



LA ROCHE

MAGAZINE • FALL 2008



The Wright Library Challenge:
Blending Technology and Academics in Planned Renovation

Change is in the Air

Change has been a very prominent topic on the national agenda throughout the presidential election campaigns that have just concluded. Reflecting that national predilection, change has been very much a reality here at La Roche. Nowhere has it been more discernible than in the changes that have recently been made, and that we plan to make, in the Wright Library.

As the first major building to be constructed after the College's founding, the Wright Library has always filled both a functional and a symbolic role. Functionally, it has served for many years as the academic hub of the institution. Symbolically, it bespoke the commitment and determination of the founders, the Congregation of Divine Providence, as they built their dream into a reality. Now, once again, that facility is serving its dual role, but in a way that reflects both the changes at the College and also the changes in higher education, especially students' technology expectations.

Some of the physical changes have already been completed. With the consolidation on the East Campus, the lower level of Wright Library was selected as the primary location for new facilities for the Interior Design and Graphic & Communication Design programs. These two signature programs now enjoy a modern, attractive learning space right in the heart of the campus – reflecting their longstanding importance to the College.

Some of the changes are still to come. Recognizing the need to transform the library into a 21st century learning center, we have been actively pursuing funding to carry out a planned renovation that will provide it with the physical and technological capacity to respond to the changing methods of educational delivery systems, so as to better serve current and future generations of students. As you will read later in the magazine, the library renovation represents a quantum leap in terms of the services that we can provide to our students, and there are ways in which you can help make it happen.

Above and beyond these exciting physical changes, however, the Wright Library is once again serving a symbolic role. Just as the library is changing to meet changing needs, so, too, has the College continued to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of those we serve. From its founding in 1963 as a college to meet the education needs of young women entering religious life, to its present day incarnation as an institution that is committed to serving the Pittsburgh community, while providing all of our students with the necessary preparation to succeed in a global environment, La Roche has always met the challenges of a changing world. The changes to Wright Library are one more indication that we intend to keep meeting those challenges well into the future.

All this is to say that La Roche College is no stranger to change. As we move towards the College's 50th anniversary, I can assure you that the same commitment and determination that were present at the founding of the College are still to be found here today. They are to be found, not only in the faculty and staff, but also in the many alumni who lend their support to the College in so many ways. Taken together, they comprise a La Roche community that is ready to respond successfully to whatever change may lie ahead.

Sister Candace Introcaso

Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.
President



From the President



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Athletic News

by Camille Downing



Scholastic Athlete of the Year

Showing excellence both on and off of the field, star La Roche College women's soccer player Nicole Booth received the Scholastic Athlete of the Year Award from the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC). A senior when the top honor was presented to her in the spring, Booth joins Matt Lapaglia as the second La Roche student in two years to receive this prestigious honor.

A criminal justice major, Booth was the team captain in 2008 and was named to the All-AMCC teams from 2004-08 and the AMCC Academic All-Conference teams each year from 2005-08. She was also the

AMCC Newcomer of the Year in 2004. A dean's list candidate every semester at La Roche, Booth graduated with a 3.98 QPA.

She was the La Roche College 2008 Harry B. Austin, Jr. Scholar-Athlete Award recipient and a finalist for the President's Award for Leadership and Scholarship.

Bemis is a junior graphic & communication design major from North Baldwin, Pa.; Sheehan is sophomore biology major from Gallitzin, Pa.

The volleyball players were invited to be part of the U.S. team that visited the island and participated in friendly competition with their international counterparts. While there, the U.S. team finished with a 2-2 record. But, according to these young women, more important than the win-loss record were the personal experiences the players had, especially the friendships they formed with others from around the world.

"The girls made lifelong friends in Barbados," notes Nicole Bajuszik, La Roche assistant women's volleyball coach. "That is one of the best things about La Roche – that these athletes had the chance to become involved in an athletic program, and then represent their school and themselves to players in other countries."

Redhawks All-Conference Athletes Announced

The Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) 2007-08 All-Conference Athletes were announced late last year and the Redhawks were well-represented. The following athletes were recognized for their outstanding athletic achievements.



La Roche College volleyball players Veronica Sheehan (left) and Anne Bemis.

Volleyball Players Form Lifelong Friendships

Being involved in athletics provides a perfect opportunity to develop friendships that otherwise might not have been possible. La Roche College volleyball players Anne Bemis and Veronica Sheehan found this out first hand when they participated in the Barbados Friendship Games in June.

Justin Alessio	Baseball	1st Team All-Conference
Jon Austin	Men's Golf	1st Team All-Conference AMCC Men's Golf Player of the Year
Anne Bemis	Volleyball	2nd Team All-Conference
Nicole Booth	Women's Soccer	1st Team All-Conference
Keith Borman	Baseball	1st Team All-Conference
Drew Bosco	Baseball	1st Team All-Conference
Dalibor Bradaric	Men's Soccer	Honorable Mention All-Conference
Zac Coleman	Baseball	2nd Team All-Conference
Marlis Graves	Women's Basketball	Honorable Mention All-Conference
Dylan Grazier	Men's Basketball	1st Team All-Conference
Ousman Jaiteh	Men's Soccer	Honorable Mention All-Conference
Reuben Jolo	Men's Soccer	1st Team All-Conference
Zack Kistorick	Men's Basketball	2nd Team All-Conference
Jessica Leo	Women's Soccer	1st Team All-Conference
George Nahay	Baseball	Honorable Mention All-Conference
LaRissa Pallone	Women's Soccer	2nd Team All-Conference
Claire Vellente	Softball	2nd Team All-Conference



Providing Students with Academic and Athletic Balance

by Camille Downing

Student athletes on college campuses often lead a double life, teetering between the world of competition on the field and the rigors of learning in the classroom. For students who are not motivated or organized, trying to be successful in both areas can be challenging, if not disastrous.

At La Roche College, there is a commitment to ensuring that students who are involved in athletics are also prepared for academic success. Jane Arnold, M.S., department chair and associate professor of computer science, has had a big impact on students' lives as the faculty athletic representative at La Roche. Arnold was named to this position several years ago and she used the opportunity of an Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference grant to design a program to help student athletes navigate their college experience. As the faculty athletic representative, Arnold works with students and faculty to help improve communication and provide balance in each student's life.

"The main thing is to forge a relationship with the student athletes," Arnold explains. "These students often have an athletic bond with their coaches, but when something goes wrong academically, they don't know where to turn or who to go to for help." - Jane Arnold

Several key initiatives that Arnold has instituted are:

- A study program in which athletes are encouraged to spend a minimum number of hours as a way of teaching the importance of taking time to study. These hours are reported back to the individual coaches.
- An introductory orientation course for athletes in which they learn about resources and people on campus who can help them academically. The elective course also provides information on time management skills, community service, tutoring and ways to juggle course work during the playing season.
- An early alert system that notifies the student, adviser and coach if the student is missing classes or grades are slipping. These alerts are linked to a report on the Internet that shows how each student is progressing and which teams, as a whole, may be struggling with academics.
- An award for the team with the highest GPA and the nomination of La Roche College student-athletes into Chi Alpha Sigma, a college athlete honor society.

"The main thing is to forge a relationship with the student athletes," Arnold explains. "These students often have an athletic bond with their coaches, but

when something goes wrong academically, they don't know where to turn or who to go to for help."

With Arnold on staff, the students now have access to someone who can guide them through issues like scheduling classes that don't conflict with playing schedules, reducing the workload during the playing season, accessing tutoring and other on-campus resources, and working with faculty on completing assignments.

An important part of Arnold's job is the flip side of the coin – educating the faculty and coaches on athlete concerns and schedules so that students can do well academically. For instance, she will review rosters and make the faculty members aware of athletes in their classes so they can develop options for students on scheduling issues during the playing season. She also certifies that each athlete meets academic eligibility requirements necessary to be able to play.

The increase in communication between the school, the faculty, the coaches and the athletes has led to some encouraging news since the program began.

"Things have improved and we are seeing better grades and higher graduation rates than before," Arnold notes. For instance, she said that last year there were five teams that averaged above a 3.0 GPA and none had a team average below 2.3. "The teams are really stepping up, and the coaches are getting more involved. The program is definitely a success."



PHOTO: BRANDON BROWN



Making an Investment to Last a Lifetime: Becoming a Scholarship Donor at La Roche College

by Colleen Pelc



PHOTOS: KATHY CORCORAN

Making the decision to become a scholarship donor is an important and beneficial decision on many levels. By establishing a scholarship at La Roche College, donors not only give students the chance to begin or continue their education, but they also give to the community by helping to educate our future leaders. Creating a scholarship is also a very meaningful way to honor a loved one or family member, while leaving a lasting impression on the students and the College as a whole.

La Roche College offers two different options for establishing a scholarship fund:

Endowed Scholarship: An endowed scholarship is a wonderful way to leave a legacy. With a gift of \$25,000 or more, a donor can create an endowed scholarship that will provide the same benefit decades from now as when it was first established. The gift is placed in a permanent fund and invested. Each year, a portion of the interest income is used in the manner designed by the donor.

Annual Scholarship: An annual scholarship is one established by individuals, businesses or organizations where a tribute can be paid to someone who has had an impact on your life, while helping today's students finance their education. The donor makes an annual contribution that is awarded in full to the student or students that same year.

Once the decision has been made to become a scholarship donor, donors must decide whether they would like to establish an endowed or an annual scholarship. Following that decision, scholarship criteria can be established. The donor, in consultation with the Development Office, decides the name of the scholarship, along with the criteria for receiving the scholarship. Scholarship awards based on academic merit

and/or financial need without additional restrictions are strongly encouraged.

After a scholarship has been created, La Roche College's selection committee will review the scholarship applications and select those students who are most deserving based on the criteria.

There are also tax benefits of funding a scholarship, in that an outright gift in the form of cash or appreciated securities will allow the donor to receive immediate tax benefits in the year the gift is made to the College.

Remembering La Roche College in estate planning is another way to make a legacy donation to the College and benefit future generations. By choosing to include La Roche College in an estate plan, donors can determine now how they would like to direct their donation for the future.

Anyone interested in learning more about becoming a scholarship donor or giving to La Roche in other ways, can contact the Development Office to discuss ways that they can make a gift that is personalized to their interests and giving abilities. Call 412-536-1092 or visit www.laroche.edu.

This year, La Roche College scholarship recipients and scholarship donors were invited to the annual President's Circle Dinner on Oct. 9. Some guests in attendance were:

1. Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., Steven Pohl, and Stephanie Pohl. **2.** David Peters, Robert Fragasso and Victoria Berdnik. **3.** Arianit Krasniqi, Louis George, Asish Lamichhane, Sister Barbara Lynn McMullen, and seated, Sister Ann Pairn. (The students are three of five recipients of the Founders Scholarship, which is provided by the Sisters of Divine Providence.) Absent from the photo are: Michelle Rugema and Peter Mureithi.



La Roche College Athletics Benefit Through Generosity of Sponsors

by Colleen Pelc

Now in its 17th year, the Annual La Roche College Golf Outing attracted more than 100 golfers this fall to tee it up for a good cause at Wildwood Golf Club in Allison Park, Pa. According to director of Special Events, Bobbi Kress LaPlace, participation this year was up by 20 percent, gross revenue commitments increased by 16 percent, and seven new sponsors were welcomed.

"We are very grateful for the generosity of our sponsors and players for helping us to achieve this growth that will directly benefit La Roche's Athletics Department," LaPlace said.

Playing a mixed scramble, team vied for first, second and third place, plus they competed in additional skill contests. First place honors, with a score of 60, went to Hughie's Audio Visual Productions (David Wheeler, Bill Nebel, Jackie McCall and Kevin Loutsenhizer). The second place team, with a score of 61, was from Hilb Rogal & Hobbs (Paul Malone, Jerry Bergman, Mike Devinney, and Matt Petnuch). Third place was awarded to one of two Comcast foursomes with a score of 61 (Tony McLusky, Jeff Heim, J.P. West and Glenn Lytle).

Commenting on the outing, Comcast's Jeff Heim said, "La Roche really does a nice job and makes everyone feel welcome. All of my guys truly enjoyed the day and the great hospitality."

Additional prizes were awarded to winners of various other skill contests:

- Closest to the Pin: Sister Candace Introcaso and Bill Nebel
- Longest Drive: Mark Wilcox
- Longest Putt: Laurie Andrews and Chris McGonigle
- Putting Contest: Gary Ceccarelli

As a new participant this year, Jason McClelland from The Pittsburgh Pirates expressed that the day was both fun and challenging. "I greatly enjoyed playing the course for the first time, all of the tasty food, and meeting some of the folks involved in Redhawk Athletics."

Proceeds from this annual fund-raising event enable the College to maintain and enhance student athletic programs, build infrastructure for the sports programs and purchase equipment and supplies. And, although the proceeds directly benefit La Roche College athletics, their reach is far wider. The College's facilities are an asset to the entire community and are used by teams, groups, and clubs throughout western Pennsylvania.

Through the years, donor support has enabled the College to make numerous field improvements, purchase new team uniforms, completely renovate the



1. First place team (l to r): Bill Nebel, Jackie McCall, Kevin Loutsenhizer and David Wheeler • 2. Second place team (l to r): Mike Devinney, Paul Malone, Jerry Bergman and Matt Petnuch • 3. Third place team (l to r): J.P. West, Jeff Heim, Tim Downing and Tony McLusky

baseball field, and install a new soccer field fence. Funds raised also support the school's entire array of men's and women's athletic programs – through which students learn the value of teamwork, sacrifice and dedication – principles and lessons that not only broaden their educational experience, but also prepare them for life challenges ahead.

With funds from this year's outing, La Roche will be making additional enhancements to its soccer field by adding windscreen, more storage capacity and dugout-type shelters for teams to use in inclement weather. La Roche is also planning to add a much-needed new outdoor soccer practice site that may be used by the community, too.



Faculty & Staff News

by Camille Downing

BOMB: Be One More Believer

Footprints. A Wish for My Child.
I wish for my child
To grow up in a world
Full of understanding and love...
Where hate has no place
And peace prevails

These simple but poignant words penned by Lauren Lampe, associate professor, Graphic & Communication Design at La Roche, express the wish that every mother has for her child. For 5-year-old Abdul Hakeem, this wish was shattered when his home in Iraq was bombed by American troops four years ago. His face, like Lampe's wish, was also shattered.

Since that time, physicians in Pittsburgh, through the non-profit No More Victims organization (NMV), have worked relentlessly to replace his eye with a prosthetic, fix his jaw, and perform reconstructive surgery to repair severe facial scarring.

Hakeem's amazing story of transformation was the impetus for an exhibit that brought together artists from Pittsburgh and across the country, including faculty and students from La Roche College. Jon Dascola, a 2006 graduate of the La Roche graphic design program, was so moved by Hakeem's story that he and fellow La Roche students, Anthony and Brandon Atwood, initiated a gallery show based on the theme of Be One More Believer – BOMB. They invited artists and designers to submit pieces that portrayed the NMV mission to "cultivate hope and love in the face of death and destruction."

"The idea behind the exhibit was to take something bad and make it good through our art," explains Dascola. "The exhibit is a metaphor for the good and the bad that Abdul has gone through."

Artists were asked to create pieces that incorporated the BOMB logo in a positive and optimistic manner. La Roche College faculty and staff poured their heart, soul, imagination and creative talent into their artwork for this show.

Lampe crafted her poem into an illustration that was printed on an accordion-folded card surrounded by children's footprints. For Lampe, the card was an extension of a book titled "Footprints" that she is writing about adopting her son, William.



Astrid Kersten, Ph.D., professor of management and director of business programs at La Roche, transformed her love of stained glass and created a striking bomb-shaped glass ornament with heart cutouts. For Dr. Kersten, her creation of love is an extension of her commitment to helping others.

"I am committed to any cause to bring peace and justice to the world," she said. "All of our projects can contribute in some small way to help this cause."

All of the artwork in the exhibit was sold in a Chinese auction fund-raiser at the No More Victims art extravaganza in April. Proceeds from the sale benefited NMV, a non-profit organization that provides free medical treatment to children severely injured in Iraq.



La Roche Coach Gets Call-Up to the Big Leagues

It's every boy's dream to play baseball in the big leagues some day.

Chase Rowe lived that dream in the summer when he was asked to fill in as a bullpen coach for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

As the head baseball coach for the La Roche Redhawks, Rowe has played the game his entire life. A friendship with the Pirate's director of operations led to a brief call up to the majors when the team's bullpen coach was called away unexpectedly for a family emergency. In turn, Rowe spent three days on the field warming up pitchers and helping in the bullpen.

"It was the best three days of my life to be in the big leagues," admits Rowe. "I am a Pirate fan now and always. I will never forget my shot in the majors."



A Year in Qatar

Carolyn Freeman has always loved to travel. As a professor in the Interior Design Department at La Roche College, Freeman combined that love of travel with her love of teaching by spending a year abroad teaching for the Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUQ).

Based in Doha, the capital city of Qatar, VCUQ offers a bachelor of fine arts degree to students who are studying a wide variety of subjects, including Freeman's specialty – interior design.

Freeman learned of this opportunity through her work with the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). She completed an accreditation site visit to Doha in 2005 through CIDA and had known some of the VCUQ faculty for many years through IDEC, the Interior Design Educators Council. In fall 2006, the head of the program asked Freeman to apply for a one-year visiting professorship. VCUQ later offered her the position, which began in August 2007.

For Freeman, the opportunity was too good to resist. She explained that La Roche was very supportive and allowed her to step away from her role at the College to accept the appointment in Doha. While there, Freeman taught five interior design courses.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY: CAROLYN FREEMAN

Aside from the obvious differences – such as the manner of dress (Qatari women wear long black robes called *abayas* and head scarves called *shaylas*; a few also wore *niqab*, which are veils that cover their faces) – Freeman learned of the religious differences of the region from her students. Some brought prayer rugs to class in order to pray the customary five times a day. During the holy season of Ramadan, most of her students fasted, and class time was curtailed in order for the students to be home by sundown to break their fast. The school also closed for one week for Eid at the end of Ramadan, allowing Freeman to travel to Jordan for what she called “a spectacular visit.”

In the classroom, Freeman found diversity in the students' customs and styles. Islamic students from Egypt and Sudan wore another form of *hijab*, which means cover, but students from Jordan and Bahrain wore jeans and looked very western. All had interesting insights into interior design as it related to their countries of origin.

“There were definitely some cultural things I found to be very interesting,” Freeman noted. For instance, in some Middle East homes, separate entries and *majlis* (living rooms) were provided for men and women – and that called for a different approach to design. She also was challenged by the use of the metric system, which is used almost everywhere except in the United States and England.

Freeman brought her newfound knowledge back to La Roche and is incorporating it into her assignments.



PHOTO: KRISNA POZNIK

From (left to right) Samantha Watts, Nicole Eiben, Rosemary Gould, Caitlin Thomas, Stephanie Jones and Mae Jaisamer.

A Fond Farewell to Rosemary Gould

Faculty, staff and students said “so long” to Professor Rosemary Gould, M.F.A., longtime Graphic & Communication Design faculty member at La Roche. On Thursday, April 24, the College community gathered in the Cantellops Gallery to wish Gould good luck on her retirement. She was most pleased to be surrounded by her students, which she said she would miss very much. “It’s the interaction with these young people that will be so hard to leave behind.”

Faculty Heard on Radio Around the World

Faculty members at La Roche College are being heard internationally as evidenced by an interview of Associate Professor Joshua B. Forrest, Ph.D., chair of the History & Political Science Department, that was broadcast on Radio France International. Forrest's interview was aired live in Europe, Africa, Asia, and North and South America in August as he spoke about the spread of international narcotics trade in Guinea-Bissau. During the interview, Dr. Forrest suggested that “this international trade is not really spreading within the country. Rather, the ports and the airport are apparently being used as stopping-off points for illegal drug transportation to and from Europe and South America.”



PHOTO: BRANDON BROWN

He went on to say that Guinea-Bissauan participants in these illegal narcotic networks are likely to be very small in number, perhaps a few hundred at most, limited to those with high-level connections. “While some external journalists have labeled Guinea-Bissau a ‘narco-state,’ I argue that this label is misleading because the trade is restricted to international travel sites and does not involve or affect the general population, in contrast to true ‘narco-states’ such as Columbia and Afghanistan.”



A Passion for Teaching and Continuing To Learn – Alumnus Zachary Hull

by Nancy Dal Dasso



PHOTO: KRISNA POZNIK

Zachary Hull enters his eighth grade class with an easy stride and an air of confidence. Even though it's only his second year of teaching, Hull exudes a sense of professionalism, kindness, and strength. He expects nothing less from his students. "I want my students to become thinkers rather than just memorizers," he says. "Grades are important, but if we think about how we can change ourselves, we can change our communities and, eventually, the world."

Hull is a teacher at Carson Middle School, part of the North Allegheny School District in Wexford, Pa. During the summer, he taught summer session at North Allegheny High School. Regardless of where he's located, Hull's reputation precedes him as a hard-working, outstanding influence on students.

"As a first-year teacher, he also became the student newspapers adviser, co-advised the drama club, and volunteered with baseball coaching. Last year, his assignment split him between two middle schools (Marshall and Carson), yet he managed to share his talents in extra-curriculum activities between them," said Jan Spohn, Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts (P.C.T.E.L.A.) president. "Zack's background with English and Spanish brings a unique perspective to his classroom. As the nation's diversity presents itself in our English classrooms, it is beneficial to have teachers with this broader view to facilitate communications. His exuberance and passion for teaching and learning are admirable."

Hull was awarded the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Leadership Development Award for Pennsylvania – the second year in a row that a La Roche

alum has received it. This award is given to an early career teacher in each state who has demonstrated a capacity for professional leadership. The award is \$500 to attend the NCTE annual convention in San Antonio in November 2008 and a ticket to the Affiliate Breakfast at which awardees will be acknowledged.

Hull exhibited exemplary traits when he walked the halls of La Roche College just a few short years ago. A May 2007 graduate who earned a bachelor's degree in English Education/Language and Literature and a minor in Spanish, Hull's professional life has been a whirlwind adventure ever since. He began a long-term substitute teaching position for the Shaler Area School District in Pittsburgh's north suburbs, and then learned he had a full-time position at North Allegheny. To top off the year, he received the leadership award.

Becoming an English teacher wasn't exactly in Hull's plans when he went to college. But in his sophomore year, he wrote his first article for the college paper, the *La Roche Courier*. Ed Stankowski, associate professor of English, asked him to be the paper's editor, and Hull says he suddenly knew that he needed to change his major from marketing to English education.

"Grades are important, but if we think about how we can change ourselves, we can change our communities and, eventually, the world." - Zachary Hull

Following this decision, Hull embarked on a trip to Spain to complete his Spanish minor. "It was a completely life-changing experience for me. When I came back from Spain with a fresh outlook on everything, I worked my hardest on producing a quality paper for the college."

Carolyn Heil, assistant professor and La Roche's chair of the Department of Education, remembers Hull well. "He was an amazing young man for many reasons, and he was an exemplary student, which is why I recommended that he be considered as a recipient of the NCTE Award," she said. "His ability to engage students in learning is truly exceptional for a young professional."

Hull says his passionate drive was developed at La Roche and continues to develop as he grows – as a teacher and as an individual.

"I can truly say that the very best gift I came away from La Roche College with was a revolutionary education. It not only enabled me to get my job at North Allegheny, but it also gave me a real passion for teaching and made me see a real purpose for my life," he said. "I often think about my education at La Roche – not because I am nostalgic about it, but because it shaped me into the person that I am today, both professionally and personally."



La Roche ID Grad Chosen For Prestigious London Program

by Pam Wigley

Leigh Fayfich loves a journey. The one she's had so far has been interesting, and the one she envisions herself on in the future is "open-ended," she says. For now, the journey has landed Fayfich in London, and she couldn't be happier about this stop on her life tour.

The La Roche alumna is one of only 12 people in the world chosen to be part of the inaugural Master of Arts in Contemporary Design degree program at Sotheby's Institute of Art, the venerable London auction house. And, although she loved her work in Washington, D.C., at the architecture firm Perkins + Will, she knew that the Sotheby's network would "open doors for me that I never knew existed. I hated to leave the firm, but I had to take this journey."

Fayfich is a 1999 graduate of North Allegheny High School in Wexford, Pa., the daughter of Bob and Peggy and younger sister to Allison, all of Marshall Township. She headed off to Penn State as a psychology major and shortly realized that she had chosen the wrong career. She decided to follow her first love, interior design, and began studies at La Roche. She found her calling, graduating from La Roche with her bachelor's degree in 2006.

"I chose La Roche because of its national reputation for interior design," she says. "I learned so much ... Kathleen Sullivan's program dedicated to green design was way ahead of its time. And when I went to Perkins + Will, they were impressed with all that I knew. I was well-prepared."

At Perkins + Will, one of the largest architectural firms in the United States, Fayfich was an interior architect who worked in the Corporate, Commercial and Civil division. She designed projects for the U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, the U.S. Green Building Council and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She notes that all were projects she loved, but she missed academic life and decided that she wanted to pursue an advanced degree, especially after reading about the Sotheby's program.

"I chose La Roche because of its national reputation for interior design," she says. "I learned so much ... Kathleen Sullivan's program dedicated to green design was way ahead of its time. And when I went to Perkins + Will, they were impressed with all that I knew. I was well-prepared." - Leigh Fayfich

She left Pittsburgh Aug. 25 to begin the 13-month program, which includes a weeklong visit to Paris to study architecture. She also will participate in intensive

"Trust your gut – it's what serves me the best, in both design and in life." - Leigh Fayfich



PHOTO: JAMES KNOX

study of 20th century and contemporary decorative art, including furniture, ceramics, jewelry, fabrics, glass, metalwork and fine art. Blended with academic studies will be the opportunity for in-depth discussions with practicing professionals while on insider visits to art and furniture houses, artist workshops, design and craft fairs, galleries, private collections, exhibits and museums – including The British Museum and Tate Modern in London and The Louvre in Paris.

It is the journey of a lifetime, she said, and one that she's grateful to have. She encourages all students at La Roche to pursue their dreams and, to the interior design students, she had this advice: "Trust your gut – it's what serves me the best, in both design and in life."



New La Roche Board Members Announced

by Pam Wigley



Four new members were elected to La Roche College's Board of Trustees at the spring and fall 2008 meetings. The College community welcomes them. They are highlighted below.

Sister Kathleen Angel, CDP, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology, University of Mary
Bismarck, N.D.

Sister Kathleen Angel has been teaching since 1964, when she began teaching religious CCD at Nativity School in Broughton, Pa., and later taught middle and high school. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology from La Roche College and her master's in biology from Michigan State University before earning her doctorate in the same subject at the University of Pittsburgh. She joined La Roche in 1971, and during the 18 years she taught here, she served as clinical laboratory science adviser, division chair and coordinator of basic skills. She was instrumental in designing the basic skills program at La Roche, as well as the nursing and nurse anesthesia programs.

In 1989, she moved to her current position at the University of Mary. There, Sister Kathleen has been instrumental in developing a number of new programs and courses, including an innovative general biology laboratory in which students design their own experiments, a course in DNA science technology and a series of non-major online science courses. She is a volunteer in Volunteer Caregiver Exchange, a United Way agency, which helps senior citizens remain in their homes. She also volunteers at St. Alexius Hospital.



Lynn Colosi
Principal/Senior Vice President, Clear View Strategies, LLC
Pittsburgh

Ms. Colosi is a graduate of Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, where she earned her bachelor's degree in journalism/communications. She earned her master's degree in labor relations from St. Francis University in Loretto, Pa. Early in her career, she worked for the Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAT) in business development, marketing and operations, working in various positions during the time she was with that organization. Following her work at PAT, Ms. Colosi joined URS Corporation as business development director in the construction management division. She was responsible for relationship-building, generating business opportunities, overseeing marketing staff and budget, and promoting URS in the tri-state area.

In April 2004, Ms. Colosi and her partners started Clear View Strategies, a public transportation consulting firm that works primarily with transit agencies, municipalities and developers. With more than 20 years in the transit business, Ms. Colosi possesses the skills necessary to be an effective facilitator, whose strengths include managing projects, building relationships and implementing revenue-generating opportunities.

She is a former member of the La Roche College Board of Regents and is a member of several professional associations relating to the transit industry.



Sister Mary Michael McCulla, CDP, MSN, APRN, BC
Parish Nurse • Tri-Parish Nursing Ministries, ELCA
Florissant, Mo.

Sister Mary Michael brings to La Roche's board an extensive history in health care, including roles as a caregiver, instructor, author and administrator. She currently serves as a parish nurse in Missouri and is a member of the Sisters of Divine Providence. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Marillac College in St. Louis and her master's in gerontological nursing from St. Louis University, also located in St. Louis.

Originally an elementary school teacher, Sister Mary Michael returned to school and pursued a nursing career. She served in clinical and supervisory positions in the emergency room, intensive care unit and medical-surgical nursing at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Granite City, Ill., and eventually was named director of nursing there. She went on to serve as, among other prominent roles, a research instructor in the Department of Neurology and a clinical nurse specialist in the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, both at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. She then moved on to clinical instructor roles at St. Louis University School of Nursing and School of Medicine, as well as the St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Granite City, Ill., where she was vice president of nursing services.

She is a board member of Room at the Inn, in St. Louis and committee member of the Programs and Services Committee of the Arthritis Foundation of St. Louis.



Robin S. Randall
Vice President of Corporate Marketing, TRACO
Cranberry Township, Pa.

Carrying on a tradition begun by her father, Robert Randall, who served as a La Roche College board member, Robin Randall was elected to the board in spring 2008. Ms. Randall graduated from Chatham College in Pittsburgh with a bachelor's degree in communications and joined TRACO's customer relations team. She worked in various levels of management at the company during the several years she was there, and then she formed her own corporate event planning company, Inspired Events, LLC. During a three-year stint with Inspired Events, Ms. Randall served on the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence Board at the University of Pittsburgh.

At about this time, she learned that TRACO was developing a new focus for the company, and she returned to the company in the role of vice president of corporate marketing. In this capacity, Ms. Randall is responsible for strategic planning for the four business units within TRACO and the execution of all marketing campaigns and initiatives.

She serves as the treasurer of Rand Group, which focuses on real estate and property management. She also is the managing director of The Charity Randall Foundation, with a charter devoted to the arts, education and environment. In her spare time, she finds time to do voiceover work for non-profit organizations' projects.



An architectural rendering from The Design Alliance architects, Pittsburgh, showing what the new café area could be.

The Wright Library Challenge

by Pam Wigley

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LA ROCHE ARCHIVES



Mother Mary Dominic Obringer, CDP, Provincial Superior, Sisters of Divine Providence, breaks ground for the Wright Library in 1966.

Learning, indeed, is timeless. Never will it become outdated, especially as technology continues to evolve and we must work to understand it.

Lifelong learning is an essential part of La Roche College, embedded in the College's mission statement, and it is promoted throughout the classrooms on campus. The philosophy of learning also features prominently in another major campus facility, one that has continued its own evolution through the years – the John J. Wright Library and Learning Center.

“Be a student so long as you still have something to learn, and this will mean all your life.” ~ Henry L. Doherty, American Businessman & Utilities Expert

Although visitors will find volumes and volumes of books in the stacks at Wright Library, they also will find vast stores of electronic data. As this data has moved to more modern formats so, too, must the brick and mortar building that houses them. And that is why La Roche is championing the cause for renovating the Wright Library, ensuring that generations to come will enjoy this valuable resource that has served so many so well.

Changes through the years

When the Wright Library at La Roche College opened in 1967, it was the first major building on campus, housing collections and periodicals for use by students, faculty, staff and the community. At the time, it was a state-of-the-art facility among college libraries. As the decades passed and more buildings were erected, the library's internal resources kept pace with the times, but the building and its physical furnishings stayed the same as other critical needs were tended to by the College's administration.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LA ROCHE ARCHIVES



Students studying at Wright Library in the 1970s.

As the role of the academic library changed, it became evident that changes to the structure itself were necessary to keep up with the technology housed within its walls. This vast storehouse of information needed to meet its users needs in every way – becoming a modern supportive learning environment.

"Students and faculty no longer view college and university libraries simply as repositories of information," said La Roche College President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D. "We exist in an age when the campus library must operate as a complete learning center – a hub of technology that, at the same time, offers comfortable surroundings conducive to learning."

A plan for the future

Plans for updating the Wright Library solidified when the College decided to sell its West Campus and move all students, faculty and staff onto one main campus – the former East Campus. The basement of Wright Library was tapped as the new home for the College's most prominent design programs – Interior Design and Graphic & Communication Design. As the planning for the lower level space began, it became clear that the renovation of the main floor of Wright Library could not be ignored.

A capital improvement plan was developed in early 2007, reflecting updates to the study pod areas and the circulation desk and featuring new attributes such as a portable language laboratory, a presentation room and media screening

facilities. The plan called for wireless technology and software to enhance communication and long-distance learning, among other updated technologies that take the Wright Library well into the 21st century.

The plan also featured one key component essential in making the new library come to fruition: funding. With a price tag of more than \$1 million for the renovation, the library project must rely on grants, donations and private funding partners.

"The new Wright Library brings learning and technology together in a dynamic environment, and it is our hope that we can provide this exceptional facility to our students, staff, faculty and the community at large sooner, rather than later," Sister Candace said.

To that end, generous donations by several individuals and Pittsburgh foundations have set the stage for support of the Wright Library renovation project, according to Vice President of Development Janet Dennis. One of those donations is a challenge grant, which matches dollar-for-dollar gifts designated to this project, up to \$250,000. The College is hoping to raise that \$250,000 for the project by Dec. 31, 2008, in order to obtain the foundation's matching funds.

"We are committed to making this happen, and we look to our partners, both internally and externally, to help us meet our goal," Ms. Dennis noted.

Director of the Library LaVerne Collins couldn't agree more. She has been at the library for 22 years, and she is a familiar and friendly sight at Wright Library. She is leading the College's 2009 Faculty & Staff Campaign, encouraging the La Roche family to support the library renovation. "The planned library renovation is going to bring more positive change to how people perceive and use the library," she wrote recently. "I am excited for this change and hope it will draw more people to use the wonderful selection of resources available."

PHOTO: RICH EVANS



Graphic & Communication Design students in class on the lower level of the library.



The Design Alliance proposed Circulation Desk.

A store house of resources

The resources are vast and quite unexpected in a small liberal arts college, notes Vice President for Academic Affairs Howard Ishiyama, Ph.D. He points to the fact that the Wright Library team has purchased a number of significant databases – including online journals, reference sources for student, faculty and staff electronic access – in the last two years. Adding to its 8,000+ online journal/reference collection, the library databases now include:

- **The Art Museum Image Gallery**, a rich digital resource of images and multimedia gathered from the collections of distinguished museums around the world.
- **CQ Researcher**, which was founded in 1923 as Editorial Research Reports and is noted for its in-depth, unbiased coverage of health, social trends, criminal justice, international affairs, education, the environment, technology, and the economy.
- **Credo Reference**, formerly known as Xrefer, which is a digital reference library of high-quality reference books from the world's leading publishers. Offering access to more than 1.7 million individual entries, Credo Reference contains all types of reference books, including dictionaries, encyclopedias, thesauri, and books of quotations.

FEATURE STORY



Proposed Presentation Room.

- **Health and Psychosocial Instruments**, which provides ready access to information on measurement instruments (i.e., questionnaires, interview schedules, checklists, index measures, coding schemes/ manuals, rating scales, projective techniques, vignettes/scenarios, tests) in the health fields, psychosocial sciences, organizational behavior, and library and information science.
- **JSTOR**, offering researchers the ability to retrieve high-resolution, scanned images of journal issues and pages as they were originally designed, printed and illustrated. The journals archived in JSTOR span many disciplines.

“Our resources are vast, and they are technologically advanced, which is something all of us at La Roche can be proud of,” Dr. Ishiyama said. “Now, we will have a modern facility in which to house these works, and that will enable our students to research, study and learn at an advanced level and our faculty to prepare students for the global marketplace and civic life.”

Making it happen

The Campaign for the Renovation of the John J. Wright Library and Learning Center will continue after Dec. 31, but it is clearly important to the campus community to raise as much of the \$250,000 challenge grant as possible. Donors who personally contribute \$200 or more will have their names featured in a permanent display inside the library, yet gifts at every level and amount are important, Sister Candace noted.

PHOTO: RIC EVANS



Interior Design major Stephanie Snyder.

“The challenge grant represents an opportunity that we cannot afford to lose,” she said recently. “Every dollar will be important so that we, as a College, can continue to do what we must to better serve our students – and our community – well into the future.”

“The new Wright Library brings learning and technology together in a dynamic environment, and it is our hope that we can provide this exceptional facility to our students, staff, faculty and the community at large sooner, rather than later.” - Sister Candace Introcaso

People who are interested in learning more about donating to the Wright Library campaign may go to www.laroche.edu and click on the home page button that features the campaign. People also may contact kathleen.corcoran@laroche.edu or call 412-536-1088 for specific details.

For more on how the Wright Library serves the community, go to Page 36.



Admissions Team Targets New Markets, Programs Aimed at Increasing Enrollment

by Colleen Pelc

In today's global marketplace, having an understanding of people from other cultures is a bonus. Being exposed to different cultures is a plus on college campuses, yet student diversity is something that is often overlooked as a major selling point for some institutions of higher learning. Not at La Roche College. With a student population made up of representatives from 22 states and 45 countries, diversity helps La Roche stand out from other small, liberal arts Catholic colleges.

With a constantly growing international recruitment program, that has brought hundreds of international students to La Roche from countries like Jordan, Turkey, Rwanda, and Burundi, the experiences available to La Roche students continue to increase. And although seeking international students abroad is one way to help diversify the campus, exploring other markets to reach students within the United States and abroad is also important to molding the campus community.

La Roche admissions counselors are currently reaching out to a number of markets outside western Pennsylvania with the hope of attracting new students, while retaining the College's current student markets, according to Thomas Schaefer, Ph.D., associate academic vice president and dean of enrollment services.

"We feel that with the new strategic plan, our refocused mission statement and the 'Study Abroad – Study USA' program that we will be implementing, our school can and will be competitive well into the future." - Dr. Thomas Schaefer

For example, one market of particular interest to La Roche's counselors and administration is the New England states and school system, specifically Sacred Heart in Kingston, Mass. Sacred Heart is a Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence owned and operated private school, that shares the same conviction and mission that La Roche does.

"We believe that La Roche would be a natural transition for the students who come from there," Dr. Schaefer said. "We share the same values and beliefs that inspire the community, and we hope to build a relationship with Sacred Heart that lasts well into the future."

La Roche also is hoping to attract students from New York and Michigan.

"We are constantly looking for places that have a natural affiliation with our school. Because of some contacts that we have made in places like New England, Detroit and New York, we were able to make some initial visits and come up with new and creative ways to get more students from these markets," Dr. Schaefer said. With the troubled economy and a decreasing number of high school seniors entering the college market in southwestern Pennsylvania, Dr. Schaefer explained



Tom Schaefer pictured with United States Consulate General Dominique Nadeau, on a recent trip to Quebec. La Roche is also looking into a number of Canadian schools to obtain new students.

that La Roche needs to do everything it can to expand into growing markets and to continue bringing in new and more diversified opportunities for its current and incoming students. To grow our enrollment we must help La Roche stand out from other Catholic colleges and universities.

"We feel that with the new strategic plan, our refocused mission statement and the 'Study Abroad – Study USA' program that we will be implementing, our school can and will be competitive well into the future," Dr. Schaefer said.

Tentatively called Study Abroad – Study USA, Dr. Schaefer explains that the program "takes the traditional study abroad concept to the next step." What sets this program apart from others like it is that this one will expose students to cultural diversity here in the United States and outside of its borders, providing them with the opportunity to stay close to home if they prefer. The tuition structure will cover one short-term undergraduate study abroad or at-home experience while attending La Roche.

"This unique intercultural experience will greatly distinguish La Roche from other schools in our area and will allow students to get a quality education and experience global diversity all in one place," Dr. Schaefer added.

Although final details are being confirmed, incoming freshman in fall 2009 will be the first class to experience the new initiative.



Nursing at La Roche: Four Perspectives

by Pam Wigley • Photos by James Knox



Peggy Brady, RNC, MSN
Unit Director, High Risk Obstetrics
Magee-Womens Hospital of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

As a candy striper in high school, Brady found her calling. That “wonderful experience” led her to pursue nursing as a career. She earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at La Roche in 1995 and 2007, respectively. As a resident of the North Hills, she was drawn to the college because of its location and because of its excellent educational reputation, she notes, and she “knew my education would be tailored to meet my goals.”

She remembers the best part of the program being the expertise of her professors, and she believes what she learned from them was of great value in her career. Earning her degrees, she notes, has helped her to move forward professionally.

“As a Unit Director, I have used the knowledge gained in both the undergraduate and graduate programs,” she said. “I would recommend pursuing degrees at La Roche because nurses have to continue to seek advanced knowledge throughout their careers. At La Roche, you will receive the support and understanding that will assist you in advancing your careers.”



William P. Hogle, RN, MSN, OCN
Clinical Manager
University of Pittsburgh Cancer Center at UPMC Passavant Hospital

Hogle earned his master’s degree in nursing with a focus on management from La Roche College in May 2005. In addition to his role at UPMC Passavant, he is an adjunct professor in the La Roche College Department of Nursing. He teaches a class titled “Health Teaching,” which is an overview of learning theories, identification of culture and individual characteristics that influence learning, and utilization of effective approaches used to teach health care issues to individuals, families, and large groups. While at La Roche, Hogle found the location was convenient for him, and he liked the small class size because it allowed for more individual attention.

“I chose to come to La Roche for several reasons: the pace of the program; I wanted to go to school part time while working full time; the structure of the program, which, at the time, emphasized health care management issues and human resource management. Lastly, the proximity [of La Roche] to my home and work made it incredibly convenient.”



NURSING AT LA ROCHE



Jan Setzenfand, BSN, RN, CDE
Workforce Training Specialist
Health Careers Futures, Jewish Healthcare Foundation

Setzenfand decided to become a nurse after having served as an emergency medical technician. She says she realized she wanted to be able to do more for patients than she could in the back of an ambulance or an airplane. She earned her bachelor's degree from La Roche in 2005. She chose La Roche because of its reputation for quality academics, its participation in the UPMC tuition assistance program, the flexible schedule and the location, which was convenient to her home.

"I liked the professors and the challenge of being an adult learner," she said. "I believe having a degree has helped me to advance my career, and I would encourage other nurses to pursue their advanced degrees at La Roche. I found a lot of support – both academically and in other areas of challenge that I faced."

All bachelor's and master's degree courses at La Roche College are now offered online. If you would like information on any programs, from associate's degree through master's degree and certificates, please contact La Roche College at 1-800-838-4LRC for more information or visit www.laroche.edu for details.



Sarah Trischler, RN
Staff Nurse
UPMC Passavant Hospital

Trischler knew from the time she was a little girl that she wanted to work in the medical field. She says she looked into several different options, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, earning her medical degree and becoming a nutritionist, but "nursing just felt right."

She earned her associate's degree in May 2007 and her bachelor's degree in August 2008. She chose La Roche to pursue her degrees because she liked the size of the college and the fact that she received a lot of one-on-one attention, which she says was very beneficial in nursing school. She also liked the fact that La Roche offered a two-year program because, after earning her associate's degree, she was able to pursue her career earlier than most, while still pursuing her BSN.

"I liked the continuity from one program to the next. It was nice to already know most of my professors and to be in a familiar environment [when I earned my bachelor's]," she said. "I love being able to care for patients and help them. I truly feel I am making a difference in people's lives."



A Heart of Forgiveness: La Roche Alum and Pittsburgh Native Travels to Vietnam, Working as a Humanitarian on Children's Projects

by Nancy Dal Dasso



Noreen Doloughy visiting with some children she met in the countryside near Danang.

Pittsburgh native and La Roche College alumna Noreen Doloughy is the daughter of an American serviceman who died in Vietnam when she was an infant. Although the circumstances could have turned her against the people of Vietnam, Doloughy chose instead to embrace the country and its culture. She now participates in humanitarian efforts through a non-profit international organization based in Pittsburgh called Friends of Danang, a fund-raising, volunteer-only association. All of the money members raise goes toward humanitarian causes in and around Danang, Vietnam.

Doloughy's charity work has taken her to Vietnam two times thus far, and she's hoping to get the word out and get more people – especially students – involved in this ever-growing alliance between the United States and Vietnam. Her next goal is to build a school with a clean water component – something that's essential yet rare for children in Vietnam. As such, Doloughy needs volunteers to help raise funds and make this goal a reality.

Doloughy, a 1989 La Roche graphic design graduate, was only 8 months old when her father was killed in the Vietnam War. "This is my own little world peace project," Doloughy says of her involvement with the organization. In fact, she was just in Vietnam this past March and April to be part of a bridge dedication ceremony.

The bridge – called the Hoi Yen – connects two villages (Nam Yen and An Dinh) and allows children a safe passage to school during the rainy season. Friends of Danang contributed \$50,000 toward its construction.

Doloughy's initial involvement with Friends of Danang began in the fall of 2005. She was working at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette at the time and was invited to a Friends of Danang meeting where she met people including college students and Vietnam veterans who were already involved with the organization. At that first meeting, Doloughy committed to joining Friends of Danang on their next trip to Vietnam. A few months later, at another Friends of Danang meeting, Doloughy met journalist and Vietnam veteran Chris Moore of WQED Multimedia, a PBS affiliate in Pittsburgh. Moore and his veteran friends were going to be joining Friends of Danang on their trip to Vietnam, and Moore invited Doloughy to share her story in the documentary.

The documentary, "In Country: A Vietnam Story," was taped in early 2006 and aired in November 2006. It focused on the return to Vietnam of three veterans and a trip that Friends of Danang members took to a Vietnam project site. The



The Hoi Yen bridge connects two villages (Nam Yen and An Dinh) and allows children a safe passage to school during the rainy season.



From the 2008 trip, a visit with a friend from the Danang Ministry of Foreign Affairs office.

theme for this particular outing was “Let Them Walk Again Danang,” a program through World Vision that funded surgeries, prosthetics and orthotics for children with difficulty moving. Many of these children were born with birth defects, which some speculate have been caused by the lingering effects of dioxin (Agent Orange) contamination left from the war. Doloughy claims that first trip to Vietnam was “life-altering.”

“Our joint efforts have brought much improvement to the Danang region in just 10 years. With an already large American presence within the general area, it seems that the possibilities of growth and change between the United States and Vietnam are endless.”

- Noreen Doloughy

“Everyone was kind and welcoming,” Doloughy said of the Vietnamese people. It was moving, she said, as she watched U.S. veterans step onto the Vietnamese soil for the first time since the war.



She saw a cemetery – 35 miles southwest of Danang – with several hundred graves and above-ground crypts. During her visit, she met with many Vietnamese people and learned that, like their American counterparts, they are still dealing with physical and emotional scars from the war.

Despite experiencing such deep emotion on her trip, Doloughy says she is grateful for her

involvement with Friends of Danang. One of the many benefits in being involved is that its members work with other non-profit organizations such as the aforementioned World Vision – a non-governmental aid organization (NGO) dedicated to working with children, families, and global communities. Another NGO, East Meets West Foundation, transforms the health, education, and communities of disadvantaged people in Southeast Asia. Finally, Friends of Danang works with the Vietnam Children’s Fund, whose goal is “to seal the past and look to the hope of the future” by building schools. Doloughy says that the organization hopes to garner support from other non-profits, too.



Visiting a cemetery near where Doloughy’s father was mortally wounded.

“Our joint efforts have brought much improvement to the Danang region in just 10 years,” she said. “With an already large American presence within the general area, it seems that the possibilities of growth and change between the United States and Vietnam are endless.”

Back home in Pittsburgh, Doloughy hopes to spur involvement with Friends of Danang among more college students and fellow alumni from La Roche. Currently, Friends of Danang works with a contingent of Duquesne University students; Doloughy hopes her own alma mater becomes involved in what she calls “a life-changing cause.”

- For more information about Friends of Danang and how you can help, visit their website: www.friendsofdanang.org

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY: NOREEN DOLOUGHY



National Science Foundation Grant Helps Students Serve Homeless Cat Population

by Pam Wigley • Photos by James Knox



Ricardo Ricketts, La Roche biology major, is cleaning this feline's ears and treating it for fleas. At right, another cat waits to be seen at the Homeless Cat Management Team Clinic, conducted at the Animal Rescue League, Pittsburgh.

Professor of Biology Gail Rowe, Ph.D., loves cats. In fact, six of the furry felines call her house “home.” Now, through a project at La Roche College – in conjunction with Duquesne University in Pittsburgh – she has combined her love of domestic cats with her love of biology. Thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), students under Dr. Rowe’s direction are reaping the benefits of this program, which combines service to their community and love of science.

The NSF grant, titled “A Model for Incorporating Application-Based Service Learning in the Undergraduate Science Curriculum,” is under the direction of Nancy Trun, Ph.D., Lisa Ludvico, Ph.D., and Becky Morrow, D.V.M., all of Duquesne. La Roche is involved in the project through its BioSOLVE program; The National Aviary in Pittsburgh and Lehigh Carbon Community College in Schnecksville, Pa., also are involved. Application-based Service Learning is a new kind of service learning that promotes the combination of community service and novel laboratory research in science. Drs. Rowe and Trun, colleagues in science education, share a desire to help students learn both.

“I created the BioSOLVE program at La Roche because it focuses on helping the community through science, regardless of the project,” Dr. Rowe said. “It also gives our biology students an opportunity to do real-life research, which is an important part of their training as scientists.”

BioSOLVE (Biology Student Operated Laboratory Venture) is a La Roche program in which a biology laboratory is dedicated solely to student research. The program is based on a business model whereby student participants work as contractors with other individuals and institutions to perform specific laboratory services.

In this first year of the BioSOLVE program, La Roche students are collaborating with the Homeless Cat Management Team (HCMT) project, the members of which aim to “humanely reduce population growth and minimize the suffering of homeless cats through





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sterilization and the promotion of responsible colony management in southwestern Pennsylvania,” according to the Pittsburgh group’s mission statement. For Dr. Rowe, who personally has witnessed the suffering that cats endure because of overpopulation, this was a perfect project for her BioSOLVE students.

“I created the BioSOLVE program at La Roche because it focuses on helping the community through science, regardless of the project.” - Dr. Gail Rowe

Rowe noted that the process, called TNR for “trap, neuter and return,” has been used successfully in Europe for 30 years to control stray cat population. It is a way to humanely manage the cat population, Rowe said, allowing the animals to return to their home colonies without being able to reproduce and grow that population.

“Some animals can be adopted, but many are returned to their home areas after being spayed or neutered, and they can live among their familiar surroundings,” Rowe said. “The benefit is that they cannot have more litters and grow the number of an already crowded homeless cat population.”

The BioSOLVE students participate in some community service related to their research project. This semester, all the students volunteered at one of the spay/neuter clinics that the HCMT sponsored for feral cats. Back in the laboratory, the students use modern methods of molecular biology to analyze stool samples previously collected by the Duquesne group from feral cats at HCMT spay/neuter clinics. BioSOLVE students are using DNA technology to find out what bacterial infections are carried by the feral cats.



Biology student Kara Dragone works in the Recovery Room, where cats are monitored as they come out of anesthesia – to ensure they don’t have adverse reactions to surgery or the anesthesia itself.

“People often assume that feral cats carry diseases that can spread to people or pets and use that as an argument to kill the cats. But no one has ever looked at that, scientifically, to see if it’s really true,” Dr. Rowe said. “Our BioSOLVE students are continuing to collaborate with the Duquesne group to answer this question with real data.”

Although future BioSOLVE projects may address a variety of different community issues, students will be involved in the HCMT project for the life of the grant, which began in September 2007 and will continue through August 2010.



Profiles in Human Resources Management

by Pam Wigley • Photos by James Knox

The Human Resources Management (HRM) Master's Degree Program at La Roche College was created to fit into working people's lives and, as such, the program attracts a variety of people. Within the HRM classrooms at La Roche's main campus in the North Hills or at the Cranberry Woods location at the Regional Learning Alliance, visitors will find human resources professionals, people who work in general business environments, and full-time students who are continuing on after earning their undergraduate degrees – just to name a few. Students fall into various age, race and gender categories, but one thing is constant among all: They are dedicated to this tough but satisfying program that has earned La Roche an excellent reputation among Pittsburgh professionals.

Here, we profile two HRM program students. One is a recent graduate, and one is nearing completion of the program. Both illustrate how resilience and keeping a clear goal in sight have helped them achieve what they set out to do when they first decided to pursue this degree.



Jennifer Hackett

Jennifer Hackett, PHR

Upper St. Clair resident Jen Hackett always finds something new to learn. Her quest for knowledge and love of working with people brought her to La Roche's HRM program. Hackett graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in hotel and restaurant management in 2000 and joined the team at The Pittsburgh Golf Club in Squirrel Hill, Pa., shortly thereafter. Her day-to-day work kept her busy and she "enjoyed it immensely," but she felt a desire to pursue an advanced degree after working several years.

"I had taken a required class in human resources

when I was at IUP, and I loved it," she said. "So I decided to look into the master's program at La Roche, which came highly recommended to me by a professor at the University of Pittsburgh."

She joined the program as a certificate student, taking four three-credit classes that earned her a specialization in one of eight areas offered by the HRM program. Her first class on compensation with adjunct faculty member Sharon Cercone, a human resources professional from PNC Bank, rekindled Hackett's interest in HR. Once her certificate work was done, she had a choice to make: Continue the program and earn her master's or leave with just her certificate. It was a big decision because she funded her education personally; her employer did not pay the tab, a luxury many students enjoy. But she knew it was an investment in her future – one she was willing to make in order to one day work in the human resources industry.

"Everyone has different personalities and backgrounds, and it was all interesting to me. I think having worked in a business environment made the program a little easier for me, because I could relate to on-the-job experiences that we discussed in class." - Jennifer Hackett

Ultimately, the decision was easy, she says, and she decided to go for her master's degree, which she earned in summer 2008. She says she feels a tremendous sense of pride in what she accomplished through the program.

That sense of accomplishment was renewed shortly after when Hackett accepted her first human resources position with United States Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh. Hackett took and passed the Professional Human Resources examination, entitling her to use the PHR designation after her name. She took the test's preparatory course at the Regional Learning Alliance while completing her final class this past summer.

Looking back, she says, it's hard to believe her studies are over. Now, she has more time to spend with husband, Tim, a metallurgical engineer, and their two dogs. Juggling work, home and class wasn't easy, she says, but she enjoyed the program.

"I loved the professors, and I loved the classroom experience," she says. "Everyone has different personalities and backgrounds, and it was all interesting to me.

"To anyone out there who is thinking of getting this degree, I have to say, 'Just do it. Take it one week at a time, one class a time. Get off the couch and do it!'"



HRM AT LA ROCHE

Ernestine Harris

Sometimes, things work out when your life doesn't go as you planned.

Ernestine Harris imagined that she would one day own a clothing store. Her love of fashion, experience as a model and her background in retail merchandising were three sure signs that clothing was, indeed, destined to be part of her future. Little did the New Kensington, Pa., native know that it would be in the form of business attire that always kept her looking smart on the job – no matter where her career has taken her.

Harris was 21 years old and newly married to her husband, George, when she realized that fashion would not be her career, although it would remain an interest all her life. She decided to become a secretary and learn more about roles within organizations, helping her determine a path for her future.

"I was always looking ahead to the next phase of my life," she recalls. "Being a secretary helped me to develop skills and a service mentality that has served me well. I'm proud of the work I did."

She eventually joined Digital Equipment Corporation in Pittsburgh, an organization she would call home for 15 years. There, Harris moved into the world of human resources, and she had the opportunity to grow and learn. As a result of downsizing, she eventually was the last human resources professional on staff, covering four states on her own. She decided it was time to move on, and her career path took her to PNC Bank, where she was a personnel officer and, eventually, assistant vice president of human resources. As she had always done, she learned from each role and stockpiled her knowledge, building on each step.

In 1998, a recruiter called Harris about a human resources manager position at GlaxoSmithKline (gsk), and she says she recognized the role as a benefit not only to her, but also to the company because she could "add value by making an impact." And as she has moved through the ranks at gsk, now holding the title of director of human resources, she still believes making an impact is what matters.

"If someone wrote an article about my work, I would want the headline to be, 'I made an impact,'" she says. "Not just inside the company, but also in our community."

Within gsk, she has served as a team leader, working with people from throughout the company, galvanizing efforts and driving initiatives that often result in recommendations to the company's leadership. She has led the diversity team at gsk and is proud of changing the culture through that team's work. Externally, Harris points to a mentoring program she's developed with Sto-Rox High School as an example of how she can give back to the community through her experience and position at gsk; others at the company share their expertise, too. It's clear that education is important to her.

"If someone wrote an article about my work, I would want the headline to be, 'I made an impact,' not just inside the company, but also in our community." - Ernestine Harris

She earned her bachelor's degree in business administration from La Roche, graduating magna cum laude, and is currently pursuing her master's degree in HRM. She credits her husband for helping her to be able to juggle it all through the years, including the time spent raising their daughter, Alexis, now grown and in Raleigh, N.C. "George's support made this all happen."

The fact that the HRM program works with her busy lifestyle also has helped Harris achieve her goal of earning her master's degree, which she will receive in December 2009. She was attracted to La Roche because of its reputation and, once in the program, she found the small class size conducive to learning. The faculty members, she notes, have a true passion for their students. "They all take a special interest in people, and that doesn't happen everywhere."

One day, she may be imparting wisdom and experience to her own classroom. She says she would love to teach and "continue to add value no matter where I go." Her advice to students who are thinking about going back to earn their advanced degree is simple: Go for it.

"There is no down side. Continuing to learn always adds benefit – not only to you, but also to those around you. You have to be willing to let it happen and take some calculated risks."





Travel With La Roche This Spring



Destination: Italy

Date: May 11-20, 2009

La Roche College students, faculty, staff, parents and alumni are invited to tour Italy next May, with the College's annual spring trip. According to Chiara Sauret, Italian and French instructor and trip adviser, this year's trip, through EF Educational Tours, will include visits to Rome, Sorrento, Sicily (Taormina, Siracusa, Palermo) and Pompeii.

Points of interest on the trip include:

- The Vatican City and the Vatican Museums
- The Coliseum
- The Trevi Fountain
- The Pantheon
- The Island of Capri
- Pompeii's ruins of villas, ancient temples and Stabian Baths

There will also be an optional excursion to Mount Etna and Syracuse. Cost of the trip will be \$3,081 for students and \$3,430 for adults based on the participation of 17 people. The price can decrease depending upon the number of participants. The trip includes: round-trip airfare; seven overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms, plus one night ferry accommodations; complete European breakfast and dinner daily; full-time bilingual tour director; visits to special attractions; and a private bus during the tour.

A special course in the spring is also being created that will offer students the chance to enhance their visit to Italy.

"Students should enroll because they can see some of the most beautiful places in Europe," Sauret said. "And for some students who have Italian origins, it will be an occasion to learn the story of their ancestors. But most of all, they are going to have fun!"

To sign up for or to learn more about the Italy trip, please contact Chiara Sauret by e-mail: chiara.sauret@laroche.edu or chiaraveroni@hotmail.com.



Destination: Paris to Copenhagen

Date: May 12-22, 2009

This year, La Roche's Interior Design Department is planning a trip, also through EF Educational Tours, that will take attendees from Paris to Copenhagen.

According to Maria Ripepi, assistant professor and trip adviser, this year's trip is being opened up to all La Roche students, faculty, staff, parents and alumni, and not just interior design students.

Trip attendees will visit Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, Lubeck, Copenhagen and Oslo.

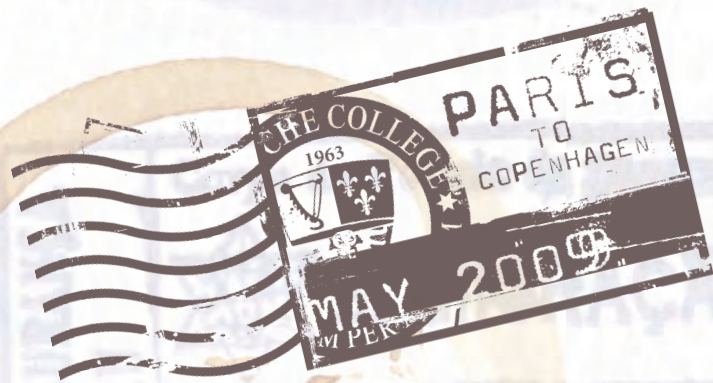
Some points of interest are:

- Walking tour of Paris
- The Louvre
- Notre Dame Cathedral
- Anne Frank House
- Round Tower

The Paris to Copenhagen trip features a number of optional excursions including: a visit to Versailles; Volendam and Zaanse Schans; and Elsinore and Kronborg Castle. There is also a two-day trip extension to Norway featuring a guided sightseeing tour of Oslo, a visit to the Holmenkollen Ski Jump and Museum and a walking tour of Oslo.

Cost of the trip will be approximately \$3,000 for students and \$3,300 for adults, based on the participation of 40 people. The trip fee includes: round-trip airfare; eight overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms, plus one night ferry accommodations; complete European breakfast and dinner daily; full-time bilingual EF tour director; sightseeing and orientation tours; and special attraction visits.

For more information about this trip or to sign up, please contact Maria Ripepi by e-mail: maria.ripepi@laroche.edu.





La Roche Class Notes

1960s

SISTER MARY GRACE CARLISANO, CDP, BA '67, celebrated her 50th jubilee in religious life in 2007. Sister Mary Grace became a teacher and taught at Seton LaSalle High School and at the Providence Heights Alpha School. After retiring from the classroom, Sister Mary Grace became a customer service representative in the circulation department of Northland Public Library. She is an avid reader and enjoys swimming and biking.

SISTER PAULITA KUZY, CDP, BA '68, celebrated her 50th jubilee in religious life in 2007. Sister Paulita has been an educator her entire life, ministering at St. Bonaventure in Glenshaw, Providence Heights Alpha School and currently at the Marymount International School Rome in Rome. She enjoys reading and learning about different cultures. She is also a fan of all types of music, from classical to soft rock.

SISTER HILDA PROHASKA, CDP, BA '69, celebrated her 50th jubilee in religious life in 2007. Sister Hilda began teaching at St. Bonaventure in Glenshaw in 1959. She taught in several elementary schools in the Pittsburgh Diocese. Her longest assignments were at St. Mary's in Herman, Pa., and the Providence Heights Alpha School where she taught until her retirement in 2000. Sister Hilda currently ministers in internal service to the Sisters of Divine Providence community.

1970s

MARGARETTA "MARGIE" DARBUT, CRNA, BS '79, is a nurse anesthetist at Allegheny General Hospital Suburban Campus in the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

1980s

TERESA KARLO CARUSO, CRNA, BS '81, is employed as a certified nurse anesthetist at the Elk Regional Medical Center in St. Mary's, Pa., where she resides.

MARY ELAINE CASTILLENTI, CRNA, BS '81, is employed as a certified nurse anesthetist at UPMC St. Margaret.

BARBARA FORSHA, BSN '89, was named Quality Management Officer for Veterans Affairs Healthcare – Veterans Integrated Services Network 4. This is a healthcare system of 10 medical centers and nearly 40 community clinics serving 1.5 million veterans in Pennsylvania, Delaware and portions of West Virginia, New Jersey, Ohio and New York. Barbara resides in South Park with her husband Tim and three children.



Alum Appointed to Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee

C. KURT MULZET was recently appointed to the Allegheny County Bar Association Judiciary Committee, a panel of 24 lawyers who evaluate all candidates for local, appellate, and federal courts in Allegheny County.

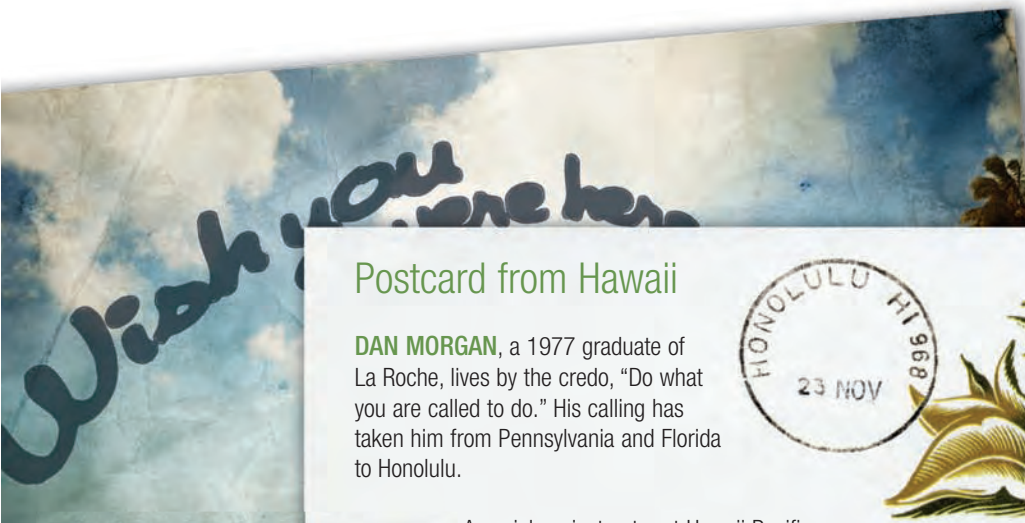
"I am honored to become a member of this committee," Kurt said. "My past legal experience will enable me to evaluate candidates fairly and provide our courts with the best possible judges."

Kurt earned his bachelor's degree, cum laude, in history from La Roche in 1975. He is currently a senior associate practicing family law at the Pittsburgh firm Jones, Gregg, Creehan & Gerace. He also is a member of the Family Law Sections of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Allegheny County Bar Association.

STEVEN POHL, BS '81, was appointed general auditor for PPG Industries effective July 1, 2008. For the past four years, Steve has been the CFO for PPG Europe, based outside of Geneva, Switzerland. He, his wife Stephanie and their children, Anna, 6, and John, 4, reside in the North Hills of Pittsburgh.

JAMIE LIN KELLY RICE, BS '89, along with her husband, Timothy, founded 3-D Sign Company in 2000. Their company is located in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. They have two daughters, Jocelin, 7, and Briona, 4. They reside in McCandless Township.

CHARLENE RINEHART, BA '82, was honored as an outstanding educator by the Teacher Excellence Center at the Fifth Annual Celebration of Teaching on April 28, 2008, at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland. Charlene is a fourth grade teacher at Borland Manor Elementary in the Canon-McMillan School District.



Postcard from Hawaii

DAN MORGAN, a 1977 graduate of La Roche, lives by the credo, "Do what you are called to do." His calling has taken him from Pennsylvania and Florida to Honolulu.



A sociology instructor at Hawaii Pacific University, Dan has worked in sales, stand-up comedy and was a roller derby player. He has been a faculty member of Hawaii Pacific University since 2005, and he is a coach of a women's roller derby team.

Prior to moving to Hawaii, Dan spent 10 years in Miami, where he taught sociology at Barry University. He received his master's degree from the University of Miami in Race Relations. Dan is currently working on a doctorate of education at the University of Southern California, and he expects to finish in 2010.

Dan recently co-authored a sociology textbook with three other professors. He took the cover photo for the book and wrote the textbook's inscription.



JILL L. FERGSON, BS '92, has spent the last year working on books with colleagues and friends. One of these is a new non-fiction book she co-authored with Laura C. Browne that came out in August 2008. It is titled, "Raise Rules for Women: How to Make More Money at Work." The book offers the reader seven easy-to-follow rules on how to obtain the salary increase they deserve. Jill is an award-winning writer, editor, public speaker and professor who has written more than 700 published essays and poems. Another book of Jill's, "Sometimes Art Can't Save You," came out in 2005.

SUSAN E. HOOLAHAN, MSN '91, has been selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow. The three-year fellowship focuses on

understanding and identifying solutions to make timely changes to national health care issues. Susan is the vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer of UPMC St. Margaret. Susan resides in Wexford with her husband Paul and 12-year-old triplets, Casey, Erin and P.J.

MARK SIEG, BS '86, was named to the post of chief executive officer of St. Anthony School Programs and the St. Anthony's Charitable Foundation based in Wexford. Mark, his wife Beth, son Sean and daughters Megan and Katie, reside in Penn Hills.

PATRICIA A. SIMMONS, MS, BA '82, is the principal at Independence Elementary School in the Hopewell Area School District. She is the president of Phi Delta Kappa – Chapter 14 – Three Rivers Pittsburgh. She is also a facilitator/ trainer for the Pennsylvania Department of Education's National Institute of School Leadership. Patricia is a mentor for the Principal's Leadership Induction Program and a school improvement coach both for the Pennsylvania Academy of Higher Education. She is also a facilitator/trainer for "The Adolescent Journey" national program. Patricia resides in Monaca and has two adult sons and four grandchildren.

1990s

JUDITH A. ABEL, BA '94, is employed as a mammography technologist at Canonsburg General Hospital. She transferred from Allegheny General Hospital where she had worked since 1991. Both are hospitals in the West Penn Allegheny Health System.

TAMMY ANN BEIER, BS '92, MS '96, has worked for NEP Supershooters LP for the past 12 years. Tammy traveled to Beijing for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games to work for NBC Sports at the Broadcast Center. This is the third Olympics that she has worked for NBC Sports.

DANA HIPPLE EUSTACE, BS '91, has moved back to Chester County, Pa., from mid-coast Maine along with her husband Simon and their three sons, Aidan, 8, Kieran, 6, and Ryan, 2.

CHERYL LENHART, MS '98, is manager of the Medical Short Stay Center and IV Therapy Department of The Western Pennsylvania Hospital in the West Penn Allegheny Health System. Cheryl is on the editorial board of West Penn's nursing journal, "Professional Paradigms" and is the editor of the "Greater Pittsburgh Chapter Oncology Nursing Society's Newsletter." Cheryl also volunteers with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as a member of its Patient Services Committee and is team captain for the annual "Light the Night" fund-raising event.

PATRICIA A. MARTUCCI, CRNA, MS '92, is employed as a certified nurse anesthetist at UPMC Southside Hospital.

JENNIFER KISAK MILLIGAN, BS '92, attended George Washington University and now practices as a physician assistant. Jennifer and her husband Lee have four children, Sean Patrick, 7, Jacob Conor, 5, Molly Anne, 3, and Daniel David, 9 months. They reside in Medford, Ore., and enjoy the awesome outdoor activities that the Pacific Northwest has to offer.

KAREN PICCIRILLA, BA '99, is the director of the Diagnostic & Imaging Center at the Sharon Regional Health System in Hermitage, Pa. Karen resides in Sharpsville, Pa., with her husband Paul and two children, Chelsea and Chad.

CRAIG POLACEK, LEED, AP, BS '98, is employed by Fox Architects in Washington, D.C. He resides in Odenton, Md.



MED3000 Appoints Alum Chief Compliance Officer

ANGELA HOFFMAN was recently appointed to the position of chief compliance and ethics officer at MED3000 Group, Inc., in Pittsburgh, a national leader in healthcare management and technology products and services for providers and employers.

Angela will be responsible for the oversight of MED3000's corporate compliance and ethics program, as well as compliance oversight for the company's existing operating units in the United States and newly developed units outside the United States.

Angela earned her bachelor's degree from La Roche in 1985 and her master's degree in Nursing Management in 1988. Prior to joining MED3000, Angela was employed by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and the University of Pittsburgh Physicians Compliance Office. She has also held various nursing management positions at Allegheny General Hospital and UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside, and served as adjunct faculty at the Community College of Allegheny County.

Alums Named Among Best 50 Women in Business

LINDA HARVEY-BURKLEY and **SHARON SCHEIDEMANTLE**, two La Roche alums, were both recently selected as one of "Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business 2008." Chosen by an independent panel of judges based on their dedication to business growth, professional and personal accomplishments, community involvement and advocacy for women in business, Linda and Sharon received their honor from Gov. Edward G. Rendell on May 19 in Harrisburg.

Linda, pictured at top right, a native of Butler County, received her bachelor's degree from La Roche in 1987. She has been the principal of her own communications firm, Ardis Strategic Communications & Training, in Harrisburg, since 2002. She resides in Harrisburg with her husband and twin boys.

Sharon earned her master's degree in Human Resource Management from La Roche in 1986. She is the broker of record for residential and commercial sales and leasing for Achieve Realty Inc., located in Wexford. She resides in Mars, Pa., with her husband Keith and their son Dillon.



MELISSA MCBRIDE QUEALY, BS '99, married Michael Quealy in October 2007. Father Peter Horton presided over the ceremony held in Warren, Pa. Melissa and Michael live and work in Virginia.

SUSAN SAMUELS, MSN, RN, BSN '95, was appointed assistant director of the Ohio Valley General Hospital School of Nursing in November 2007. She is also an adjunct facilitator in the Waynesburg University Nursing Program.

FAITH STIPANOVICH, PHR, MS '97, is the payroll manager for the Allegheny County Controller's Office. She is the president of Pennsylvania Human Resources Association. Faith was elected in November 2007 as a Mt. Lebanon School director. She is also the 2008 treasurer of Amen Corner. Faith is the 2007-08 vice president of Transitional Service, Inc., and the 07-08 vice treasurer for the Western Pennsylvania American Payroll Association.

JOANNA N. ABEL, BA '05, teaches art to children at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts in Shadyside. She also runs a belly dancing school in a second floor studio of the 3rd Street Gallery in Carnegie. Recently she helped form a tribal fusion dance company called Sadiqa, which means "girlfriend" in Arabic.

RAWAND AL-SALEM, BS '04, M '06, is an HR & Administration manager for Autotech-Chevrolet in Amman, Jordan.

OLIVIA LINTON BAYLOR, BA '06, married Eric Baylor on June 7, 2008. They reside in Windsor Mill, Md.

CASIMIR FREDERICK CHESTER, BA '03, is currently living in Fort Lee, Va., with her husband Darryl, who is a soldier for the U.S. Army in the 377th Chemical Company. They just celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary. Casimir currently volunteers her time at the Fort Lee Public Affairs Office writing articles for the Fort Lee Traveller and doing Power Point slides for the on-base television station.

ROBERT DOWNEY JR., BA '01, was hired in August 2008 as the new chief of the University Police at Slippery Rock University. Most recently, he was commander of the General Investigations Unit of the Allegheny County Police. He also served as the head of security for the 2007 U.S. Open held at Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Pa.

JESSIE FOSTER, BS '02, was married to Michael Crnjarić on June 21, 2008. She is pursuing a master's degree at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.

RANDALL K. GILBERT, MS '04, passed the PHR Exam and was promoted to human resource manager in the Pittsburgh office of HDR Engineering, Inc.

CARLI L. FURY, BS '08, has accepted a position with Pricewaterhouse Coopers, located in downtown Pittsburgh, as a trust tax outsourcing associate.

ERIN GSELL, BA '06, joined Ampco-Pittsburgh Corporation in June 2007 as the sole administrative assistant to the Legal Department. In that role, Erin is responsible for a diverse amount of projects and work relating primarily to litigation, corporate governance and human resources. She recently purchased a new home.

ANDREA KALINA, MS '00, was recently promoted to the position of vice president, Human Resources and Organizational Advancement at St. Clair Hospital. She will continue to have responsibility for human resources and volunteer services and will oversee public relations and marketing, community relations and guest services.

LOUISE KARAMAGE, BS '04, is working with the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology and finished a master's of communication and management in March 2008, awarded by KIST and the United Telecommunication Academy. Louise lives in Kigali, Rwanda, with her husband Issa and her two children, Keza Shiloh, 2 ½, and Gisa Shalem, 1.

TAYLOR JEANNE KING, BS '07, as of March 2008 is a junior interior designer with Group 3, a Hilton Head Island, S.C., firm specializing in architecture, interiors and planning.

JUSTIN LAMPERSKI, BS '04, married Allison Lynne Templin on June 1, 2008. Justin was recently promoted to senior environment artist at Crystal Dynamics in Redwood City, Calif.

SCOTT MCGEE, BA '07, has been named the head coach of the Ambridge High School baseball team.

RAMONA MORRIS, BS '08, was an honored guest at Zonta Club's fifth annual Glass Slipper Ball held on Feb. 9, 2008, at the Four Points Sheraton in Mars, Pa. The Glass Slipper Ball is Zonta Club of Three Rivers Pittsburgh North's largest fund-raiser event, which supports women's education by providing scholarships through local organizations.

MELODY MORRISSEY, BS '07, joined the firm of Lally, Lally & Co. LLC, Certified Public Accountants and Business Advisors, located in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. Melody is an accountant in the Accounting & Auditing Group.

CHERYL MCCAFFERTY PERRY, BS '01, received her MPA from Gannon University in December 2006. Cheryl was married in November 2007.

KRISNA POZNIK, BS '05, has been appointed senior graphic designer in the Office of Public Relations at La Roche College. Previously, Krisna was the assistant to the Graphic & Communication Design Department chair at the College.

BROOKE E. SHIREY, BA '03, co-produced and played a part in the Internet short film, "Barackula," which endorsed president-elect Barack Obama. She moved to the Sherman Oaks section of Los Angeles in 2004. Since then she has been a body double on an HBO set, played a secretary in an episode of "The West Wing" and was in a Nationwide Insurance television campaign. Currently she is working to launch a production company called Nice Dreams Entertainment.

KELLIE SCHNEPP WEIDLEIN, BA '01, married Kurt Weidein on Aug. 18, 2007. Kellie is a regional assistant employed by Combined Insurance.



Adjunct Professor and Alum Receive Accolades for WQED Production

ROSEMARY MARTINELLI and **MORGAN KELLY** were recently honored with an International Silver Vision Award from the League of American Communications Professionals (LACP) for their production of WQED's 2007 Annual Report – WQED Changes Lives.

One judge said of the entry "...this report compellingly elaborates on both your culture of passion and what makes you unique within your industry."

Rosemary, pictured at right, above, is an adjunct professor at La Roche and executive director of marketing and communications at WQED. Morgan is a 2006 La Roche graduate with a bachelor's degree in graphic & communication design. She also works on Rosemary's marketing team at WQED.



Alum Added to Professional Staff at WTW Architects

CAROLYN M. CURCIO was one of 10 new additions to the professional staff at WTW Architects of Pittsburgh. She is currently working with the WTW design team on the Indiana University of Pennsylvania student housing development.

Carolyn is a 2005 graduate of La Roche with a bachelor's degree in interior design. A resident of Greentree, Carolyn was employed by Mt. Lebanon Office Equipment in Pittsburgh and was a store planner for the Sears Holding Company prior to joining WTW Architects. She also is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers.

Accounting Firm Announces Staff Addition

Goff Backa Alfera & Company, LLC, a regional CPA firm in the South Hills of Pittsburgh, recently announced the addition of **DANIEL FARRELL** to their firm as a staff consultant in their Audit and Accounting Group.

Dan graduated from La Roche with a bachelor's degree in accounting and management in 2008. He is a member of the Delta Mu Delta National Honor Society in business Administration and was a Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award winner.

A Shaler resident, Dan previously worked with the firm as a tax intern in 2007 and at another tax firm as a trust tax intern.

MARCESS WILLIAMS, BA '02, has been appointed as a full-time admissions counselor at Penn State Beaver as of June 1, 2008. During the past year, he has been serving as both an admissions counselor and residence life coordinator. Marcess is also the head coach of the Beaver Nittany Lions men's basketball team.

NICOLE BADAMO WILLIAMSON, BS '03, is employed by SAE International located in Warrendale, Pa. Nicole married Brent Williamson, BS '03 in June 2004. They have a 2-year-old daughter, Isabella Grace, and are expecting their second child this year.

MICHAEL WILLY, BS '03, has been appointed art director at Elias Savion Advertising, Inc. Previously, Mike was a senior designer at UPMC.

Deaths

JAN BERKEY, BA '93 and past Women's Tennis Head Coach, on May 24, 2008

LINDA ANN LADESIC, BA '79 on May 21, 2008

KATHLEEN M. KENNY SMITH, BSN '00 on Feb. 18, 2007

ELLEN J. THOMAS, R.N., BA '81 on April 22, 2007



La Roche Alums Take the Leap

When a rainy day ruined their plans for an outdoor wedding at the Ligonier Country Inn in Ligonier, Pa., La Roche alums **BONNIE (WENZEL)** and **BRAD SOMRAK** decided to "take the leap" both literally and figuratively on June 14.

"We thought jumping in the pool would be fun, and I was hoping the photographer would get some good photos," Bonnie said. "I wasn't planning on keeping my wedding dress so I didn't mind if my dress got ruined.

"Trash the dress' sessions have become more popular lately, so this was my alternative to a separate session," she added.

The couple met while students at La Roche. Bonnie earned her bachelor's degree in computer information systems and business administration, with a minor in accounting in 2006. Brad graduated in 2004 with a degree in history. He later attended the University of Akron Law School, where he graduated in 2007.

Bonnie is currently an information technology auditor for Dollar Bank and Brad is an assistant district attorney of Allegheny County. The newlyweds reside in the North Hills and are the proud parents of 2-year-old Hayleigh Rose Somrak.

PHOTOS: CASUAL MOMENTS PHOTOGRAPHY



In Memoriam: Remembering Michael Bird

The La Roche College community experienced a tragedy on Aug. 25 when sophomore Michael Bird collapsed while playing basketball in the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center. He was transported to UPMC Passavant where he later died.

The Allegheny County Medical Examiner determined that Michael died from coronary

anomaly, a congenital heart defect. A funeral took place on Sept. 13 in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Michael's hometown, and a number of La Roche students and staff members were in attendance.

In the aftermath since Michael's death, La Roche senior Kylie French has created and is selling wristbands debossed with the phrase "Fly Like Bird" for \$2 a piece. Proceeds from the wristbands will be given to Michael's family. Anyone interested in purchasing a wristband can stop by the Center for College Activities and Cross-Cultural Engagement office, Monday through Thursday from 2 – 4 p.m. Anyone interested in making a monetary donation to the family and not purchasing a wristband can also make their donation at the College Activities office.

For more information, please contact College Activities at (412) 536-1070.



Nursing Alumna (BSN '89) Linda Uhernik, CRNP, Ed.D., in red shirt, brought guests Susan Hughston (middle) and Marla Uhernik.



Sister Michele Bisbey, CDP, Ph.D., and alumna Maura Donohue ('04).



First baseman Adam LaRoche in a break from the action.

Alumni Meet at Regular Events

The Office of Alumni Affairs consistently comes up with fun and entertaining events for our valued La Roche College alumni and their families, and this year has been no exception.

The Second Annual La Roche College Alumni Luncheon was on Monday, May 5, at the Lexus Club at PNC Park. Chuck Tanner, former Pittsburgh Pirates manager and two-time World Series Champion, served as this year's guest speaker.

This year's Second Annual La Roche College Alumni Double Header on Saturday, June 21, kicked off with a pre-game dinner at McFadden's Restaurant and Saloon. Following dinner, more than 200 La Roche alumni and their guests were on hand to see the Pittsburgh Pirates defeat the Toronto Blue Jays by a score of 6-3.

Lastly, a number of alumni and their guests enjoyed the long-awaited return of the Broadway-hit musical, *Wicked*, to Pittsburgh. On Saturday, Sept. 20, a pre-show reception took place at Bossa Nova, followed by the performance.



Top left: Anne Crawford (MS '85), seated, and daughter Jill.

Bottom right: Lynn Coleman Gardner, guest of Tesha Nesbit Arrington, (MS'00), and Sister Candace Introcaso.



Alumni News Form

Send us your news and photos or update your information!

Let us know what's new with you (awards, marriage, births, promotions/job changes, change of address, advanced degrees, etc.) Just fill out this form and mail it with a related photo (optional) to:

La Roche College
Office of Alumni Affairs
9000 Babcock Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
(Fax) 412-536-1090

You can also e-mail your latest news or updated information to alumni@laroche.edu

We'd love to keep in touch!

Please print or type:

Name _____

Name of Spouse (if applicable) _____

Degree(s) _____

Class Year(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Preferred E-mail address _____

Employer _____

Business Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Business Phone _____

Names of children (age): _____

News _____



From left to right are: Robert Kreisel, Gary Jones, Holly Kreisel-Jones, instructor Astrid Kersten, Ph.D., Laura Walsh, Margie Kreisel, and instructor Jean Forti, Ph.D.

Students Earn HRM Awards

Celebrating at the annual graduates luncheon on May 2, 2008, are master's degree recipients Laura Walsh and Holly Kreisel-Jones and her family, as well as two La Roche faculty who serve as instructors in the program. Kreisel-Jones was the recipient of the Positive Engagement award and Walsh was the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Award.



Alum Supports Anesthesia Simulator Lab

Traveling the farthest to attend the President's Circle Recognition Dinner in October was John Patch, '98, pictured at right, who currently lives in Mooresville, N.C.

John, a graduate of the La Roche Nurse Anesthesia program and a supporter of its new Anesthesia Simulator Laboratory, toured the new lab with his parents, Bill and Shirley Patch. The software-controlled mannequins, who serve as patients to help perfect the technique of administering anesthesia, were made possible by a grant from the Buhl Foundation.

Keep in Touch

Alumni who send us their updated information will receive a La Roche College luggage tag. It's our way of saying thank you for keeping in touch.

Send your information along to:

Rose M. Woolley - Director of Alumni Affairs
La Roche College
9000 Babcock Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15237



Game on! Graphic Design Students Test Games On Elementary Students

It's been an annual part of George Founds' Graphic Design II class for students to design board games. This year, they took the assignment one step further when they took the games to students in two third-grade classrooms at Northway Elementary near the La Roche campus. The La Roche students visited Carol Nelson and Jill Wigley's classrooms during spring semester, and they met their matches in the pint-sized test marketers. Together, they played the games and the children provided feedback. Wigley is a 1991 graduate of La Roche.

"Some of our students may actually market these games," Founds said. "So it's nice to hear what kids in the target market have to say." From their expressions, discussion and laughter, the students seemed to think the games were a hit. As the teachers noted, the games "captivated the children for a long time, and when you can do that with third graders, that means something!"



"Some of our students may actually market these games. So it's nice to hear what kids in the target market have to say."

- George Founds



LOGO DESIGN: KRISNA POZNIK
PHOTOS: PAM WIGLEY



CAMPUS CLIPS



AAIEP Grants Membership to ESL Program

La Roche's ESL (English as a Second Language) Program was recently granted membership in the American Association of Intensive English Programs or AAIEP. The AAIEP promotes the well-being and educational success of English language learners and through its membership services, works to increase the visibility abroad of member programs, to provide a forum for member exchange of information and best practices, and to facilitate recruiting opportunities for its members.

Through this membership, La Roche's ESL Program benefits by attracting more international students who are looking for a recognized, high quality ESL program. AAIEP membership also gives local, national and international recognition to our program as an intensive ESL program offering full-time ESL study for students entering colleges and universities.

La Roche Named Top College for Fourth Consecutive Year by Princeton Review



La Roche College has been named one of the best colleges and universities in the Northeast for the fourth year in a row, according to The Princeton Review.

The New York City-based education services company selected the school as one of 212 institutions it recommends in its "Best in the Northeast" section on their website, www.princetonreview.com and in its book, "The Best Northeastern Colleges: 2009 Edition."

"We commend all of the schools we name this year as our 'regional best' colleges, primarily for their excellent academic programs," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review's vice president, publishing. "We selected them based on institutional data we collected from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of independent and high school based college advisers.

"We also take into account what each school's customers – their students – report to us about their campus experiences," he said.

"I am proud that La Roche is being recognized because our students have continually made a difference both locally and in the larger community. This honor really recognizes the impact that the students have made throughout the world," said Colleen Ruefle, vice president for Student Life. "La Roche truly is a wonderful place to be challenged and supported," she added.

Fall Phonathon Raises Money for Wright Library Campaign

This fall, the annual Phonathon returned to La Roche, and the 12-day long campaign was an overall success. This year, 32 student callers were trained to call alumni, friends of the College and parents, in an effort to raise money for the Library Renovation Campaign and other needs on campus. Donations for the library renovations will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$250,000, by a local Pittsburgh foundation.

This year's Phonathon received pledges from 470 donors and exceeded \$24,055 in proposed pledge dollars, of which \$23,680 could be matched if all pledges designated for the Library renovation are fulfilled. The La Roche College Annual Fund office thanks donors for their generous support and reminds those donors who received phone calls during the Phonathon and decided to pledge money to please fulfill their pledge.

PHOTO: COLLEEN PELC
LOGO DESIGN: MIKE WILLY



Catelyn Hillegass was one of 32 student callers trained to help man the phones during this fall's Phonathon.



Pictured, left to right, are Sister Candace Introcaso, Yuliya Pleshakova and Barbara Kotarba (on behalf of her husband). Pictured with Richard G. Kotarba is Managing Partner Kevin McKeegan, far left.

Board Member Recognized for Contributions

Pittsburgh law firm Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP honored colleague and La Roche College board member Richard G. Kotarba, Esq., with an

endowment established in his honor at the College. The Richard G. Kotarba Outstanding Honors Project endowed award will annually be presented to La Roche College graduating students as a way to acknowledge their educational achievements.

Under the direction and guidance of a committee of the College's faculty, honors students research, write and present their honors theses at the College's annual Honors Convocation. The Kotarba award is given for the best honors presentation and is accompanied by a cash award of \$200. The inaugural award was given to Yuliya Pleshakova, Cranberry Township, Pa., who earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and also earned the highest GPA in her graduating class among fellow psychology majors.

Political Science Major Added During Academic Year

During one of the most visible presidential election years in history, La Roche College added a new and timely major: political science. The political science major at La Roche emphasizes the global nature of politics today and, according to Associate Professor Joshua B. Forrest, Ph.D., chair of the History & Political Science Department, is distinctive in its approach at the College.

"It easily allows undergraduates to double-major in related disciplines – particularly history, international studies and sociology," Dr. Forrest said. "Students can take advantage of an unusually large number of political science electives within these disciplines."

The political science program is housed within the History and Political Science Department at La Roche. Faculty members include internationally recognized scholars who specialize in the study of the politics of the United States, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. Undergraduate majors at La Roche College will be taught by some of the most accomplished professors in the country and will receive a mix of globally oriented and American-focused courses on politics and government.

CAMPUS CLIPS

Outstanding Graduates Honored at May Ceremony

The President's Awards for Leadership and Scholarship are the most prestigious awards offered to undergraduate students of La Roche College. During a graduation luncheon prior to the May 3 ceremony at the McCandless Township campus, College President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., presented two students with the awards in front of their family and friends.

Both students – one a traditional-aged student and one a non-traditional-aged student – possessed exemplary academic records (minimum of 3.0), and "exemplify the values and characteristics of the College's mission statement and are effective leaders either on campus, in the workplace, or in the community," according to the award parameters.

This year's recipients (pictured with President Introcaso) are, left to right, Angela Cipparone (traditional) and Jim E. Ferguson Jr. (non-traditional). Cipparone is a native of Ventnor City, N.J., and graduated with a bachelor's degree in dance with a minor in criminal justice. Ferguson is a resident of Apollo, Pa., and earned his bachelor's degree in leadership and organizational development through the College's LEAD program.



CAMPUS CLIPS



Who Cares

By Marilyn Brusca

1. The Reading

I see you everywhere, that bald crown bent forward almost against your puffy waist-length winter jacket; shoulders hunched, head down between your sheltering hands against the blowing wind, the lit match touching your cigarette, standing there in front of a string of stores at dawn, as I pass by in the rumbling bus, now that you're gone.

Two years and I see you everywhere as I travel to my tedious, irritating, terrifying job.

I look out and for an instant you are still here, standing on a street corner, or walking hunch-shouldered along.

You rode the bus to tedium over half your life, as I do now these only last few years.

I'm sorry!

2. The Critique

"What does 'I'm sorry' mean?" All fired up the Professor asks, and they strain to analyze, those darling college children.

"And what do you think?" the Professor asks, looking to me, while for one instant I think I'll answer:

I'd like to write a poem called WHO CARES, about a young (I admit sullen) student who is just questioned about the meaning of some obscure phrase in some enigmatic poem, written by a nobody, and I'm forced by the pure integrity of my mind to think WHO CARES; let them say what they mean outright! But instead,

I mumble; "I think she was married to him and he died, and only now she realizes all that he did, and that through all his years he suffered."

Who Cares?

Marilyn (Miller) Brusca, a La Roche alum who graduated in 1989 with a degree in English Language and Literature and is a retired nurse, was recently chosen as one of three runners-up in the prestigious 2008 Foley Poetry Contest sponsored by *America*, The National Catholic Weekly magazine.

Each year about 1,000 poems are submitted and Marilyn's poem "Who Cares" was printed in August 2008.

Library serves local residents, too

Related to this month's cover story is the letter below from North Hills resident Carla Pottmeyer. She sent this to La Roche College President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., earlier this year after she "discovered" the Wright Library as a valuable resource in the neighborhood. We are pleased to reprint her letter here, and we welcome our other neighbors to stop by and share the wealth of information we provide.

Dear Sister Introcaso:

This past year, I have discovered a well-kept secret of the North Hills – the La Roche College Library. I go to the La Roche Library several times a week to teach North Allegheny homebound students. This library offers a strong academic environment, conducive to intense study, along with a very welcoming, supportive atmosphere. Of course, a library is only as good as its librarians. Laverne Collins, director, and Marilyn Mottugh, librarian, epitomize the very heart and soul of this college.

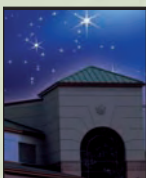
Indeed, on any given day anyone entering these library doors sees two busy librarians, carrying on the tradition of Sister Georgene, the veritable matriarch of La Roche Library. Laverne and Marilyn greet patrons with a smile and offer any help necessary to accommodate anyone who needs some assistance. These two librarians genuinely want to help; they provide computer research sites, books, films, and virtually anything to help the patron. For example, one of my students in Composition III was doing a cause-effect paper on global warming. I asked the librarians for any books or magazines on this topic. Immediately, Laverne and Marilyn gave us the movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," to view. Obviously, we then composed a great paper. I honestly have never encountered two such dedicated and passionate librarians. Laverne and Marilyn always find a way to solve someone's research problems – always.

So, I sincerely thank you, Sister Candace, for giving La Roche College and the North Hills community such a fine library, run by two remarkable librarians. Amidst the click of computer keys and the hum of study groups, Laverne and Marilyn are busy helping someone. They give this help willingly and with a smile. Indeed, they are the heart of La Roche Library!

Sincerely,
Carla Pottmeyer

La Roche College Calendar of Events

Please join us for these upcoming events. All are open to the public, unless otherwise noted. Phone numbers also are provided for your reference. For more information and to learn about other timely events added after press time, please visit our website at www.laroche.edu and click on Upcoming Events on the homepage.



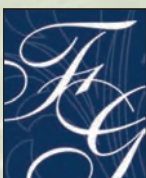
• Dec. 5 • Festival of Lights

Co-sponsored by La Roche College, UPMC Passavant and the Sisters of Divine Providence, the annual "Festival of Lights" event brings hundreds of families to all three campuses to enjoy holiday food and entertainment. A craft show, children's crafts, cookie decorating, a tree lighting ceremony, face painting, an alumni reception and a visit from Santa are just a few of the activities that will make up this year's event. The evening concludes with a fireworks display courtesy of Zambelli Fireworks Internationale. For more information about the Alumni Reception, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 412-536-1089 or alumni@laroche.edu.



• Dec. 11 and 13 • Winter Rep '08

The La Roche College Dance Theatre (LRCDT) lights up the holiday season with the immortal classic "Giselle Act II." Come celebrate the delights of the season with LRCDT as members perform works from their repertoire, as well as new pieces from faculty and staff. For times and ticket information, call 724-538-5856 or 412-536-1184 or e-mail gerard.holt@laroche.edu.



• Spring '09 • Fourth Annual Founders Gala

From its inception in 2006, the Founders Gala has benefited the President's Fund for Excellence, which makes a difference to the College and its students by funding scholarships, academic programs and much more. Every year, the Founders Gala features the Ad Lucem Award, which recognizes individuals and organizations whose vision, leadership and determination have transformed their dreams into reality. Join us this year to find out who will be chosen as the 2009 recipient. For more information about the annual Founders Gala, please contact Bobbi Kress LaPlace, director of Special Events, at 412-536-1087 or e-mail specialevents@laroche.edu.



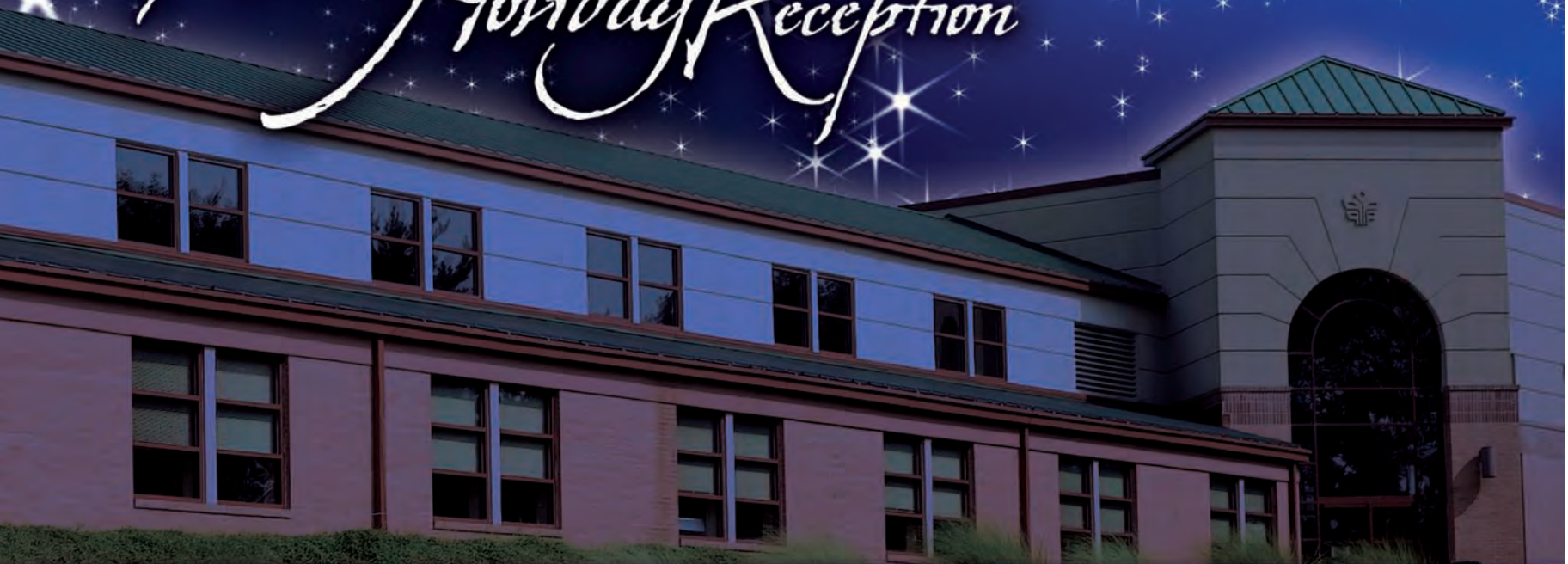
• April 29 • Aurora's Wedding La Roche College Dance Theatre at the Byham

The talented members of the Dance Theatre will once again take center stage in the heart of Pittsburgh's cultural district at the Byham Theater. Come celebrate love, spring, and the pursuit of happiness as the dancers present "Aurora's Wedding" and excerpts from the timeless classic "Sleeping Beauty." The performance will also include new works by Artistic Director Gerard W. Holt and dance faculty Miriam Scigliano and Nancy Kovalak. For times and ticket information, call 724-538-5856 or 412-536-1184 or e-mail gerard.holt@laroche.edu.

Especially for our Alumni

- **Alumni Holiday Reception at the Festival of Lights**
Friday, Dec. 5 • 5 - 8:30 p.m.
Cantellops Art Gallery
- **Alumni Night at the 2006 Tony Award Winner for Best Musical, Jersey Boys**
Saturday, Jan. 24 • 8 p.m.
Benedum Center
7th Street and Penn Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Pre-Show Reception
6 - 7:30 p.m. at Bossa Nova
123 Seventh Street in the Pittsburgh Cultural District
\$79.50 per person (Orchestra Section)
\$54.50 per person (First Row, Second Tier)
- **Alumni Speaker Event: How to Stage a House to Sell**
Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009
Ryan Room, located in the Zappala College Center
6:30 - 7 p.m. Reception • 7 - 8:30 p.m. Presentation
- **Alumni Wine Tasting**
Wednesday, March 11, 2009
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Ryan Room, located in the Zappala College Center
- **Alumni Speaker Event: Emotional Intelligence**
March 2009
Ryan Room, located in the Zappala College Center
6:30 - 7 p.m. Reception • 7 - 8:30 p.m. Presentation
- **"On the Road" Alumni Reception in Washington, D.C.**
Spring '09
- **Connect Event for Marketing and Graphic Design Alumni, Students and Faculty**
Thursday, April 30, 2009
6 p.m. Reception and Registration • 7 p.m. Dinner
- **Alumni Luncheon**
May 2009
- **Third Annual Alumni Night at PNC Park with pre-game dinner**
June 2009

Festival of Lights Alumni Holiday Reception



Friday, Dec. 5, 2008 • Register at www.laroche.edu



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