

CONNECTED

the LA ROCHE COLLEGE Magazine | FALL/WINTER 2014



**THE BIG WORLD OF
A SMALL COLLEGE**

President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., and guests celebrate the opening of La Roche College's renovated athletic complex at a dedication ceremony in September. Front row left to right: Kathryn Jolley, principal, DRS Architects, Inc., and vice-chair of the La Roche College board of trustees; Sister Candace Introcaso; Steven Massaro, vice president, business development, Massaro



Corporation, and chair of the La Roche board of trustees; Lamar Oliver, McCandless Township councilman. Back row left to right: Daniel Baronick, vice president, commercial lending, S&T Bank; PA State Rep. Mike Turzai; Nick Hoffman, community initiatives coordinator, Varischetti & Sons Inc.; Bryan Weimerskirch, La Roche men's soccer team captain; Jim Tinkey, La Roche athletic director.





PHOTO: HECTOR CORANTE

As the fall 2014 semester began on our picturesque campus in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, one thing was clear: The world has come to La Roche College.

Every day – in our classrooms and residence halls, in our dining hall and on our athletic fields – students of diverse backgrounds and cultures are interacting with each other. They are talking, sharing, laughing and learning *about* each other and *from* each other, in the true spirit of the College's founders, the Sisters of Divine Providence, who dreamed of creating a global community of scholars.

This semester, we have welcomed 317 international students from 42 different nations, the largest international student census across all categories in the College's history. They join 1,095 domestic students, for a total enrollment of 1,412.

In this issue of *Connected*, you will meet some of the students whose cultures and perspectives enrich the learning experience for everyone on the La Roche College campus. In these young people, we can indeed see the future – and the energy and promise that our global community has to offer.

I want to take this opportunity, as I begin my 11th year as president, to thank all of the La Roche College community – benefactors, trustees, the President's Executive Council, faculty, staff, students and alumni – for their support and inspiration.

In the past 10 years, La Roche College has grown stronger, infused again and again with a spirit of determination – the same spirit that inspired our founding Sisters in 1963 and motivated all of us who, over the years, have done our share to help fulfill their vision.

La Roche College is poised to build yet again on that spirit of determination, and I know that spirit will continue to guide us in the next decade and beyond. With your continued support and firm confidence, together we will have much to celebrate.

And how do I know this? I need only look back on all that we have accomplished to know that our future is bright – a future filled with hope and the belief that with God all things are possible.

Blessings,

Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.
President
La Roche College

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FALL | WINTER 2014

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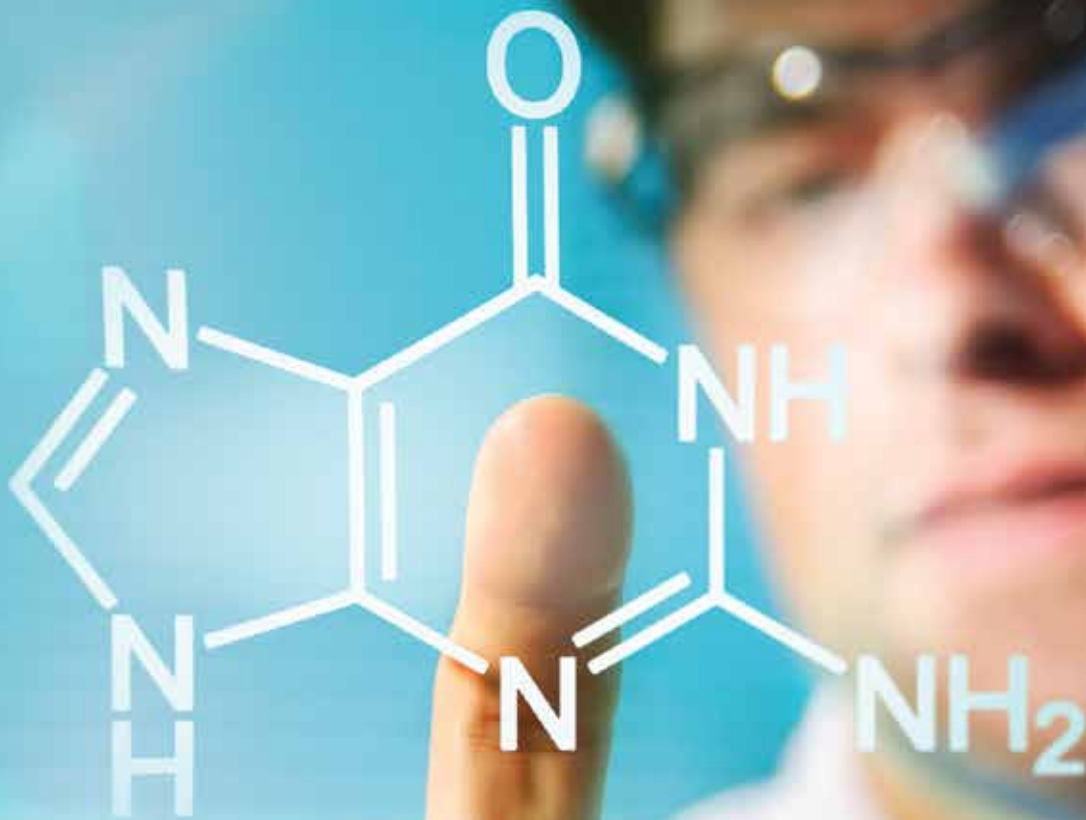
The La Roche College magazine, *Connected*, is published twice a year by the Office of Marketing & Media Relations and provided free to alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the College. The contents are selected to demonstrate the interests and pursuits of the La Roche College community and to provide news about the College.

La Roche College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, place of origin or status as a veteran.

TALK TO US!

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“We are very excited to receive this grant, as it is the perfect fit for La Roche in terms of integrating these two disciplines.”

- Don Fujito, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and Chair of Chemistry Department

NSF Grant to Fund Chemistry and Math Scholarships

La Roche College's Chemistry and Math/Physics Departments recently received a \$607,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) through its Scholarships for Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) program.

The grant will provide scholarships for academically talented undergraduate students, who will be designated as NSF CheM Scholars (the name indicating they are chemistry and mathematics majors). The College also will give special consideration to first-generation college students and those in underrepresented minorities.

The grant will provide a total of 14 NSF scholarships to five chemistry majors and two mathematics majors in the incoming fall 2015 and fall 2016 freshman classes. Students will receive up to \$10,000 annually for four years based on financial needs, with the remainder of the grant covering related administrative costs.

"We are very excited to receive this grant, as it is the perfect fit for La Roche in terms of integrating these two disciplines," Don Fujito, Ph.D., professor of chemistry and chair of the Chemistry Department, said. "We hope that the scholarship will enable us to increase our number of chemistry and math majors, and that the process that we set up to recruit prospective students to this program will perpetuate long after the NSF grant has ended."

The NSF based its decision to award the grant on two unique aspects of La Roche's proposal: the fact that the school's program focuses on both disciplines, recognizing the interdisciplinary nature of mathematics and chemistry; and the team-based approach in educating chemistry and math majors throughout the year in the undergraduate curriculum.

"While professors are a strong part of the team, we realize that courses such as calculus and organic chemistry are notoriously challenging, and that it benefits students to have peer leaders who can help them in addition to instructors," Dr. Fujito said, explaining that students who have excelled in a course in a previous year will help students in the current-year course. "Peer leaders provide a different perspective than professors in helping students prepare for coursework and exams."



CheM Scholars also will have the opportunity to design novel, hands-on learning kits through La Roche's ChemSOLVE (Chemistry Student-Operated Laboratory Venture) and receive one-on-one mentoring by professional and alumni mentors.

To apply for an NSF scholarship, students must apply for admission to La Roche College and complete a financial aid form. Upon acceptance to the College, students who meet the eligibility criteria will be invited to apply to become an NSF CheM Scholar. For more information, contact the Office of Freshman Admissions at La Roche College: **412-536-1272** or **admissions@laroche.edu**.

"We hope that the scholarship will enable us to increase our number of chemistry and math majors, and that the process that we set up to recruit prospective students to this program will perpetuate long after the NSF grant has ended."

- Don Fujito, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and Chair of Chemistry Department

Assistant Professor Dr. Rebecca Bozym '01 supervises student Dan Cadwell as he conducts a lab experiment to isolate the protein bromelain from a pineapple in the Biochemistry I Lab course.

Dr. Joshua Bellin Releases Debut Young Adult Novel

“Survival Colony 9” depicts a world of monsters, memory loss and post-apocalyptic survival

BY BECKY JESKEY '11

PHOTO: THOMAS PHILLIPS

A new form of monsters invented by English Professor Joshua David Bellin, Ph.D., recently made an end-of-the-world scenario much more petrifying.

In Dr. Bellin's debut young adult novel, “Survival Colony 9,” published in September 2014 by Simon and Schuster, the monstrous Skaldi devour, inhabit and then mimic humans. Aside from limited food, water and shelter in a bleak post-apocalyptic landscape, the inhuman inhabitants are the biggest threat to Survival Colony 9, a small group of people who are the last survivors in the devastating aftermath of a world destroyed by war.

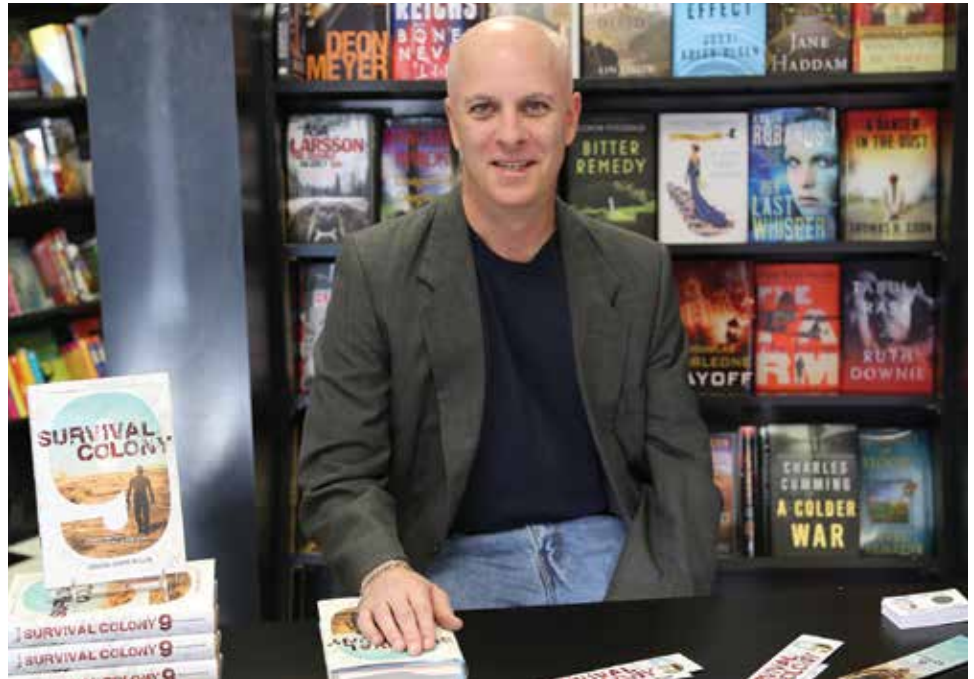
Relentless and determined to scavenge what is left of the human race, the Skaldi are a byproduct of both Dr. Bellin's imagination and a lifelong fascination with monsters.

“Part of the fascination is simply being a big grown-up kid that finds really bizarre, ugly weird things fun,” Dr. Bellin explained. “Another part of it is I believe monsters give us insight into ourselves. We all know monsters don't exist, so why do we keep creating them? It could just be that they're entertaining, but it's also that they give us insight into who we are.”

In “Survival Colony 9,” the Skaldi provide insight into the colony's internal conflicts, becoming particularly destructive when the human society fails on its own.

“The biggest monster in any post-apocalyptic story is the human species and what we've done to ourselves. In most of these stories – all of these stories – humans aren't blameless,” Dr. Bellin said. “Ultimately in these stories, human beings are the truest monsters and the most threatening to themselves.”

From zombie films to apocalyptic literature like “The Hunger Games,”



Professor Joshua David Bellin, author of “Survival Colony 9,” poses with copies of his first science fiction novel at a book launch party at Mystery Lovers Bookshop on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

the popularity of post-apocalyptic stories is on the rise in pop culture, though Dr. Bellin said the cultural fascination with monsters and end-of-the-world survival is no coincidence.

“We all know monsters don't exist, so why do we keep creating them? It could just be that they're entertaining, but it's also that they give us insight into who we are.”

– Joshua David Bellin, Ph.D.
Professor of English

“There's a lot of scary stuff out there – with everything from global warming to Ebola to economic collapse,” he explained. “There are lots of things people are anxious about. Especially young people, there's a lot of insecurity about either their futures, their

individual futures: *Am I going to get a job? Am I going to survive in this economy?* And a larger, cultural, global future: *Will this planet be livable?* I think post-apocalyptic stories tap into that.”

“Survival Colony 9” is laced with the insecurity and anxiety of 14-year-old Query Genn, the book's narrator. Query, a member of the colony, suffers from memory loss and knows nothing of his past.

The theme of memory is what makes “Survival Colony 9” a unique post-apocalyptic thriller. Dr. Bellin's novel is more than a story of survival; it is a compelling narrative of discovering who we are and how our past plays a role in shaping our identity.

“Our memory is one of the things that makes us human beings and individuals,” he said. “That's one of the

Continued on page 9

Dr. Terri Liberto Receives National Nurse Educator Award

Assistant Professor and Department Chair of Nursing Terri Liberto, Ph.D., RN, has received The Educator with the Nurse's Touch Award from the Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI).

Dr. Liberto was one of four educators selected out of 500 nominations across the country to receive this prestigious award. ATI recognized Dr. Liberto as an educator who demonstrates the integration of professional and interpersonal skills into her nursing practice and education of students.

These skills include: how to stay healthy and manage work-related stress, convey professional behaviors and attitudes, use nursing informatics and technology, function as a leader of the health care team and act as a client advocate.

"I am honored to receive this award. I could not achieve these great outcomes in the Nursing Department without the collaboration from the nursing faculty and the support of the administration at La Roche College," Dr. Liberto said.

After earning a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in nursing from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Liberto went on to receive a Ph.D. from West Virginia University. In August 2008 she joined La Roche College, where she uses her knowledge and expertise as a nurse leader to teach students.

"When educating nursing students I emphasize exceeding expectations. I am passionate about everything in nursing: caring for patients, creating a supportive environment, interacting with other health care professionals and just making a difference in health care," she said.

La Roche College offers nursing programs at the undergraduate and graduate level, including an Associate of Science in nursing, an RN to BSN



John Goodman, client executive for Assessment Technologies Institute, presents The Educator with the Nurse's Touch Award to Terri Liberto, associate professor and chair of nursing at La Roche College, on Oct. 14.

completion program, an online Master of Science in nursing, a school nurse certification program and a forensic nurse certificate option. The College is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing Inc.

"I watch as the students progress from timid, inexperienced student nurses to confident, competent graduates," Dr. Liberto said.

"I also continue to see great outcomes after graduation," she added. "Our graduates go on to become successful, professional nurses. Most expand their educational degrees, and some come back to La Roche as nurse educators. I especially look forward to continued communication and collaboration with our graduates as they progress in their health care careers."

"When educating nursing students I emphasize exceeding expectations. I am passionate about everything in nursing."

- Terri Liberto, Ph.D. RN
Assistant Professor
and Department Chair of Nursing

Q&A

Meet La Roche's First-Ever Distinguished Professor of English

A La Roche instructor since fall 1980, Sister Rita Yeasted, SFCC, Ph.D. '68, has been appointed the inaugural Dr. Dorothy Saladiak Distinguished Professor of English.



Tell us about your background.

I was born in Tarentum, Pa., the daughter of a steel worker. I am the oldest of six children, and I entered the convent in 1959.

I was a member of the Sisters of Divine Providence for 25 years and transferred to the Sisters for Christian Community in the late 80s. I am currently the international communications coordinator of my community.

I began teaching grade school, then taught high school, and have been teaching at the college level since 1974. Teaching was all I ever wanted to do since I was four years old and learned to read.

How long have you been a professor at La Roche, and what classes do you teach?

I have been at La Roche since fall 1980. I have taught almost every course in the English curriculum, but I now center on Composition I and II, Senior Seminar, Writing and Singing the Blues: African American Literature and Music, 19th Century British Poetry, Renaissance Poetry, and three drama classes: Dramatic Literature, Modern American Drama and Theater in the City. In addition, I teach Writing for Nonprofits every fall.

How would you describe your teaching style, and how has it changed over the years?

I try to teach in an interactive style. I have never been a mere lecturer, and I am not sure how I've changed styles over the years. I hope I do it better after all these years!

What is your most memorable classroom moment?

There were many, but the one that comes to mind happened my very first year of teaching. I was teaching fifth grade at St. Bonaventure's in Glenshaw. One day after recess, my class rushed to my desk, and presented me with a huge poster that they had all signed that read "The Best Teacher in the World." Hard to top that for memorable!

What has been your proudest moment during your time at La Roche?

Again, there were many, but I think being chosen for the Brother Gregory Nugent Award or being chosen as the class marshal (the year we held graduation at Carson Middle School because it threatened rain, and graduation used to be held on the lawn in front of the Motherhouse).

As a Sister for Christian Community, how do you use your faith to inspire your students?

I do not consciously proselytize, but I do believe that my faith permeates my life and profession. How and what I teach is founded on a strong faith and a hope that the ethical issues that are discussed reflect a belief system that is often Catholic with a small "c."

I would add that the charism of my religious community is to promote and witness Christian community, to make Christ's prayer "That all may be one" realized in our lives and work. I try to make that happen by treating others with respect and working for full equality in society.

What do you hope students take away from your classes?

I hope they take away self-confidence that they can write and read better than they thought they could, and I guess I

hope they take away some of my own passion for literature and learning.

If I see a student reading a book on the benches around the campus or run into a graduate at a local theater performance, I am delighted that they took away from a class what I had taught.

It's not always about grades or test scores, but it is always about joy in learning and a deep curiosity about the world we live in.

How has the College transformed and grown over the years? How have you grown with it, and how have your students changed?

I was a student here when there was no building – it was in the process of being built solely for the first college students. I watched this college grow from scratch. First a library, then the Science Center, residence halls, the College Center, the chapel – each new building was a reminder of how we were growing.

The real transformation came when we began the Pacem in Terris program. Suddenly our classrooms and dorm rooms were filled with young people from Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and areas of conflict all over the world. We grew with them, just as they adjusted to us.

Students have changed over the years. Many come unprepared for college academically, but I never thought La Roche was unique in this. Education in the first 12 years in America has changed drastically in the past 30 years. The culture has changed. The country and the world have changed. That has to manifest itself in the attitudes and competency – but it also has to challenge us to change what and how we teach.

I believe every college teaches the students it has, not the students it may wish it had. I love the diversity of our student body, and the challenge for each of us is to keep learning and understanding the world of the 18-year-old. I enjoy our students immensely.

What inspires you?

I'm inspired by many things: spiritual reading, novels with depth of humanity, poetry, plays, the music of Beethoven and Brahms, the change of seasons.

And I am inspired by the lives of social activists, the saints and the many students in our midst who struggle with special needs. Watching our students in wheelchairs getting to classes or navigating on icy sidewalks always inspires me.

What will your new responsibilities be as our first Distinguished Professor?

Obviously to continue to be the best teacher I can be. Some of the tasks that are new are to foster the Catholic intellectual tradition at the College, to give occasional public lectures, and to write. I hope to write a history of the Pacem in Terris program for starters. In addition, I will participate in the Common Ground series and keep the Literary Society alive.

Literary Society Presents Stories of Western Pennsylvania

*New York Times bestselling author
to conclude 2014-15 literary series*

Join the Literary Society at La Roche College for two upcoming presentations of a free, on-campus series featuring acclaimed authors and their stories of Western Pennsylvania.

Mary Frailey Calland

Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.

Ryan Room, Zappala College Center

Speaker Mary Frailey Calland will talk about her novel, "Consecrated Dust," the fictionalized story of a terrible day in Pittsburgh history. Ms. Calland was inspired by a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article on the 1862 explosion at the Allegheny Arsenal, in what is now Lawrenceville, where young workers were killed and remain unnamed on a marker near the Allegheny Cemetery on Butler Street.

Tawni O'Dell

March 27 at 7 p.m.

Zappala College Center Square

New York Times bestselling author Tawni O'Dell will perform a reading and discuss her latest novel, "One of Us." The author of five novels published in more than 40 countries, Ms. O'Dell was born in Uniontown, Pa. Her first novel, "Back Roads," became an Oprah Book Club selection, and is currently being made into a movie, for which she wrote the script.

*For more information: Contact
Sister Rita Yeasted at 412-536-1216
or rita.yeasted@laroche.edu*



Students Molly Walter, Stephanie Wizorek, Andrew Maletto, Ayla Church, Dan Mauro and Laina Stanek show off their design work at the final day of Immersions on Friday, Oct. 24 in the Cantellops Art Gallery.

Students Collaborate in 60-Hour Design Challenge

This semester La Roche College graphic design students learned what it takes to conceptualize, develop and design projects for a real-world client – all within a 60-hour time frame.

From Oct. 21 to Oct. 24, the La Roche Design Division hosted Immersions, an annual design challenge in which student graphic designers have two and a half days to create concepts, develop solutions and pitch their projects to an outside client.

This year teams of juniors and seniors developed design solutions for Global Links, a Pittsburgh-based medical relief and development organization dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship and improving health in resource-poor communities, primarily in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Global Links challenged students to create promotional items for encouraging donations and inspiring community members to host fundraising parties.

Linn Ruiz-Goubert, a senior at La Roche, said, “The biggest challenge was that the client presented a small goal, and we had to find a way to broaden it in a unique way.”

On the final day of the challenge, the teams presented their final projects to Maura O’Neill, development manager for Global Links, and Community Engagement Manager Stacy Bodow.

Students incorporated a variety of elements to support their design concepts, including color palettes reflecting Latin American and Caribbean culture, and social media to connect with a broader audience.

Dan Mauro, a junior, explained that research played an important role in developing a design concept.

“La Roche did a great job preparing us by thoroughly going through the ideation phases, which is a big part of design that people often overlook,” he said. “A lot of our time and energy is devoted to researching and coming up with the idea.”

By participating in Immersions, students learn how to perform under the pressure of strict deadlines.

In the process, students also discover how teamwork goes a long way in the professional world of graphic design.

“Our team members really helped us through this. We all collaborated

together and had fun with it, which took the pressure off our shoulders,” Mr. Mauro said. “We worked with each other’s strengths and weaknesses, and I think it all just balanced out into a solid design.”

Allison Benard, a senior, said her past experiences inside of the classroom at La Roche prepared her for working within a team under major time constraints.

“Our design classes taught us how to work together because our instructors make us work in groups all the time. Sometimes you’re going to clash, and you’re not always going to agree, but our classes taught us how to deal with that, move forward and come together for a strong group presentation and design,” she explained.

The 60-hour design challenge not only offers practical experience for working effectively in teams and managing time, – it also teaches students how to listen to clients and conduct relevant research.

“La Roche did a great job preparing us by thoroughly going through the ideation phases, which is a big part of design that people often overlook.”

– Junior Dan Mauro

Assistant Professor and Graphic Design Department Chair Neha Agarwal said, “Students learn the power of design. They see the significant role design can play across a variety of causes, industries, audiences and mediums.”

She added, “Students spend a significant amount of time carefully planning the content and rehearsing the delivery of their presentations. Sacrificing substance for presentation quality, or the other way around, is ultimately ineffective design.”

Please visit designatlaroche.com for more information about the La Roche Design Division.

PHOTO: PHIL PAVELY



Dr. Natasha Garrett Named to United Macedonian Diaspora's 40 Under 40

The United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) recently named Natasha Garrett '96, Ph.D., director of international student services at La Roche College, to its first-ever 40 Under 40 list.

UMD's 40 under 40 list acknowledges the achievements of Macedonians under the age of 40 and celebrates leaders who have excelled in their professions and act as role models within their communities.

"It is a great honor to appear on the 40 Under 40 list along with other accomplished Macedonian-Americans," Dr. Garrett said. "I hope we serve as role models for other professionals, especially for other Macedonians and young immigrants living in the United States. It also is my pleasure and my privilege to promote Macedonia and its culture."

Dr. Garrett was born in Skopje, Macedonia and came to the United States as an undergraduate student at La Roche through the Pacem in Terris Institute. She obtained a master's degree in English literature from Duquesne University and a Ph.D. in social and comparative analysis in education from the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to her role as director of international student services at La Roche, she works as an adjunct professor for the College's English as a Second Language program.

Active in the global Pittsburgh community, Dr. Garrett has served as a translator and interpreter, a volunteer to welcome new U.S. citizens, and a liaison between international students and their respective national and ethnic groups in the area. She regularly presents at regional and national conferences on topics related to international education and cross-cultural communication.

Dr. Garrett also worked on translating contemporary Macedonian poetry with her mother-in-law and poet Nola Garret. Selections of the translations were published by Arts and Letters, Christian Century and Able Muse.

UMD, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a leading international non-governmental organization that promotes the needs of Macedonians and Macedonian communities worldwide. The organization works to unite a global community while focusing on key issues that are of importance to Macedonians.

La Roche and Gannon University Sign Software Engineering Agreement

La Roche College recently expanded its dual-degree programs in an effort to create well-rounded graduates in the fields of computer science and software engineering.

A new articulation agreement, signed this summer by La Roche and Gannon University, will enable students to earn a bachelor's degree from both institutions within five years. The program is now available to current and prospective students.

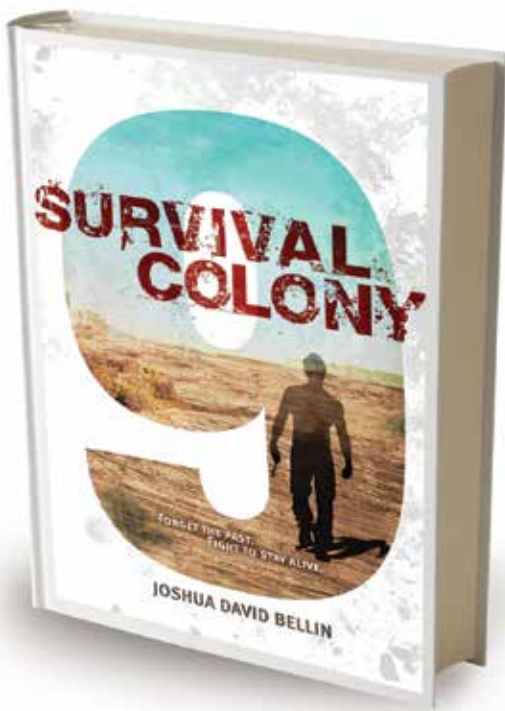
Under the agreement, students will complete all math, physics and computer science prerequisites listed in La Roche's software engineering curriculum guide. Students must combine the prerequisites with a La Roche major and achieve an overall QPA of 3.0 or higher.

After fulfilling all prerequisite courses, students must receive favorable recommendation from the La Roche Science Faculty Committee and the dean of students to ensure that they have met all academic and conduct standards. Students then are accepted to Gannon University to complete a software engineering degree.

La Roche majors that best complement a software engineering degree are computer science, a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics or an interdisciplinary studies major.

Jane Arnold, chair of La Roche's Computer Science Department and Natural & Behavioral Sciences Division, said, "The software engineering program will seamlessly work with La Roche's computer science major. We have already produced a semester-by-semester schedule to show how the two programs work together."

Continued on next page



"Survival Colony 9" is available for purchase in the La Roche College bookstore and on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Continued from page 3

ideas I was playing with in the novel – not only the idea of an individual who had lost memory, but a whole society, and what a loss these people would be at, having lost so many things from the past."

While Query struggles to recall his past, other characters in the novel are plagued by what they do remember of the forgotten world.

"There are some characters whose inability to get over what they remember really damages them. There are some cases where people are clinging to the past, almost obsessed with what they remember," Dr. Bellin said.

Older characters, for instance, share memories of the old world with young members of the colony – dialogue that Dr. Bellin said he wrote while subconsciously channeling Holocaust narratives.

"I was definitely dealing not only with Holocaust narratives but with what happens to the generation that has not directly experienced the Holocaust but has heard of it from others," he said, "One of the things that I've learned in studying

this is that sometimes, without even meaning to, people who have lived through these things can traumatize people who didn't. They so desperately want their children to remember something that they can't remember because they have no direct memory of that. It becomes this real conflict for a younger person to be surrounded by those who have lived through trauma that they themselves haven't."

"Survival Colony 9" is the first science fiction novel authored by Dr. Bellin. His previous books include "Framing Monsters: Fantasy Film and Social Alienation," a study of the role of monsters

in fantasy film, and "Native Acts: Indian Performance in Early North America," a collection of essays that he co-edited with Laura L. Mielke, a professor at the University of Kansas.

Creating a new world in the realm of science fiction is no easy task, even for the most imaginative and talented writers.

Dr. Bellin said, "When you're writing about your own world, things are logical. But when you're creating a future world or a world that doesn't exist, it's very hard to make sure that everything connects."

Though he admitted there were multiple inspirations for the book, the decision to delve into young adult literature was motivated by the books on his own children's reading lists.

"My daughter had started reading 'The Hunger Games' and 'The Maze Runner,' and my son was sort of interested in it as an observer," Dr. Bellin explained. "I had always liked science fiction, I had some of these ideas jogging around in my head, and I was reading young adult fiction with my daughter. So all of those pieces kind of came together to produce this book."

For more information about the book and Dr. Bellin, please visit [joshuadavidbellin.com](https://www.joshuadavidbellin.com).

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The dual-degree option with Gannon completes La Roche's technology offerings. Students now have access to five career paths: computer science, information technology, information science, computer engineering and software engineering.

The new offering also will expand La Roche's efforts to prepare students for a competitive, global marketplace. The existing computer science program, which now claims a 100 percent job placement rate, blends hands-on experience with the fundamentals of computer design, computer programming and information processing. Students who enroll in the new dual-degree option will gain a solid computing and math background, which they later can apply as software engineers.

"Combining a computer science degree with software engineering will result in students who possess a strong foundation in science and engineering, and as a result, be more valuable to employers," Ms. Arnold said.

In addition to the agreement with Gannon, La Roche offers a joint engineering program through the University of Pittsburgh for students to complete science and math prerequisites at the College and earn a degree from both institutions.

The College also holds health science agreements with Duquesne University for students to complete pre-professional science courses at La Roche and finish the professional phase of athletic training, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and physician assistant studies at Duquesne.

Another recent agreement between La Roche and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine enables students to pursue a science degree at La Roche for three or four years, which guarantees entrance into dental, pharmacy or osteopathic medical school.



Student Perspective

Jessica Finke, a senior majoring in elementary education and special education, describes her experience of traveling overseas through La Roche College's Study Abroad+Study USA program.

Throughout my education courses at La Roche College, I have found that the most meaningful learning experiences occur when they are engaging and connected to personal experience.

Last spring I participated in the Study Abroad+Study USA program so that I could take my own personal experience of being overseas and apply it to my future as a teacher.

My journey began back in May, as I prepared to travel to Finland. Most people would ask me: "Why on earth did you choose Finland?"

I am sure Italy, Germany and France are lovely in the month of May. But they do

not possess the what Finland does: one of the best education systems in the world and people who value it.

In Finland, education is completely free; teaching is considered to be one of the top professions; and students are highly motivated. With all these wonderful qualities, Finland was the perfect match for me, an education major.

Prior to leaving the U.S., I was pretty nervous. Nervous to be so far away from my family. Nervous

to be out of the country and on a plane without them for the first time. Nervous about the language barrier and cultural differences. Questions like, "Would I be able to understand people? Would people be able to understand me?" raced through my mind.

Although I was scared, traveling with my friends and professor helped to calm my nerves. I was so blessed to be given the opportunity to see education from a different viewpoint. I never imagined I would travel to Europe.

This experience has helped me to step out of my comfort zone. It also supplied me with many lifelong friends and memories. In the end the most challenging obstacle was trying to stay within the 50-pound suitcase weight limit (not only is Finland known for education, but it also is known for having many great shops and souvenirs).

Study Abroad+Study USA has made my college experience very meaningful. While textbooks serve as wonderful resources for learning about the different methods of teaching children, actually

going into classrooms is what has given me the full teaching experience. In Finland I had the opportunity to meet the Finnish Board of Education, which allowed me to see how much the Finnish people value education. I am even tempted to pack my bags and move to Finland after I graduate since being a teacher there is equivalent to being a lawyer here in the United States.

While visiting schools I had the chance to meet Finnish teachers and students. These students were extremely focused on their studies and involved in their education, taking courses in school that apply to their future career choices.

Teachers also have students study less in the classroom, believing that the most meaningful experiences occur outside the classroom. Instructors also do not administer standardized tests, and they focus on meeting each student's individual educational needs.

"I strongly recommend participating in La Roche's Study Abroad+Study USA program. Experiencing a new culture is something that will be a part of me for the rest of my life"

It was very exciting to see and experience a culture different from my own. I hope to adopt the practices of the Finnish teachers and tailor instruction to meet my students' needs.

Studying abroad also helped me to grow as an individual. It has given me the confidence to travel on my own and the ability to overcome the obstacles of traveling to an unfamiliar place. But most of all, it has helped me understand other cultures.

I strongly recommend participating in La Roche's Study Abroad+Study USA program. Experiencing a new culture is something that will be a part of me for the rest of my life.

PHOTO: MEL LATAL

THE BIG WORLD OF A SMALL COLLEGE

BY NATASHA GARRETT '96, PH.D. | PHOTOS BY JIM JUDKIS

La Roche College's commitment to global education is woven into its identity and its mission. The presence of more than 300 international students on campus is perhaps the most visible and tangible display of that commitment.

Dynamic and diverse, La Roche bridges the distance between countries and territories, nations and states, cultures and customs. Coming from more than 40 different countries, international students are a vital part of La Roche's global community of learners.

HERE ARE SOME OF THEIR STORIES.



TASSY FILS-AIME

HAITI | CHEMISTRY

Tassy Fils-Aime didn't travel to Pittsburgh in 2010 for a vacation or to study abroad. He traveled to Pittsburgh to undergo a surgery that would remove a tumor from his face.

He had lived with that tumor for eight years, due to the poor health system in his native Haiti.

Everything changed when he met Ian Rosenberger, a Pittsburgh native who helped with disaster relief after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti in 2010.

Mr. Rosenberger founded Team Tassy and worked with donors and friends to bring Mr. Fils-Aime to Pittsburgh so that he could address his medical problem and continue his education in the United States.

"Thanks to Team Tassy and La Roche College, I have the opportunity to get out of the hole – the hole of poverty. Having my education means I will not be intellectually poor, and my children will not be intellectually poor. And all Team Tassy has asked me to do is pay it forward. Their approach matches the mission and the global focus of La Roche College, and I am so grateful to be here," Mr. Fils-Aime explained.

Mr. Fils-Aime has been enrolled at La Roche for only two months but is already heavily involved with the student group Mosaic and the Office of Mission and Ministry.

"I feel like I've been here forever," he said, smiling. "I already have almost too many friends, if that's even possible."

A chemistry major, Mr. Fils-Aime hopes to work in the medical field and contribute toward improving the health system of Haiti. But he doesn't want to make any firm decisions yet.

"This is a time for me to stay open-minded, to explore, to consider all options. All I know for



ANA PAULA DE MARCO TEIXEIRA

BRAZIL | INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ana Paula De Marco Teixeira joined La Roche College in fall 2012, but she had lived in the United States long before then.

Before arriving on campus, Ms. De Marco Teixeira was fluent in English and familiar with American culture – the result of living with her family in New Jersey as a young girl and studying at the American School Belo Horizonte in her native Brazil.

Returning to the U.S. as a college student, however, ignited a sense of self-reliance and determination.

“When I lived in Jersey, my family was there to take care of everything. As a student at La Roche, I feel independent. I am on my own. I want to be involved, gain practical experience and give back to the community,” she said.

Ms. De Marco Teixeira’s presence on campus is a visible one. She serves a variety of clubs and organizations as a resident assistant, a Student Government Association representative for multicultural and international affairs, and a member of GLOBE and Mosaic, two student organizations that focus on promoting campus diversity.

Last year she traveled to Italy through Study Abroad+Study USA, a program that is included with tuition and allows La Roche students to study domestically or abroad at little or no cost. The trip had a special significance for Ms. De Marco Teixeira because her mother’s ancestors are Italian.

But for an international student, travel can be laced with anxiety.

“I always worry a little bit, and try to make sure all my immigration paperwork is in



“As a student at La Roche, I feel independent. I am on my own. I want to be involved, gain practical experience and give back to the community.”

order. The regulations are very strict,” she explained. “One time I forgot to have my travel document signed by the school. Fortunately the officer at the airport called the school and received confirmation that I was a full-time student.”

One could say Ms. De Marco Teixeira embodies the spirit of La Roche: She is caring and eager to make a difference.

“I have found a good place to study and live. I feel useful,” she said. “I am looking forward to whatever the next step in my life will be, whether it is graduate school, more travel, work or all of the above. I am excited for the future.”



CETIDON MIKOUNGUI BARRY

CONGO (BRAZAVILLE)
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS/MANAGEMENT

It didn't take long for Cetidon Mikoungui Barry to feel at home at La Roche.

A self-proclaimed social butterfly, he easily makes friends with almost everyone he meets— including both American and other international students.

Everyone on campus knows Mr. Mikoungui Barry, which is not surprising, given his outgoing personality, his big smile and his dapper appearance.

The longer Mr. Mikoungui Barry lives in the U.S., he becomes increasingly interested in his own cultural traditions, such as music and language. "I even improved my Lingala [a local language] while speaking with other Congolese in the States," he said, with surprise.

Mr. Mikoungui Barry's great passion is music. This enthusiasm is passed down through his family lineage: a radio host grandfather, and a parent who used song and video as a vehicle for social change.

"My father is somewhat famous for making music videos about victims of AIDS at a time when people in Africa weren't talking publicly about it. I am interested in rap and R&B, but I am moving more toward Afro-pop, back to my roots. I write my own music, I dance, and I do choreography. I like to say that I am a rapper who can sing," he explained.

After graduating from La Roche, Mr. Mikoungui Barry plans to work in humanitarian aid or a similar field with international focus.

In the meantime, he said he enjoys his studies at La Roche and his life in Pittsburgh.

"I am a different person now than when I first arrived at La Roche. I am thankful for having friends from all over the world," he said. "If we accept each other's differences, there will be more peace in the world."



ISMAIL AKDOGAN

TURKEY | ESL

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in tourism and hospitality in his native Turkey, Ismail Akdogan worked in the hotel industry for several years.

Mr. Akdogan quickly realized that foreign language fluency was critical in his field of work. He already had studied German and Italian, but his English skills needed improvement. That's when he decided to join the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at La Roche.

"I was taking some English classes in Turkey, but they were not very effective. Studying in an English-speaking country makes a difference," he explained.

At home, one of his Turkish teachers of English inspired him to study abroad.

"He spoke strictly English in the classroom. He made me very interested in improving my English by looking into ESL programs in the States," Mr. Akdogan said.

After talking to other Turkish students who were studying at La Roche and were pleased with the program, Mr. Akdogan decided to apply.

"Studying abroad has really helped me evolve as a person," he said. "It makes me a better individual and a better professional. I try to develop a more positive outlook on life. I am even trying to embrace the cold Pittsburgh winter, and find beauty in it."

LIN XIAO

CHINA | BIOLOGY

Lin Xiao didn't have any serious plans to study in the United States. But when she heard about La Roche from an uncle who lives nearby, she was intrigued.

Once she arrived, she knew she had made the right decision.

"I fell in love with the city as soon as I landed," Ms. Xiao said. "It was a beautiful summer evening, and the city looked great. La Roche was very welcoming in the beginning, and it continues to be a very supportive environment."

After completing her bachelor's degree in biology, Ms. Xiao wants to continue her studies and obtain a Ph.D. in bioengineering. She is particularly passionate about three things: becoming a bioengineer, making a meaningful contribution to the sciences and encouraging people to pursue an education. She said, "I have found my inner strength at La Roche. I am confident that I can plan my future on my own. I want to use that power to help other people."

"I have found my inner strength at La Roche. I am confident that I can plan my future on my own. I want to use that power to help other people."

"For example, I am a member of Zeta Alpha Pi, a student group of females in sciences," Ms. Xiao continued. "I want to be an advocate for women who want to pursue sciences. Some of them may think they can't do it, but of course they can. I'm speaking from experience."



MOHAMMED SHAHEEN

FINANCE | SAUDI ARABIA

WASEEM SHAHEEN

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | SAUDI ARABIA

SULTAN SHAHEEN

FINANCE | SAUDI ARABIA

Studying abroad can be a daunting experience, but the Shaheen brothers have found comfort in what other students don't always have: each other.

The brothers all agree that they were fortunate to receive acceptance to La Roche and their adjustment to life in the United States was easier because they are here together.

"We share a house together, so we didn't get very homesick because we have each other. Plus, it really helps reduce the cost of living. But it's easy just to hang out with one another, and we purposely try to make friends outside our circle," Mr. Sultan Shaheen said.



Mohammed, Waseem and Sultan were looking for a school that would be a good fit for the three of them, and La Roche was the answer.

The brothers said the multicultural community at La Roche not only offers a dynamic setting – it offers the opportunity for students to learn about the world through each other.

“La Roche gives students more than just an education. Students learn to have a wider perspective on life. Education should help you not only to get a job, but it

should also teach you to look at things from various angles and consider different opinions,” Mr. Waseem Shaheen said.

Mr. Mohammed Shaheen agreed.

“The students from La Roche come from different parts of the world, and their knowledge or opinion about things is different from our own,” he said. “Therefore, we learn from them, and they learn from us.”





Students in El Salvador display the artwork they created in a watercolor workshop led by Melissa Altman '02.

A FAMILY MISSION

BY KURT HACKIMER '12

El Salvador is a dangerous place.

It is estimated 25,000 gang members are at large in El Salvador, and another 9,000 in prison.

While El Salvador does have an organized government, it is abundantly clear that the gangs control the streets.

When choosing a place to raise a family, El Salvador, a country perhaps most famous for its “death squads,” probably would not top many people’s list of locations.

But that’s exactly the decision La Roche College alumna Melissa Altman '02 made when she and her husband, Peter, along with their seven-year old son, Eli, and four-year old daughter, Evie, signed up to become Maryknoll Missioners.

“You have to believe that there is a greater purpose,” Ms. Altman said of her choice to bring her family to El Salvador. “There is an element of risk to being here, but they’ve been sending families to missions for a long time,

and they’ve done a lot of good.”

Maryknoll Lay Missioners (MKLM) is one of three organizations in the Roman Catholic Church that carries the Maryknoll name, along with Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and Maryknoll Sisters.

Developed in the early 1900s near the end of World War I, the organizations work closely together, focusing on overseas mission activity, particularly in East Asia, China, Japan, Korea, Latin America and Africa.

Today MKLM has missioners in Kenya, Tanzania, Cambodia, Bolivia, Brazil, and, of course, El Salvador, where Ms. Altman works with the children of La India, a small rural community of about 150 families outside the town of Cojutepeque.

Ms. Altman’s interest in Maryknoll was initially developed at La Roche, when her history professor, Dr. Ed Brett, shared stories about a family member who was a Maryknoll priest.

“Social action and community service were at the heart of what I loved about La Roche,” Ms. Altman said, citing late-night trips to deliver sandwiches

to the homeless as one of her most memorable college experiences. “These things planted the seed for what I wanted to do in the future.”

From participating in campus ministry while earning her communications degree from La Roche College, to spending 12 years working with underprivileged children at Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School in Brooklyn, N.Y., Ms. Altman has dedicated a large portion of her life to the Catholic Church.

So in November 2012, when MKLM called and invited Altman and her family to join their mission in El Salvador, Ms. Altman must have considered the timing to be divine.

Two weeks prior to being accepted into Maryknoll’s ranks, the Altman family’s bungalow in Long Beach, Long Island was severely damaged by Hurricane Sandy, the colossal storm that caused around \$65 billion in damages in the United States alone.

“Our house and our entire neighborhood were flooded,” she said. “Many of the homes in Long Beach were built as small beach bungalows where New Yorkers would travel for the weekends and

summers to get out of the hot city. Now most people live in Long Beach. Our neighbors still don't live in their houses [after the storm]."

With their first floor gutted and waterlogged, the Altmans spent nine months relegated to the second floor of their Long Beach bungalow without a kitchen and with very little space. They cooked most of their meals on a George Foreman grill or in a microwave or hotpot.

Ms. Altman, perpetually looking at the bright side, said that the close-quarters living really prepared them for the lack of amenities in life in El Salvador.

“Social action and community service were at the heart of what I loved about La Roche. These things planted the seed for what I wanted to do in the future.”

She compared the living conditions of some of the more destitute areas of Brooklyn to those of El Salvador's capital, San Salvador.

“San Salvador is as gritty as those parts of Brooklyn, but the extreme poverty is much more present [in San Salvador],” she said. “There are armored guards at the entrance of almost every mall, government building and business here. These guards are not military, but each business hires private security.”

Ms. Altman said that it was odd at first to see men with guns in the entrance of every establishment, but it is something that they have gotten used to as they adjust to living in an often times unsafe foreign country.

The family's living conditions, however, are currently not dramatically different from what they experienced in Brooklyn before the hurricane. They have electricity, running water and even high-speed Internet.

“For the most part, [life in El Salvador] is just like life would be in the United States,” Ms. Altman said. “When we get up in the morning, I make lunch, cook breakfast, get the kids into their uniforms and send them off to school.”

Ms. Altman's children go to a private school in San Salvador, where they primarily speak Spanish. While Ms. Altman and her husband have been struggling for six months to learn the language, their children have picked it up almost immediately.

“I'm so jealous of my kids. They've picked up the language beautifully,” Ms. Altman said. “By the time they were here for six months, they were both bilingual. Without seeing them, you wouldn't be able to tell they aren't Salvadoran children.”

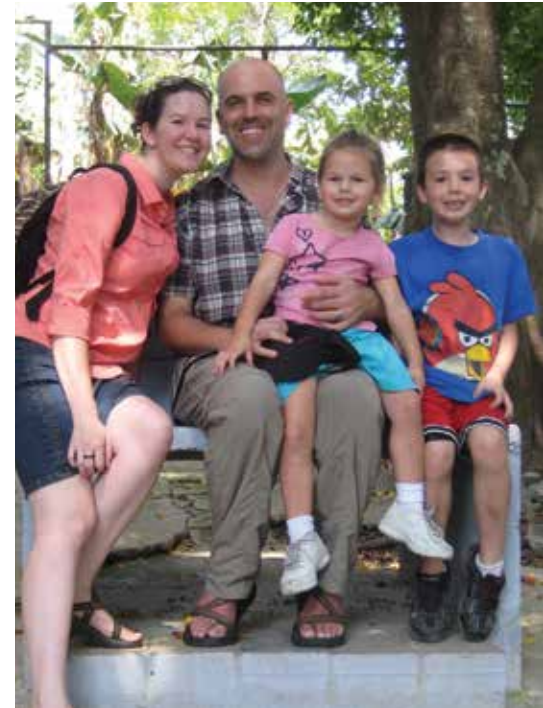
While the children are at school, Ms. Altman surfs the Internet to prepare activities for the children at the ministry. She then picks the children up from school in the afternoon, and the whole family makes the 45-minute drive from the relatively metropolitan San Salvador to La India, where the roads are made of dirt and many people live without electricity or running water.

The Altmans work at the San Juan Batista Parish where, once their Spanish improves, they will work to provide educational, personal development and recreational opportunities to the youth of La India.

“Most people we've talked to go to school until eighth grade before dropping out,” Ms. Altman said. “There are a lot of problems with the public education system in El Salvador, so it's really important to us that we can support their education whenever we can.”

Public schools in El Salvador are overcrowded, with sometimes more than 50 students in a single classroom. Ms. Altman has a unique opportunity to work with some of these children in a more intimate setting and to continue to maintain a strong relationship with the community.

“Being a missionary is different from being an expat in another country,” Ms. Altman said. “It's about working with the people who are marginalized, who you might otherwise avoid if you were just here on vacation.”



Ms. Altman and her family are about 10 months into a three-year contract with Maryknoll and will be moving from their home in San Salvador to a home in La India to be closer to the parish.

Ms. Altman said that they hope to stay in El Salvador as long as possible, but for now she is enjoying the time that the family is able to spend together.

“The thing that is most different is that I don't have a babysitter,” she said. “My family gets to be together more often. We're doing something that we like to do, that we want to do, and we get to be together. That makes me really happy.”

You can read more about Ms. Altman and all of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners at mklm.org.



President Sister Candace Introcaso Celebrates 10 Years of Leadership

Major benefactors and supporters of La Roche College honored Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., on her 10th anniversary as college president at this year's annual President's Circle Dinner.

The highlight of the evening was a video tribute to Sister Candace, recognizing her leadership in guiding the College through significant financial challenges and on to an impressive revitalization that includes expanded academic programs, renovated campus facilities and a substantial increase in the international student population.

"[Sister Candace] took on a difficult situation, and I think she did one of the finest turnarounds that I've seen in higher education for a small college,"

said Sister Mary Joan Coultas, CDP, Ph.D., former president of La Roche, former provincial director of the Sisters of Divine Providence and an emeritus trustee of the College.

She credited Sister Candace for preserving and broadening the College's commitment to global education by doubling international recruitment efforts and continuing the Pacem in Terris program, which provides scholarships to those from regions in war or conflict.

Sister Candace also oversaw the introduction of the Study Abroad + Study USA program, giving all students the opportunity for a cross-cultural experience. La Roche faculty and staff lead the international and domestic

study trips, included within basic tuition costs.

A turning point for the College came with the decision to sell the underutilized west campus property, located directly across Babcock Boulevard from the main campus.

A corner of the 37-acre property was sold to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, and the remainder to AdVenture Development for the McCandless Crossing retail complex.

"While selling 37 acres of prime real estate might not be the most popular decision, saying 'That's what we have to do' takes courage," Steven M. Massaro, chair of the board of trustees, said.

Today the opening of McCandless Crossing stores, restaurants and movie theater is enhancing campus life and creating job opportunities for students.

The renovation of the John J. Wright Library in 2008 was the first major capital improvement spearheaded by Sister Candace.

The \$1.6 million project resulted in a modern, comprehensive information center for the campus.

In addition, the library's lower level was transformed into a new home for the College's signature Interior Design and Graphic Design departments, with state-of-the-art spacious design and lighting studios, computer labs and an extensive design reference library.

Growth on campus has continued, most recently with this summer's completion of the Athletic Complex with an impressive new turf field, a pavilion with a concession stand and a press box. The new facility will become an attractive recruiting tool and allow the College to expand its athletic programs, beginning with the introduction of women's lacrosse in 2015.

"It was Sister's leadership that brought the athletic field to a reality," said Colleen Ruefle, vice president for student life and dean of students, referring to Sister Candace's personal involvement in securing donor support for the \$2.7 million project.

On the academic front, the number of programs of study has increased steadily over the past 10 years.

The College now offers more than 50 majors, as well as new master's programs in accounting and special education.

Sister Candace has stressed the importance of incorporating the College's Catholic identity and its mission-driven commitment to peace and justice into all aspects of campus life.

Several years ago, as the College was emerging from its financial crisis, she urged College employees to focus on the term, the best *for* the world.

While acknowledging that certain limitations, such as the size of the student body and the endowment, might prevent the College from being considered the best *in* the world, she said it was entirely possible to prepare La Roche students to be the best *for* the world.

"That's the approach we've successfully taken," said Dr. Howard Ishiyama, vice president for academic affairs and academic dean. "In keeping with our mission, we encourage students to take a global perspective, infuse it with the notions of peace and justice and our Catholic identity. The student coming out of La Roche College can exemplify that spirit."

In its 50th Jubilee year, to highlight its Catholic identity, the College acquired the Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible, a limited-edition reproduction of the first hand-written, hand-illuminated Bible commissioned in 500 years.

The Heritage Edition is available on campus for personal reading and reflection, and often is the center of liturgical worship.

"For a small college like La Roche to acquire one of the 299 Heritage Editions was a big undertaking, but I personally wanted that to be an important part of my legacy as president of La Roche College. I viewed it as something very positive that would last for generations of students," Sister Candace said.

Looking to the future, Sister Candace has taken the lead in the early stages of raising \$4 million for a renovation of the College's science center, particularly laboratories, classrooms and faculty offices.

"The two-story Palumbo Science Center was built in 1980," Sister Candace said, "and there has been no significant upgrade to those facilities since that time. So we think it is important because the sciences are important. And enrollment in science programs at La Roche has grown more than 60 percent in the last 10 years, alone."

Sister Candace's vision for the future also includes a new building to house all academic support services and international programs, with the La Roche Center for Global Engagement at its core.

The community has noticed Sister Candace's efforts, too. Recently the Pittsburgh Business Times presented Sister Candace with two prestigious awards: the BusinessWomen First Award recognizing female executives; and the Diamond Award, presented to the top 12 CEOs in Western Pennsylvania.

"I think the recognition she has received is long overdue," said Hoddy Hanna, chairman and CEO of Howard Hanna Real Estate Services and a member of La Roche's board of trustees. "And I think that also brings a certain stature to our College. People from outside the La Roche community, from outside the higher education community, from outside McCandless Township and the North Hills of Pittsburgh, recognize that she truly has become a leader of leaders in academia."

In reflecting on the first 10 years of her presidency, Sister Candace expressed thanks to the College's benefactors and supporters, emphasizing the impact they have had, especially on students.

"One instance comes to mind particularly when I think about donor impact," she said. "This involved a young man who was awarded a scholarship that would allow him to finish his degree.

"He wanted to thank my assistant because she had been very persistent in getting him into my office. She asked him, 'May I give you a hug?' and he said 'Oh, certainly,' and he gave her a hug. Then he said, 'Now really, in my home country ... we show gratitude and respect by touching the foot of the person who has helped us.' And at that point, he turned around to me and he knelt down and he touched my feet.

"That was the most touching moment I think I have had as President of La Roche College."

College Launches New Responsive Website

This year La Roche College revealed its redesigned website to the public.

Launched in September, the new laroche.edu includes a responsive design, allowing the site's layout to remain consistent on a majority of browsers and mobile devices, such as smart phones and tablets.

Responsive design detects the resolution of the user's device and scales the content to fit neatly within the browser on the screen, allowing for easy reading and navigation.

La Roche is one of the few colleges and universities in the Pittsburgh region to

offer a website with a fully responsive design.

The Office of Marketing & Media Relations led the website redesign as part of its branding initiative, which launched last summer. The most significant changes to the website are its revamped admissions section and a new academics section which separates majors and programs of study by academic division.

Dave Siroki, director of web services, said the College decided to include a responsive design after analytics showed that an overwhelming number of visitors were viewing the website from a mobile device.



"Our research showed that more people were accessing our website via mobile phone and tablets than those who were using a desktop computer," he said. "The new site allows us to be more user-friendly and competitive."

Have you seen the new La Roche website?

LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING.

Submit your comments at
laroche.edu/webfeedback

La Roche Named Military Friendly College for Sixth Consecutive Year

New Veterans Organization provides ongoing outreach

According to G.I. Jobs Magazine, a premier resource for veterans seeking success in a civilian career, La Roche College ranks in the top 15 percent of all Military Friendly colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide.

This year marks the sixth consecutive year for La Roche to receive Military Friendly status. In 2009 La Roche became a Yellow Ribbon institution, working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to reimburse 100 percent of veterans' tuition cost. The College and government equally share costs associated with veterans obtaining their degrees.

"We are proud of our military and veteran students. They bring with them tremendous real-life experience that adds to the fabric of the college environment," Hope Schiffgens, director

of graduate studies and adult education, said. "La Roche works closely with military and veteran students and offers a variety of services to accommodate their educational needs."



Military and veteran students also find support through the Veterans Organization, one of more than 30 student clubs and organizations offered at La Roche. Established in 2013, the organization gives veterans the opportunity to meet each other, get involved on campus and receive support. This year the organization held a Veterans Day panel for students and faculty members to share their military experiences with the College community.

Chase Warden, co-founder and president of the organization, said he and Nicholas Yund, who graduated in May 2014, created the group to unite the College's veteran population.

"Many veterans go to class assuming they are the only ones there. Our goal is to help veteran students feel welcome by creating an opportunity for veterans to meet other veterans," Mr. Warden, a senior in La Roche's finance and management program, said. "We want the Veterans Organization to always be a place where veterans will feel at home."

La Roche offers credit for military service and welcomes all veterans, military students and their dependents to begin or complete their education on campus, through online learning or at one of its satellite campuses.

Those interested in the Yellow Ribbon Program at La Roche should contact Graduate Admissions Counselor Sherryl Lisco at **412-536-1262** or **sherryl.lisco@laroche.edu**. Qualifying students are veterans who are eligible for the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill's full benefits and have served three years of active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.



La Roche Celebrates Opening of Renovated Athletic Complex

La Roche College officially opened its \$2.7 million renovated athletic complex at a dedication ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 6.

“It is not a cliché to say that this complex is, indeed, a ‘Field of Dreams’ for La Roche College,” College President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., said. “This complex has been a dream of student athletes, coaches and loyal La Roche Redhawks fans for a very long time. Today, they are victorious as we officially launch this inaugural season at our new complex.”

The dedication ceremony began with a blessing of the new turf field by Sister Elena Almendarez, CDP, director of mission and ministry for the College, and was followed by remarks from Steven Massaro, vice president for business development of Massaro Corporation and chair of the La Roche College board of trustees, U.S. Congressman Keith Rothfus and Rep. Mike Turzai of Pennsylvania.

Sister Candace publicly thanked major donors: S&T Bank, La Roche trustee

Nicholas Varischetti and another individual who currently remains anonymous. Soccer team captain Bryan Weimerskirch thanked donors on behalf of La Roche College athletes. “I cannot thank you enough for making our dream become a reality,” he said.

The ceremony ended with a ribbon cutting followed by a cook-out lunch and the women’s and men’s soccer games.

“This complex has been a dream of student athletes, coaches and loyal La Roche Redhawks fans for a very long time.”

— Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.
College President

The renovation began in the spring of 2014 and included the installation of a turf field, a pavilion for concessions and restrooms, and additional parking and landscaping. Other enhancements, including a new scoreboard and warning track for the baseball field, are planned for completion this fall.

La Roche College currently offers 12 varsity sports, competing in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) in NCAA Div. III. The La Roche College Redhawks have won 12 AMCC championships and 10 AMCC regular season titles. The new athletic complex will enable the College to expand the number of sponsored teams, beginning with the addition of women’s lacrosse.

DRS Architects Inc. completed the design and technical plans for the complex. Massaro Corporation served as general contractor. Both firms are headquartered in Pittsburgh.

For more information about La Roche athletic programs or to support the future improvements, please visit laroche.edu/give.

—★—★—★—

ATHLETES to WATCH

—★—★—★—

Balancing schoolwork and sports with teamwork and talent, student athletes at La Roche College serve as leaders inside and outside of the classroom.

Meet the La Roche Redhawks who have led our fall sports teams to record-breaking success in the AMCC.

ROBERT PATTERSON

Year: Senior | **Major:** Marketing and Management
Hometown: Bethel Park, PA

Career highlights: Team captain. Four-year starter. Ran a personal best [8K] on Oct. 11, 2014 at the Carnegie Mellon University Invitational.

What he likes about cross country: "There's no politics. Whoever has the best time makes varsity, no questions asked."

How cross country has enhanced his college experience: "I joined an amazing team and an awesome group of friends that I can rely on to always have my back."

Goals for the future: "To get a job that I love and one that enables me to support my family."

Why he chose La Roche: "I chose La Roche because it is a small Catholic school that has a chapel on campus. It is far enough away from my house but not too far. And it was an added bonus that I could run cross country here."





ANDREA LUCIANO

Year: Freshman | **Major:** Interior Design
Hometown: Altoona, PA

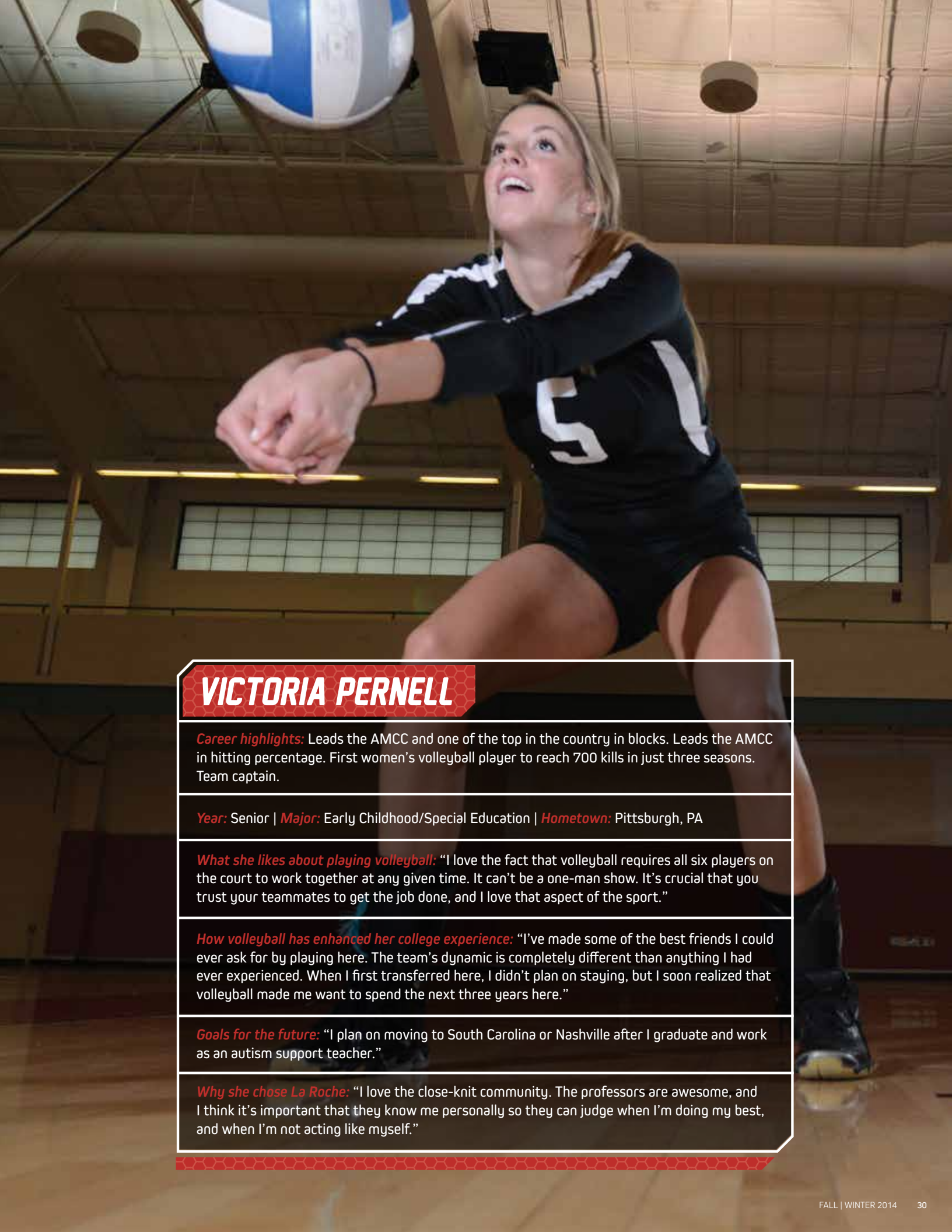
Career highlights: First La Roche finisher in every race this year. Ran a personal best [6K] on Oct. 4, 2014 at Pitt-Greensburg Invitational.

What she likes about cross country: “I love to run competitively. I never did cross country until college, but I have always loved running in some of the races around my hometown. Now I get to race more often. The sport allows me to do something I love while helping me to stay healthy and in shape while in college.”

How cross country has enhanced her college experience: “I was able to move in a week earlier than all other freshman. It was great to be able to get used to the college before everyone moved in. I also was able to meet new people and make new friends, which helped me adjust to the college lifestyle. Being an athlete in general enhances my college experience because I get to travel to different meets while representing my school.”

Goals for the future: “I hope to stay on the cross country team while continuing to improve. Interior design is a very busy, time-consuming major, but I hope to excel over the next few years. I plan to keep pushing forward for better race times, but most importantly working hard toward my grades and skills in my major.”

Why she chose La Roche: “I not only loved the area and campus, but the diversity and opportunities La Roche offers. Even though it is a small college, it is very easy to get involved.”



VICTORIA PERNELL

Career highlights: Leads the AMCC and one of the top in the country in blocks. Leads the AMCC in hitting percentage. First women's volleyball player to reach 700 kills in just three seasons. Team captain.

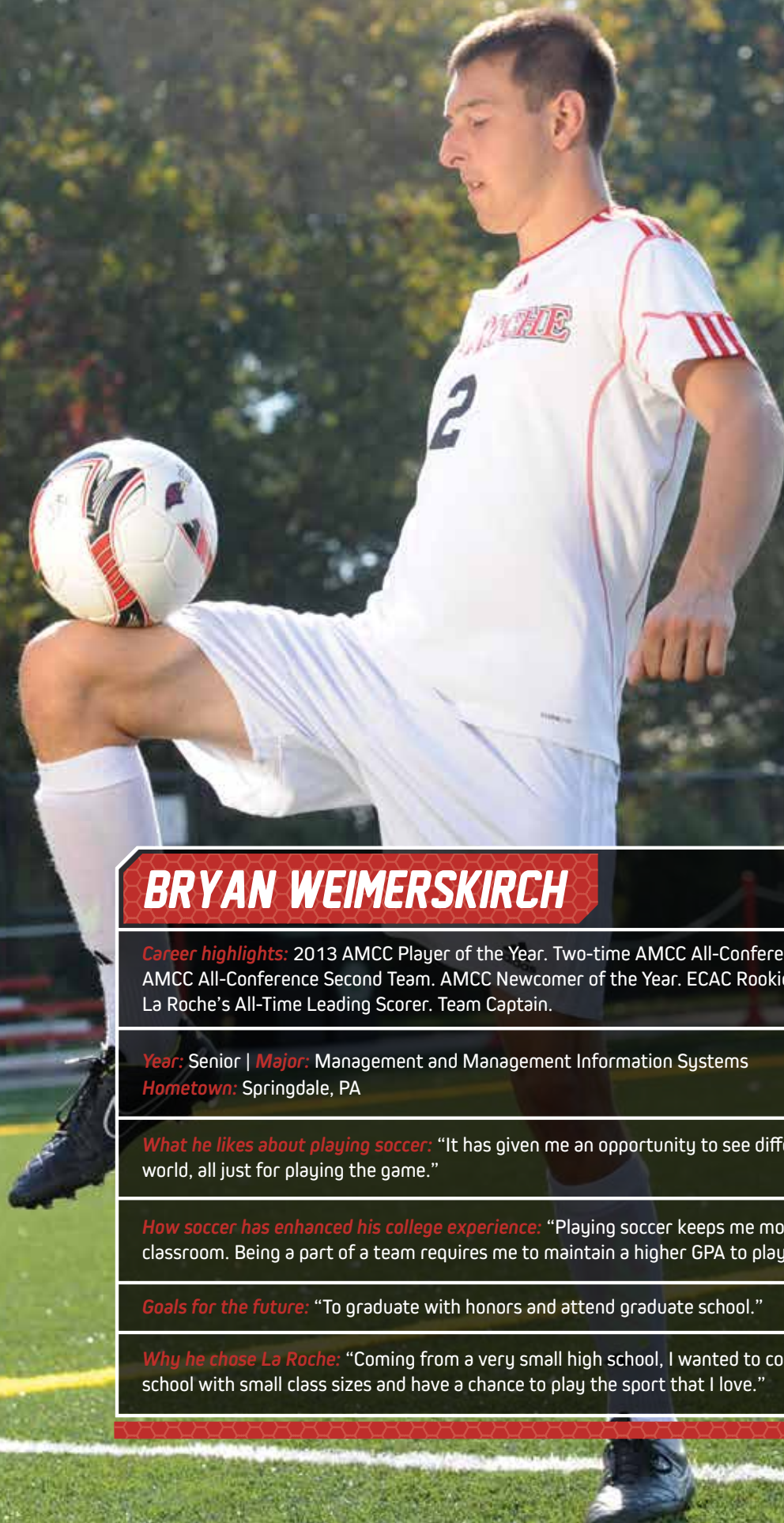
Year: Senior | **Major:** Early Childhood/Special Education | **Hometown:** Pittsburgh, PA

What she likes about playing volleyball: "I love the fact that volleyball requires all six players on the court to work together at any given time. It can't be a one-man show. It's crucial that you trust your teammates to get the job done, and I love that aspect of the sport."

How volleyball has enhanced her college experience: "I've made some of the best friends I could ever ask for by playing here. The team's dynamic is completely different than anything I had ever experienced. When I first transferred here, I didn't plan on staying, but I soon realized that volleyball made me want to spend the next three years here."

Goals for the future: "I plan on moving to South Carolina or Nashville after I graduate and work as an autism support teacher."

Why she chose La Roche: "I love the close-knit community. The professors are awesome, and I think it's important that they know me personally so they can judge when I'm doing my best, and when I'm not acting like myself."



BRYAN WEIMERSKIRCH

Career highlights: 2013 AMCC Player of the Year. Two-time AMCC All-Conference First Team. AMCC All-Conference Second Team. AMCC Newcomer of the Year. ECAC Rookie of the Year. La Roche's All-Time Leading Scorer. Team Captain.

Year: Senior | **Major:** Management and Management Information Systems
Hometown: Springdale, PA

What he likes about playing soccer: "It has given me an opportunity to see different parts of the world, all just for playing the game."

How soccer has enhanced his college experience: "Playing soccer keeps me more focused in the classroom. Being a part of a team requires me to maintain a higher GPA to play."

Goals for the future: "To graduate with honors and attend graduate school."

Why he chose La Roche: "Coming from a very small high school, I wanted to continue to go to a school with small class sizes and have a chance to play the sport that I love."



SARAH STIERER

Year: Senior | **Major:** Radiologic Technologist
Hometown: Sewickley, PA

Career highlights: Team Captain. Four-year starter. AMCC Preseason Player to Watch.

What she likes about soccer: "I have always enjoyed the intensity of the game. I have been playing since I was six years old, and the competition of the game is something I have always enjoyed. Soccer has taught me a lot about myself, but most importantly it has taught me how to work with others to reach a common goal."

How playing soccer has enhanced her college experience: "Soccer has enhanced my college experience in all positive ways. My team members have become my best friends, and I couldn't imagine my college experience without them. We have had some of the best times together, and I wouldn't trade them for anything."

Goals for the future: "My future goals are to work in the radiology department of a level-one trauma center."

Why she chose La Roche: "I found the small campus and class size appealing. My major also is one of the top majors offered here. The opportunity to play four more years of competitive soccer also was a nice perk!"

JULIANNA SACCO

Year: Junior | **Major:** Biochemistry

Hometown: Economy Borough, PA

Career highlights: Team Captain. Two-year starter. Won her first collegiate match on Sept. 27, 2013 defeating Washington & Jefferson.

What she likes about playing tennis: “I love that I am able to play one-on-one against another player and achieve a personal goal through winning an individual match. Playing tennis and learning it in only two years without prior experience really was tough work. I never knew how difficult and time-consuming it was until I really played a collegiate match. When I won my first match, I immediately became invested in this sport because it was so hands-on, and I loved it.”

How playing tennis has enhanced her college experience: “As the team captain, I’m in a leadership position which allows me to learn from my experiences on the court and use them to interact with my teammates and at school. I learn how to actively put time-management skills to use. Tennis also allowed me to make new connections on campus with new friends and new opportunities.”

Goals for the future: “I plan on graduating from La Roche with a bachelor’s degree and becoming a lab technician.”

Why she chose La Roche: “I love the small campus atmosphere, and I am close to home. I love the close relationships that I make with my professors. At La Roche I am considered a student, not a number.”





BEN MULLINS

Year: Freshman | **Major:** Finance

Hometown: Valencia, PA

Career highlights: One of the top freshmen in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference. Shot a career low 74 on Sept. 15 at the Penn State Altoona Invitational.

What he likes about playing golf: "I like golf because there is no one else that you can blame for a mistake or poor performance. It is all on you, and you are responsible for everything. Not having others to rely on forces you to prepare and make sure that you are ready to perform when you need to."

How playing golf has enhanced his college experience: "Through golf I have been able to meet new people and make new friends. I also have people I can trust and ask for advice, whether it be school-related or life-related."

Goals for the future: "I would love to continue playing golf in a competitive way for as long as I possibly can, but I would love to have a job in wealth management or have my own business after school."

Why he chose La Roche: "La Roche has great business programs, so I know that I will be receiving an education that will prepare me for my future. It also is close to home, which is a very important factor to me."



Women's Soccer

Goalkeeper Destiney Davis was named the AMCC Defensive Player of the Week on Sept. 29, 2014. That week Ms. Davis helped the Lady Redhawks to a 2-0 record and recorded two shutouts. She made six saves in a 2-0 victory over Chatham before shutting out Hilbert 3-0 in their AMCC conference opener. Ms. Davis currently leads the conference with a .870 save percentage and ranks second in goals against average (0.96).

As of Oct. 20, freshman striker Vanessa Ceravolo ranked fifth in the AMCC in goals with eight and eighth in points with 18.

Men's Soccer

On Oct. 4, La Roche men's soccer striker Bryan Weimerskirch recorded his 97th career point in a 4-1 victory over Pitt-Bradford to pass Reuben Jolo '10 (2006-2010) and become the school's all-time leading scorer. Mr. Weimerskirch tallied four points in the win, including his 39th career goal, which tied Mr. Jolo for the career goal mark.

Mr. Weimerskirch concludes his career as one of the most accomplished athletes in school history. In addition to breaking records, he was the 2013 AMCC Player of the Year and a two-time AMCC All-Conference First Team performer.

Freshman goalkeeper Spencer Wolfe's five shutouts broke the school's single season shutout record. Senior midfielder Ryan Luffey moved into third place on the school's all-time points list. He is the school's leader in assists and fourth all-time in goals.

Tennis

La Roche women's tennis player Devin Stromberg finished the season with a 9-1 singles record and went 6-0 in the conference at #6 singles. The Lady Redhawks ended the season winning two of their final four matches including a 7-2 win over Medaille College.

Golf

The men's golf team finished seventh at the AMCC Championships on Oct. 13 at Oak Tree Country Club in West Middlesex, Pa. Senior Keith Rex shot a team low 167 (85, 82) and freshman Ben Mullins followed with a 171 (86, 85). Freshman Nate Anthony shot a 177 (89, 88), sophomore Drake Hoberek 182 (96, 86), and senior Garrett Fraser 215 (108, 107) at the championships.

Mr. Mullins medaled at the Penn State Altoona Invitational, placing second with a 2-over par 74. He also tied for third at The DuBois Collegiate Classic and fourth at the Hilbert College Invitational.

Cross Country

The cross country team enjoyed a successful season under first-year coach Jeff Dailey. They competed in invitationals at Westminster, Franciscan, Penn State Behrend, Pitt-Greensburg and Carnegie Mellon, with meets at the AMCC Championships and a spot in the NCAA Regional for the first time in six years.

The Redhawks were led by freshmen Andrea Luciano and Johnny Nicholson, and seniors Amanda Worsley, Demetria Coleman, Kaitlin Oliver, Joey Kurchina and Robby Patterson.



Volleyball

La Roche women's volleyball middle hitter, Tori Pernell, became the second Lady Redhawk in the past 10 years to record 700 career kills. As of Oct. 20, 2014, Ms. Pernell ranked nationally in blocks and led the AMCC in blocks, hitting percentage and serving aces.

Ms. Pernell was an AMCC All-Conference First Team Selection last season and finished in the conference's top three in kills, hitting percentage and serving aces.

La Roche women's volleyball ranks 20th in the nation in blocks. Ms. Pernell and Vicky Danko represented Team USA at the Friendship Games in Scotland.



FROM
**RED
DEVIL**
to
**RED
HAWK**

The Evolution of a College Mascot

BY ELIZABETH WILLIAMS-HERRMAN, M.A., LA ROCHE COLLEGE ARCHIVIST

As most La Roche College alumni and students know, the College was founded in 1963 by the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence to educate young nuns.

But less than a decade later the entire landscape of the school had changed: lay women had been admitted in 1965, and in 1970 La Roche became co-educational. As La Roche continued to change, so did the needs of its student body.

In the early 1970s a men's basketball club was launched. This student-funded helped lay the groundwork for the sports teams that would follow.

The nickname these young men chose for the club – the La Roche College Red Devils – might surprise some current students and recent alumni.

Former team member Dan Swalga explained that the name was, “a joke – with the hopes of getting a reaction from the college administration – a few of us (I don't remember who) sat in a room trying to think of a good nickname for the team. So, we thought the Red Devils.”

The team members did not expect the name to last a week but to their surprise, no one reacted, and the Devil stayed.

The name would later be embraced not only by the official collegiate basketball team that the club morphed into in 1974, but by all other sports teams formed at La Roche.

Although the Devil had been embraced as a mascot by the athletic department and students alike, it was never the official college mascot. Nor was it without controversy. By the 1985-86 school year, the Student Senate was ready to debate whether to keep the Devil as the College's mascot.

Crossover, La Roche's student newspaper at the time, explained in the Nov. 5, 1985 issue that the Student Senate debated that “the devil was not mature enough for a growing college and does not truly represent the Christian college.”

The senate decided to put the name to a vote by the whole student community, through ballots placed in the student newspaper.

Only 12 people responded to the first round of polling, as a second ballot was published months later.

Although results of the second poll are not in the College archives, it's clear that the Devil survived that attempt to exorcise him from the school.

In fact, the Devil outlived the basketball team that invented him. The original La Roche team was disbanded in 1987, causing an uproar on campus.

The Devil remained for a few more years as the unofficial mascot for La Roche's other teams. However, by the spring of 1992 the school began building the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center and resurrected the basketball program.

Along with this, La Roche decided it was time for a new mascot. A committee collected and evaluated ideas, narrowing it down to three choices: the Redhawks, the Lancers and the La Roche Lightning.

The La Roche student community voted in mid-April that year and the Redhawk became the College's official mascot.



A REDHAWK'S ROYAL FLUSH



BY KURT HACKIMER '12 | PHOTO BY JEFF ZOET

The game of poker is extremely nuanced. A successful poker player must be able to adequately balance complex statistical strategy with impeccable instincts, all while having the gusto to take risks with sometimes thousands of dollars on the line.

But in the end, it's all about the odds.

With sometimes two or three percentage points separating winning from losing, poker can be a cruel and unfair game. But, while the chances of any one person winning a poker tournament are always slim, La Roche College alumnus Jack Schanbacher '05 has managed to parlay this parlor game into a lucrative career.

"Poker is all about gathering all of the information and making the best decision," Mr. Schanbacher said. "Some of the decisions are really close; the odds between winning and losing are often only a few percent. But if you're making the right decision with that few percent on your side, you're going to make money in the long term."

In his eight years of playing poker professionally, Mr. Schanbacher has done a remarkable job of correctly predicting his odds and has accumulated a pretty impressive bankroll in the process.

According to cardplayer.com, Mr. Schanbacher has won \$1,356,809 playing poker tournaments and has

earned even more playing high stakes cash.

He has spent summers in Las Vegas, golfed at some of the most lavish courses in the country, and tested his skills against several of the best poker players in the world, often times on national television.

Using the money he's made playing poker, Mr. Schanbacher is looking to build a house in the Pine-Richland area of Pittsburgh for him, his wife, and newborn son Jack Jr.

Being a professional poker player is certainly not a bad gig, if you can get it. And, when talking about poker, Mr. Schanbacher makes it sound so simple.

"Winning at poker is just about trying to make the best decisions in the moment," Mr. Schanbacher said. "You have to put yourself in [your opponents'] shoes and think about what they're doing at that time, trying to gather all of the information you can before putting that large amount of money in the middle."

In the mid-2000s, poker reached its peak popularity. The popularization of online poker was met serendipitously with ESPN reacquiring the long-term rights of the World Series of Poker.

In 2003, Chris Moneymaker, an amateur who qualified for the tournament by an

online "sit-n-go" tournament, won the World Series of Poker Main Event and the cash prize of \$2.5 million. Moneymaker became the first online qualifier to win the tournament and sparked poker's largest boom period.

And while the popularity of poker has waned a bit since its peak, this year's Main Event attracted 6,683 entrants, roughly eight times the people that Moneymaker had to go through in 2003, with the winner receiving a cool \$10 million.

It was during this boom period, however, that Mr. Schanbacher, an accounting major, found himself balancing his time between classwork and playing poker in the residence halls with his friends at La Roche College.

"Attending La Roche College gave me the opportunity to meet so many unique and wonderful people which helped me figure out who I was and what I wanted to do with my life," he said.

At La Roche Mr. Schanbacher's college experience prepared him for the game of poker, even if he didn't realize it at the time.

"The most important thing I took away from La Roche College that helps me today is understanding human interaction and how people act in different situations and ultimately what



PHOTO COURTESY OF POKER NIGHT IN AMERICA

they do,” he explained. “The game of Poker Texas Holdem is a game about people, played with cards. The people control the decisions, not the cards. So understanding people is ultimately the most important thing.”

By the time he had graduated from La Roche in 2005, Mr. Schanbacher was winning frequently and making more money than ever. Upon graduating from college, he opened up an investment account and decided to try to turn his hobby into a career.

“Out of college I was planning on taking a job with Price Waterhouse,” Mr. Schanbacher said. “But I decide to put that off and booked a few trips to Atlantic City, Reno and Las Vegas.”

Things were month-to-month for Mr. Schanbacher at the beginning of his professional poker career, but he earned his first payday by winning the 2007 Winter Poker Open and grossing \$192,975.

“That was a huge monkey off of my back,” Mr. Schanbacher said. “After that, I was able to set my own schedule. I could travel to other cash games and tournaments without worrying about going broke.”

Mr. Schanbacher utilized that extra bankroll well in 2008, which turned out to be his most profitable year to date.

He won three major tournaments, placed highly in two others, and earned a cool \$817,864 as a result.

With Mr. Schanbacher distinguishing himself in the professional poker community, he started to become a fixture at the largest poker tournaments in the country.

“The most important thing I took away from La Roche College that helps me today is understanding human interaction and how people act in different situations...The people control the decisions, not the cards.”

He’s appeared several times on national television, most recently during this October’s World Series of Poker, where he finished 130th and won \$52,141.

He’s shared poker tables with the shrewdest of poker players as well as some fabulously wealthy hobbyists who play merely for the thrill of competition.

“For the most part, I’m playing with very wealthy people who know that they’re not going to win in the long term,” he said.

Mr. Schanbacher said that it is easy to spot these guys at the table because they simply don’t play like professionals. For instance, at this year’s World Series of Poker, Mr. Schanbacher found himself in a fascinating hand with Richard Rigney, a horse breeder and chemist who owns a company that develops flavorings for liquors, sodas and other beverages.

As the stakes rose, it became increasingly clear that Rigney was not an experienced poker player. In fact, he had never played poker at all until he decided to enter the \$10,000 buy-in tournament. He didn’t throw the required chips into the pot when he was asked to and, even though he had the best cards for the majority of the hand, he wasn’t aware.

Mr. Schanbacher ended up taking all \$300,000 worth of Rigney’s remaining chips and sent him back to his factory in Louisville without a win in his inaugural poker tournament.

The World Series of Poker was one of the few times that Mr. Schanbacher will travel to play poker this year. Mr. Schanbacher is planning to spend more time with his family and is now able to pick and choose events.

But while Mr. Schanbacher may momentarily be cutting down on his poker playing, he said that he would not be quitting completely anytime soon.

“My intentions are to play poker for the rest of my life,” he said. “I’ve already pulled back the traveling to spend more time with my family, but I’ve been putting money away ever since I started playing. I’ve set myself up so I can play and travel whenever I want and, if my investments somehow went bad, I would be able to make my money back at the poker table.”

You can follow Jack Schanbacher on Twitter at [@jackschanbacher](https://twitter.com/jackschanbacher).

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



ALUMNI BUSINESS DIRECTORY TO LAUNCH IN SPRING 2015

In April 2015, the Office of Alumni Relations at La Roche College will present an online directory of alumni-owned businesses.

The directory will appear on La Roche's alumni website. This new service will allow alumni to add their own businesses and search for other alumni-operated businesses by category, such as marketing, human resources consulting, design, financial advisers and more.

If you are a La Roche graduate and business owner, please visit laroche.edu/alumndirectory to promote your organization.

You must register for the Alumni Directory to promote your self-owned business. The directory is only a free listing service and not an endorsement by La Roche.



SAVE THE DATE | APRIL 17-19

The best way to reconnect with faculty, classmates and administration is to join us for our annual **Alumni Homecoming Weekend** celebration, one of the largest alumni events held on campus. Additional information will be available soon.



WRIGHT LIBRARY PRESENTS ALUMNI BOOK COLLECTION

The Office of Alumni Relations has partnered with the John J. Wright Library to showcase alumni-authored books.

With many La Roche alumni enjoying careers as writers in numerous disciplines, the book collection will feature a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction works. Books will rotate on display in the library, but the entire collection will be available for check out at any time.

If you are an alumni author who wishes to have your book(s) on display, please contact Gina Miller, director of alumni relations, at gina.miller@laroche.edu.



SOCCKER ALUMNI AND COACHES RETURN TO CAMPUS

The alumni reception before the field dedication was a blast from the past, with Coach Robert "Bobby" Vosmaer, our first conference-level men's soccer team coach, in attendance.

Pictured above: Todd Gill and Coach Vosmaer.



SUCCESS STORIES NEEDED FOR ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Are you a La Roche graduate who has found success in your chosen career or made a difference in your community through volunteer service? Whether you're making an impact in the region, the nation or around the world, we want to hear your story.

The Alumni Spotlight, a new feature on the College's website, will highlight the success of our graduates and how their lives embody the College's mission.

Visit laroche.edu/spotlight to complete a questionnaire about your background, career and experiences. Submissions may be edited for length and content. We cannot guarantee that every submission will be published.



LA ROCHE HONORS FIRST MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAMS

At an on-field ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 6, we honored the men and women who pioneered collegiate-level soccer at La Roche: the fall 1990 men's team and the fall 1996 women's team.

CLASS NOTES

La Roche alumni celebrate professional and personal achievements in life after college.



Ben Banks '05 and **Hana Qorri '06** were married in May 2009 and moved to the suburbs of Minneapolis, Minn. in 2007 to start Sovereign Estate Vineyard and Winery with Mr. Banks' family. The vineyard was planted in 2008, and the winery opened to the public in 2011.

Mr. Banks started as the winery's graphic designer and photographer, and he is now also the winemaker, chef and web developer. In August 2014, with only two years of experience as a head winemaker, Mr. Banks won Best in Show at the International Cold Climate Wine Competition for his 2013 La Crescent. He also works with the local winery association and designed the Passport to Minnesota Wines, which won a Best New Product for 2014 award from the Minnesota Society of Association Executives.



Ms. Qorri also works at the winery, managing accounts and bookkeeping, though she is most passionate about being the primary educator for their children, Celeste (age 5) and Celine (age 4). The girls have started

formal homeschooling this fall. With plans to draw upon their international family throughout Europe and North America for instructive experiences, Ms. Qorri hopes to give Celeste and Celine a unique, diverse and cultured education.

Donna Bigatel '80 recently completed her graduate studies at Chatham University, earning a Master of Science in interior architecture. She is currently the design center manager at Ethan Allen in Wexford, Pa. and is an adjunct professor at Chatham University.

Priscilla Bordogna '06 changed roles from executive assistant to west coast team recruiting assistant for McKinsey & Company. She is based out of the firm's Tampa Service Center.



Kimberly Borgen '97 was promoted to design principal at DGA planning, architecture, interiors in San Diego, Calif. Pictured above: A space she recently designed.



Diane R. Bridges '02 earned her Ph.D. in interprofessional health care studies from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in 2014.

Lynn (Blank) Brockman '79, CPC is a senior certified coder with Ohio Valley Hospital Professional Services. Ms. Brockman currently serves as the president of the Greater Pittsburgh AAPC chapter.

Jim Brockman '79 is curator and chief archivist for the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Museum Education and Research Center located in Wellsburg, W. Va. Mr. Brockman has a master's degree in archives, museums and historical text editing from Duquesne University and is a doctoral candidate at Union Institute and University.

In their spare time, Mr. and Mrs. Brockman are volunteer safe boating instructors for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and The United States Power Squadrons. They are members of the Ten Mile Power Squadron for which Ms. Brockman is the education officer, Mr. Brockman is the treasurer and vessel safety officer, and both are past commanders.

The Brockman's celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on June 2, 2014.



Todd Bronson '03 and **Meredith McFarland '06** wed in Denver, Colo. on May 24, 2014. Pictured above: Mr. and Mrs. Bronson with La Roche alumni: Dave Salai, Dan Grega, Adam Hurley, Becky Galie, Danielle Tellier, Dana Merante, Abigail Shrom Eschbach, Frank Nemeth and Keith Haynik.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS ALUMNI RECEPTION

**Dec. 5, 6-8 p.m. | Student Dining Room,
Zappala College Center, La Roche College**

Usher in the holidays at an alumni reception at our annual Festival of Lights celebration. Register for free at laroche.edu/festival and receive a Christmas gift at the reception.

Tracey (Nugent) Daily '06 and her husband, Drew, welcomed their son, Elijah, on June 3. She and Drew married on Nov. 28, 2009 and lived in Virginia and Hawaii before returning to Pittsburgh in September 2012.



Angie [Elngczyk] Collins '09 married Michael Collins on Sept. 13, 2014.

Amanda Gilliland '12 has been working as an interior design coordinator at Stantec Inc. in Butler, Pa. In 2013 she opened her own dance studio, which now serves 35 students. Ms. Gilliland has worked with the architecture students at Butler County Community College with an interior's project finish board assignment. She became engaged this past New Year's Eve and is in the process of purchasing a house with her fiancé in East Butler.

Carolyn M. Gutowski '69 published a book, "Grandparents Are Forever," which became the basis for the formation of the Grandmothers Corps in the Indiana/Latrobe, Pa. area. A September "Grandparents Are Forever" seminar/workshop day was held to expand the movement within the Greensburg and Altoona-Johnston, Pa. region.

ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR

Dec. 18, 5:30 p.m.

Fox and Hound, Shoppes at Northway, McKnight Road, Pittsburgh

A free event with appetizers, a cash bar and old friends. Preregistration is suggested. Guests are invited to attend. Email gina.miller@laroche.edu to register.

Phyllis Hartman '90 had a new book published by The Society for Human Resources Management. The book is titled "Looking to Hire an HR Leader? 14 Action Tools to Help You Decide, Find and Keep the HR Professional Your Business Needs in a Competitive World."

Ms. Hartman's book provides advice to business professionals who are trying to hire an HR professional or determining if they need one, as well as HR professionals who are looking to grow and develop their careers.

A graduate of La Roche's Master of Human Resources Management program, Ms. Hartman established PGHR Consulting Inc. in 2004 and co-authored "Never Get Lost Again: Navigating Your HR Career" in 2009.

Kathryn Jolley '81, vice chair of La Roche's board of trustees, was one of the La Roche representatives to attend the Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities Rome Seminar in June 2014. This seminar serves as a way to develop interaction and conversation between the Vatican and Catholic colleges and universities around the world.

Linda Klingman '00 is a human resources manager at Moss Creek in Hilton Head, S.C. She also serves on the board of directors for the Lowcounty Human Resources Association.



Lois Kuttesch '08 was named chair of Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania's board of directors. Since 2009 Ms. Kuttesch has been a member of the organization's board of directors

and previously served on the board's development committee. Ms. Kuttesch is the assistant director of graduate studies & adult education at La Roche.

Timothy Layman '13 is pursuing a doctor of nursing practice degree at Yale University. Mr. Layman is the manager of Intensive Care and Rapid Response for Trident Medical Center in Charleston, S.C.

Mr. Layman secured a grant to bring nursing education into the critical care unit through the implementation of the Critical Care

Services Satellite Education Center. He is a board-certified nurse executive and an active member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Mr. Layman earned his bachelor's degree at Pennsylvania State University and obtained his master's degree in nursing administration from La Roche.

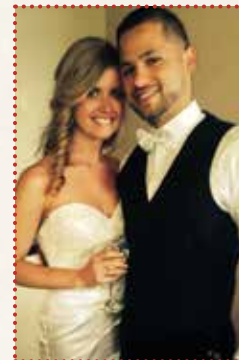
Kathleen A. McCourt '94 and her husband, Paul Wasylson, welcome their son, Ronan McCourt Wasylson, on May 18, 2014.

William Michael '97, ASID, is a senior designer at DRS Architects. Recently he was part of a team of interior designers and architects completing \$30 million of renovations at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort and Spa.

Lisa Nicolette '97 started writing for rxmuscle.com, which recently featured her article, "Fitsurvivor: Back from the Dead," in their online magazine.

Nick Parise '11 had a patent application published through his employer, PPG Industries. The title of the application is "Coated Microporous Materials having Filtration and Adsorption Properties and their use in Fluid Purification Processes."

Jenna Peterson '10 joined DRS Architects as a designer and will work with the hospitality group providing professional interior design services to hospitality clients including a variety of hotel brands as well as boutique hotels.



Kristy Picard '09 and **Joshua Rulnick '09** married on June 14, 2014. They have been dating since they were students La Roche.

SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES!



Share your news with La Roche College and fellow alumni.

Send announcements regarding career changes, promotions, marriages, births, volunteer service and other major life events to lrochemmr@gmail.com.

Submissions may be edited for length and content.



Lynn Popash '83 earned the Certified Destination Management Executive (CDME) designation, the only integrated executive program

specifically designed for the destination marketing industry.

Ellen Pomerantz '83 recently joined Victory Media located in Coraopolis, Pa. as the national recruiting specialist for STEM Jobs Magazine. Victory Media is a solutions-driven agency that helps colleges and universities locate and recruit students interested in STEM education and future employment. Ms. Pomerantz graduated from La Roche with a Bachelor of Science in graphic arts technology (a STEM-based program).

UPDATE YOUR ALUMNI RECORDS

Submit your contact information so that we can keep you posted on the latest campus news and events. Visit laroche.edu/updateinfo to stay in touch with your alma mater.

Tiffany Rosensteel '10 is now in her second year of a full-time contract teaching position with Shaler Area School District. Ms. Rosensteel teaches third grade at Burchfield Primary School.

Shelby Weber '14 was promoted from intern to assistant interior designer at Desmone Architects, an architectural firm located in the Lawrenceville neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

BUSINESS, RADIOLOGY AND HRM REUNIONS

La Roche Campus | April 18, 2015

Attention all business, radiology and HRM alumni: Save the date for receptions planned especially for you during Homecoming Weekend. More details will follow.

Jason Woyнар '99 and his wife, Regina, have a new addition to their family. Cullen John Woyнар joined his sisters, Delaney and Malley, in July. Mr. Woyнар is a senior designer at DRS Architects. Working with Ashley Solomon '12, he completed the design for the Father Peter Horton Lounge at La Roche.

Nick Yund '14 was hired as an academic adviser at the Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School, which has a local office in Harmarville, Pa. Mr. Yund helps to keep struggling students on task and improve their grades.

Gretchen Zetler '97 joined DRS Architects as a senior interior designer and has been working on design and construction of retail sites, as well as renovations to the Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort and Spa.



La Roche College

Mission Statment

La Roche College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, founded and sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, fosters global citizenship and creates a community of scholars from the region, the nation and around the world. The College integrates liberal arts and professional education in creative ways, empowering all members of our community to become lifelong learners, achieve success in their chosen careers and promote justice and peace in a constantly changing global society.



YOUR GIFT MATTERS TO KIM

KIM HAS ALL OF THE TOOLS SHE NEEDS TO RECEIVE AN AMAZING COLLEGE EXPERIENCE, THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS.

Your gifts to The Fund for La Roche support many areas across campus such as: financial aid, library resources, technology and teaching equipment. Your gift matters to Kim and to more than 1,400 additional La Roche students who want to be the best *for* the world.

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