



BROCK FLEEGER/Gazette

THE INDIANA COUNTY NAACP held its 26th annual Freedom Fund banquet Saturday night and honored several people for their community service. Seated in front, from left, are Cybil Moore, who received the Community Service Award; Dr. Sarah Wheeler, accepting the Bill Shane Diversity Award on behalf of her son, Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler; and Zhiling "Willia" Wu, who also received the Bill Shane Diversity Award. Standing from left are Dr. Shirley Johnson, keynote speaker; Lillian O. Clemons, master of ceremonies; Marquette Perrin, accepting the President's Award for Melkia Green; Carol A. Asamoah, secretary and President's Award recipient; Dr. Bob Millward, Community Service Award recipient; and Dr. Carolyn Princes, interim president.

Speaker urges perseverance

Continued from **Page A-1**

In 1981, she took a job as a guidance counselor at Penns Manor Area School District.

She calls it the best job she ever had other than teaching at IUP. Again, she remembers words of encouragement that inspired her to push through the challenges.

Now she teaches other future teachers, and she said she stresses the gift that an education is.

"We have the right to an education," she said. "So I remind my students that they are blessed."

And once all that perseverance has paid off? Johnson said that those who

have reached their goals should look around for other people who need to be encouraged to keep on.

"Nobody in this room has accomplished anything at all without someone to help them," she said. "Help someone to accomplish what you may have accomplished — and maybe even more."

The annual banquet began with a moment of silence for Shane, followed by a few minutes of those who knew him calling out words to describe who he was.

And a new award was established in his memory.

"I lost a very, very good friend in Bill

Shane," said Dr. Roger Briscoe, vice president of the Indiana County NAACP. "I knew him as an encourager, just a wonderful, wonderful guy."

Others called him principled, a strong leader, giving, a football fan, and a "man of God."

And Dr. Carolyn Princes, the interim president, announced the Bill Shane Diversity Award in his memory. This year the award went to Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler and Zhiling "Willia" Wu.

Also honored were Cybil Moore and Dr. Bob Millward, who received the Community Service Award, and Melkia Green and Carol Asamoah, who received the President's Award.