; four sons, Mark A. Jr., Ralph J., Brian T., and Kevin M.; a sister, Beatrice, and 15 grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by Dengler & Roberts Funeral Home.

Lucinda 'Cindy' O'Day, construction company comptroller

Lucinda 'Cindy' O'Day, 58, of Clarence Center, a comptroller for Milherst Construction Co. in Getzville for 25 years, died Thursday, June 28, 2007 in her son's home in Baltimore, Md.

Born Lucinda Lods in Kenmore, she was a graduate of Cardinal

O'Hara High School and attended Alfred University.

She enjoyed traveling, belonged to several book clubs, and was a member of St. Gregory the Great Church where she was involved with the church's mission.

Mrs. O'Day is survived by a daughter, Jennifer Hunt of Boston, Mass.; two sons, Michael of Baltimore, Md., and Patrick of Los Angeles; her father, Paul, of Tampa, Fla.; two sisters, Judy of Tampa, Fla., and Laurie Williams of Tonawanda; two brothers, Michael of Sunset Beach, N.C., and Randy of Tampa, Fla.; and four grandchildren.

Prayers were held Tuesday, July 3 from (Tonawanda Chapel) Amigone Funeral Home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial from St. Andrew's Church.

Charles A. Mussen Jr., retired Sweet Home art teacher

Charles A. Mussen Jr., 73, a retired Sweet Home art teacher, died Sunday, June 24, 2007 in his Amherst home.

Born in Vallejo, Calif., he attended Buffalo State College and served in the Air National Guard.

He was the first male kindergarten teacher in the Buffalo schools and taught art at Sweet Home Junior High for 26 years, retiring in 1989.



Cookingham



Mussen

 Death

EVANS, Mart "Gert" (nee Romano), of Amherst, died Friday, June 29, 2007; wife of the late Leroy Evans, Jr.; mother of Martha Garvey, Charles Evans and Robert Evans; also survived by six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Services were held Monday, July 2 from (Amherst Chapel) Amigone Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to All Saints Episcopal Church.

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Riedel



O'Day