

Blase S. Scarnati, 72, of West Water Street, Slippery Rock, died the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2007, in Grove City Medical Center.



Born April 10, 1935, in Brockway, Pa., he was a son of Samuel and Elizabeth F. Gallo Scarnati.

He married the former Mary L. Long on June 8, 1957. She survives.

Professor Scarnati retired from Slippery Rock University in May 1996 after 32 years of service. During his tenure at SRU, Professor Scarnati was appointed conductor of university bands in the fall of 1964. He taught jazz history, literature of the American musical theater and music history.

He received his bachelor of science degree in music from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and was awarded a master of music education degree from Duquesne University. He did graduate work toward a doctor of education degree at Syracuse University.

Professor Scarnati was the conductor of the famous Slippery Rock University Marching Rockets for 25 years and served as concert director and coordinator of the Musical Concert Band as well. He has been music director for 16 university musicals, co-director of the annual "Dollars for Students Scholars Show" and served on numerous board of director committees for several collegiate events. During summer months, Professor Scarnati founded and conducted the Musicians' Concert Band. This fine organization continues today and is comprised of the finest musicians in the region.

In 1982, he was honored by receiving the President's Award for Outstanding Service to Slippery Rock University. Phi Beta Mu, the national honorary band fraternity, honored Professor Scarnati in May 1988 by selecting him as the Out-

standing Bandmaster in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Citations of congratulations were presented by then-state Sen. Tim Shaffer and state Rep. Howard

Fargo. In October 2002, after presiding as grand marshal for SRU's homecoming, university trustees honored Scarnati by naming the band rehearsal field the Blase S. Scarnati Marching Band Field. In December 2005, Professor Scarnati was given the SRU President's Signature Circle Award in recognition for bringing music and joy to the hearts of thousands.

He had served honorably in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

He was a member of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church.

In addition to his wife, survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Mary Beth and Dan Bales of Grove City; two sons and daughters-in-law, Blase S. and Rebecca Scarnati of Flagstaff, Ariz., and David A. and Lynn Scarnati of Concord Township, Lake County, Ohio; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Jane and Paul Lanzoni of Brockway; and four grandchildren, Elizabeth Scarnati, Sam and Thomas Scarnati, and Danielle Bales.

Calling hours are 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. tomorrow and 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday at the Smith Funeral Home, 421 New Castle St., Slippery Rock.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Monday at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, 670 S. Main St., Slippery Rock. Burial will be in Slippery Rock Cemetery, Slippery Rock Township, Butler County.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Blase S. and Mary L. Scarnati Scholarship Fund, in care of Slippery Rock University Foundation, Room 100, Old Main, Slippery Rock, Pa. 16057.