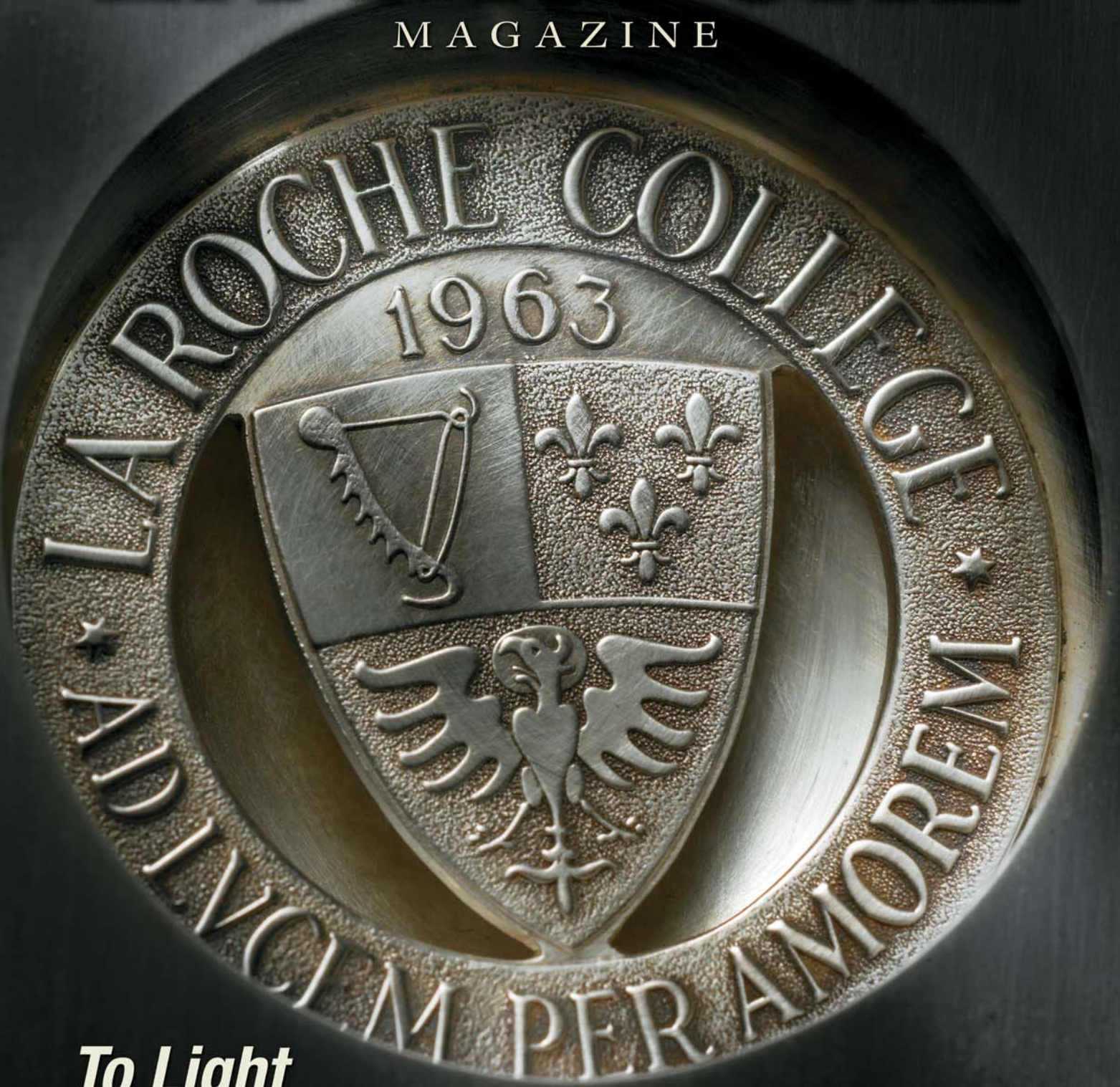


FALL 2005

LA ROCHE

MAGAZINE



*To Light
Through Love*

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

It doesn't seem possible that I have already finished my first full year as president of La Roche College. It is truly an honor to lead this College, and I am grateful to the many alumni and friends of the College who have offered their encouragement, support and involvement over the past year. Your help has been an essential ingredient in making this a successful year for La Roche.

One of the highlights of the year was the inauguration. Words really cannot describe both the pride and the humility that I felt at the installation ceremony. Proud to be heading the college founded by my religious community, but at the same time humbled to contemplate the accomplishments of the women who had preceded me in this task. At the same time, I was also filled with pride for the College itself. The inauguration was an opportunity to shine the regional spotlight on La Roche College and let the community know what a vibrant and important institution it is. And judging from the many compliments I received from civic, business and educational leaders who took part in the inauguration activities, the College impressed a great many people.

There are good reasons for people to be impressed with La Roche, including our high-quality academic programs, our state-of-the-art facilities, and our dedicated faculty and staff. But no facet of the College is more impressive than our alumni. With 90 percent of our graduates living, working and making their homes in the region, our alumni continue to make an impact on the greater Pittsburgh community. I could ask for no better example of the quality of La Roche College. In fact, one of the most gratifying experiences I have as president is to hear positive feedback about our graduates from area employers.

As we begin a new academic year, we can see examples that La Roche's value is being increasingly recognized. Perhaps none is more indicative of that than enrollment for the fall semester. We have enrolled one of the largest freshman classes in the history of the College. That, coupled with the significant improvement in student retention that we are experiencing, provides a very positive outlook as we move into the future.

Like any independent college or university, La Roche still faces some challenges. However, after one year as president, I am more convinced than ever that La Roche College is an important asset to our community and an institution that, with your continued help and involvement, can make a real difference in the lives of the people that we serve.

Sister Candace Introcaso

Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.
President



Sister Candace Introcaso holds her weekly meeting with the President's Executive Council.

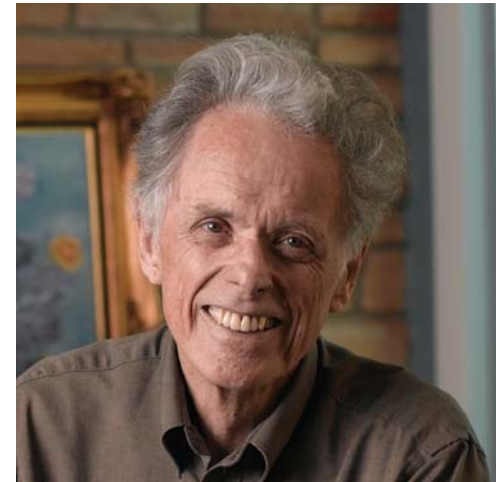
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La Roche College is a four-year, coeducational, independent, Catholic college located in the North Hills of Pittsburgh which strives to develop globally conscious, values-oriented leaders. Its curricula integrates professional and liberal studies to provide students with the basis for meaningful intellectual, cultural and personal development as well as success in the pursuit of their careers. LA ROCHE MAGAZINE tells some of the College's many stories and provides a forum for discussion about issues of the day on which La Roche people are making an impact. La Roche College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, place of origin or status as a veteran. LA ROCHE MAGAZINE is published by the Office of Public Relations.

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PHOTO: RIC EVANS

Presidential Recognition

Only a select group of college students across the nation can say that they have been honored by the President

of the United States. Jennie Roth, a La Roche College junior, can now claim membership in that exclusive club. On Monday, March 7, Roth received the President's Volunteer Service Award from President Bush when he arrived in Pittsburgh for a visit.

"It was an honor," said Roth, a Pittsburgh native who was part of a contingent of people that met Air Force One and then joined the presidential motorcade for the day. "It was quite an experience."

Roth received her award for her volunteer work at the Providence Family Support Center on Pittsburgh's North Side. Established by the Sisters of Divine Providence, the College's founding congregation, the center serves underprivileged families in the area. President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush visited the center during their stop in Pittsburgh.

"Over the years, I've gotten to know the families and people at the center," said Roth, who began volunteering as a freshman through her work with Project Achievement at La Roche. "You never know what the kids are going through at home, but when they're at the center, they know they're going to enjoy themselves. I like being part of that."

The President's Volunteer Service Award, an initiative of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, is available to Americans of all ages who have demonstrated their dedication to volunteer service.

PHOTO: DAVID DAY

Team-4-A-Day

It has been a year since heavy rains and flash flooding swept through suburban Pittsburgh communities such as Etna and Millvale. In cooperation with Hosanna Industries, La Roche students, staff and faculty participated in the "Team-4-A-Day" initiative. La Roche volunteers joined trained professionals for minor home repairs, painting and cleaning in communities affected by the flooding. The College's Office of Campus Ministry and Community Service spearheaded the effort, one that replaced this year's Alternative Spring Break program at La Roche.

"I felt it was important to help our own," said Sister Marilyn Bergt, coordinator of community service. In the past, students who participated in Alternative Spring Break would travel to West Virginia and perform minor house repairs in disadvantaged areas.

The first "Team-4-A-Day" program ran from March 16 through 19 and March 21 through 23, which coincided with spring break and Easter break for La Roche students.



Sr. Marilyn Bergt (right) works with a volunteer during "Team-4-A-Day."

Throughout the school year, groups of students and faculty returned to the communities recovering from the flooding to perform more necessary repairs.

"The floodwaters receded long ago, but the need for help remains," said Bergt. "We're committed to doing our part for as long as it takes."

PHOTOGRAPHY: RIC EVANS

FRESH FACES

At the beginning of the 2005-06 academic year, the La Roche community witnessed one of the most tangible signs of the College's recent growth and development.

Faculty welcomed into their classrooms one of the largest contingents of new students in La Roche's history. "The success of this enrollment initiative is another example of La Roche's renewed focus on recruitment and retention," said Sister Candace Introcaso, La Roche president. "Our new students are some of the best and brightest young people from across the region, the nation and the world. We're excited about challenging them to think like global citizens."

"We're delighted by the number and quality of students that are attending La Roche for the first time. We are also proud to say that this class continues to reflect the cultural diversity that is a hallmark of La Roche," said Thomas Schaefer, vice president of academic affairs and dean of enrollment services. La Roche's new students come from more than 20 countries and 25 states.

Along with a nationally acclaimed website (*see companion article*), counselors in the Office of Admissions are recruiting the next freshman class with recently updated marketing materials, including a new freshman view book that gives prospective students a comprehensive look at how a La Roche education can prepare them for the next step in their lives. Produced by the College's Office of Public Relations, the view book articulates the College's approach to education, one that combines thoughtful instruction, personalized attention and 21st-century technology to prepare students for a global economy. It highlights the College's beautiful campus at the doorstep of Pittsburgh, PA, a campus that is



"Our new students are some of the best and brightest young people from across the region, the nation and the world. We're excited about challenging them to think like global citizens." - Sister Candace Introcaso

nationally ranked for being safe and culturally diverse. In addition, the view book underscores the College's firm commitment to its Catholic roots and a belief that a college education should involve more than solely intellectual or social pursuits.

“We’re delighted by the number and quality of students that are attending La Roche for the first time.”

- Thomas Schaefer

Schaefer and his staff have outlined some aggressive recruitment goals for the 2005-2006 school year. He added that the College is committed to opening new markets, in the United States and in Europe, Asia and the Caribbean.



Well Woven Web

Studies show that prospective college students begin their search for the right college online. Couple this notion with an increasingly wired world, and it is crucial for any college or university to have a well-designed website.

Over the past year, La Roche College received independent confirmation that its website is living up to the challenge. The site (www.laroche.edu) ranks among the top seven percent of college and university websites nationally, according to a study by the National Research Center for College and University Admissions (NRCCUA). The 2004 study examined almost 3,000 sites to determine their effectiveness as a student recruitment tool. The study evaluated each site on 40 different objective criteria, including appeal, ease of navigation, completeness of information and overall quality. The La Roche College website was ranked 212th out of the 2,931 sites evaluated. In April 2005, the site received national acclaim with a citation from the Communicator Awards (*see article on page 20*).

The College unveiled the new website in October 2003, replacing its two-year-old predecessor. Among the improvements are a more user-friendly navigational system; detailed information on how to plan a visit to campus; a comprehensive look at admissions, financial aid and student life at La Roche; an online application; biographical information on deans and faculty members; an augmented presence for athletics; a search function; and a site map. In 2005, the College added several new sections to the site: one dedicated specifically to La Roche College Cranberry Woods, the College's new satellite campus (*see article on page 6*); and a component aimed at recruiting international students, which supports a goal articulated by the Division of Enrollment Services to explore new markets for the College.



PHOTOGRAPHY: RIC EVANS

To Light Through Love

BY JEFF DONALDSON

The College's New Leader Invokes La Roche's History and Its Ties to the Region.

In its 42-year history, La Roche College has benefited from the leadership of talented and dedicated women who were also members of its sponsoring congregation, the Sisters of Divine Providence. To open its newest chapter, the College has turned once again to its founders. This spring, La Roche College hosted the inauguration of its seventh president, Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., the fifth member of her congregation to serve in this crucial role at the College.

As a fitting tribute to the ties that bind the College and the congregation, the inauguration of President Introcaso began with Candlelight Vespers on Thursday, April 7, in the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel, located in Providence Heights. The Sisters of Divine Providence and members of the La Roche Community gathered to offer prayers and wish Introcaso well in her new endeavor. On Friday, April 8, the La Roche community gathered for formal installation ceremonies, held in the Kerr Fitness and Sports Center. Participants included the Most Reverend Donald W. Wuerl, STD, bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh; Congresswoman Melissa Hart; State Senator Jane Orié; and Dan Onorato, Allegheny County Chief Executive. Twenty-four colleges and universities sent delegates to the ceremony. Among the delegates were Robert M. Smith, president of Slippery Rock University; and Edward A. Nicholson, president of Robert Morris University.

“La Roche College stands at the threshold, ready to identify ways in which it might continue the mission to seek knowledge in the context of faith and culture. It is what makes us distinctive. It is what helps us to make a difference.” - Sister Candace Introcaso

In her inaugural address, President Introcaso offered insight into the theme for the inauguration, “To Light Through Love,” which is the English translation of the College’s motto, “Ad Lucem Per Amorem.” She called it the essence of a liberal education and said La Roche’s founders knew that the search for knowledge must not happen apart from the cultivation of the human spirit. In her view, these early women educators realized the significance of these words in shaping a mission where the acquisition of formal knowledge was always informed by attention to the development of the whole person. Introcaso also noted that while the College has grown and changed since it was founded, La Roche has remained true to its roots, even in the context of a 21st-century global society.

“La Roche College stands at the threshold, ready to identify ways in which it might continue the mission to seek knowledge in the context of faith and culture. It is what makes us distinctive. It is what helps us to make a difference,” said Introcaso. “As president, I promise to lead the efforts now and into the future that will determine what new bold statements La Roche will make. I commit myself to work tirelessly for the fulfillment of this mission.”

As La Roche College enters its fifth decade of providing a quality Catholic education, it is now home to students from more than 20 nations. While Introcaso acknowledged La Roche’s global reach, she also articulated one of her many priorities. In her view, the College must continue to strengthen its substantial ties to the greater Pittsburgh area.

“As president, I promise to lead the efforts now and into the future that will determine what new bold statements La Roche will make. I commit myself to work tirelessly for the fulfillment of this mission.”

- Sister Candace Introcaso

“Our students, and perhaps more significantly our graduates, continue to make an impact on the greater Pittsburgh community. In fact, 90 percent of our graduates live, work and make their homes in the region,” said Introcaso. “Their commitment to the area is reflective of the College’s fidelity to its founding commitment to providing educational opportunities to the people of southwestern Pennsylvania.”

One way for La Roche to partner with the region is to develop educational programs specifically for adults, options that take into account Pittsburgh’s efforts to redefine itself in a shifting economy that places less emphasis on manufacturing jobs.

“Recognizing the economic realities of the region, we are now redoubling our emphasis on the adult student, both as a way to help the individuals who need further education or training to gain employment, as well as to demonstrate our commitment to helping the Pittsburgh region

regain its economic vitality,” stressed Introcaso. “Our participation in the Regional Learning Alliance at Cranberry Woods is just one manifestation of this renewed emphasis on serving the adult learner (see article on page 10).”

Peter Mulloney, chair of the La Roche College Board of Trustees, and Kathy Kozdemba, co-chair of the Board, presided at the installation ceremony where they presented President Introcaso with an official copy of the College’s mission and the chain of office.

“Our students, and perhaps more significantly our graduates, continue to make an impact on the greater Pittsburgh community. In fact, 90 percent of our graduates live, work and make their homes in the region.” - Sister Candace Introcaso

On Saturday, April 9, members of the College community gathered for an academic symposium titled “Seeking Common Ground,” held in the Zappala College Center. Keynote speaker was Rev. Eugene Lauer, director of the National Pastoral Life Center in New York, NY, and former member of La Roche’s administrative staff. Later that evening, the campus community celebrated Introcaso’s inauguration at the Presidential Inaugural Gala, held at the Westin Convention Center Hotel in Pittsburgh.



Sister Candace Introcaso (left) with Sister Michelle Bisbey, holder of the Ketteler Endowed Chair of Theology and member of the Sisters of Divine Providence.



Bishop Donald Wuerl and Board of Trustees chair Peter Mulloney congratulate Sr. Candace Introcaso upon her installation as La Roche’s seventh president.

President Introcaso is a former member of La Roche’s Board of Trustees. Prior to her election as La Roche’s seventh president, she served as vice president for planning and assessment at Barry University in Miami, FL. She began her career in higher education at La Roche College in the late 1980s, serving as both a faculty member and administrator. Introcaso received her Ph.D. in higher education administration from The Claremont Graduate University, where she also received the Hausam-Fisk Award for Excellence in Higher Education. She also holds an M.A. in sociology from Fordham University and a B.A. in psychology from Shippensburg University.

A Gala Celebration

On Saturday, April 9, the College community celebrated the inauguration of President Introcaso with a Presidential Inaugural Gala, held at the Westin Convention Center Hotel in Pittsburgh.

“The La Roche College Board of Regents played a crucial leadership role in planning and executing this important event,” said Ken Service, vice president for institutional relations and co-chair of the Inaugural Committee.

“We believe it was a fitting tribute to the College’s new leader, and we thank our many event sponsors who helped make this a fundraising success,” said Ralph Gilbert, senior vice president of HDR, Inc., chair of the La Roche College Board of Regents and co-chair of the Inaugural Gala Committee

The black-tie affair drew more than 300 guests to the Allegheny Grand Ballroom for an evening of music and dancing. Guests included Dolores Bold, longtime benefactor of La Roche College; Sister Mary Joan Coultas, provincial director of the Congregation of Divine Providence; Jim Delligatti, president of M & J Management and member of the La Roche College Board of Trustees, accompanied by his wife Lois; Marylouise Fennell, past president of Carlow University; Robert Fragasso, president of The Fragasso Group; Ralph Gilbert, accompanied by his wife, Dottie; Kathy Kozdemba, co-chair of the La Roche College Board

of Trustees and co-chair of the Inaugural Committee, accompanied by Bill Coyne; Steven Massaro, vice president of business development at the Massaro Company and member of the Board of Trustees, accompanied by Stephanie Bernaciak; Peter Mulloney, chair of the Board of Trustees, accompanied by his wife, Marie; Sister Jeanne O’Laughlin, president emeritus of Barry University; Cookie Roberson, vice-chair of the Board of Regents and co-chair of the Inaugural Gala Committee; Sister Mary Ellen Rufft, past provincial director of the Congregation of Divine Providence; other members of the College’s Board of Regents and Board of Trustees; and alumni, faculty, staff, students, friends and benefactors of the College.

“We believe it was a fitting tribute to the College’s new leader, and we thank our many event sponsors who helped make this a fundraising success.” - Ralph Gilbert

Kelli Olexia, news anchor for KDKA-TV, served as mistress of ceremonies for the Presidential Inaugural Gala. The Nick Dialoiso Band (featuring Maureen Budway) provided musical entertainment. Guests could also bid on a host of items in a silent auction, including artwork, vacation packages, and sports memorabilia. The event raised nearly \$70,000 for the President’s Fund for Excellence, which will support programs and initiatives of the highest priority identified by President Introcaso.



Ralph Gilbert (center) and wife Dottie browse through items at the Gala’s silent auction.



PHOTO: GREG BLACKMAN

Chain of Office

To mark President Introcaso’s inauguration, Lauren Lampe, associate professor of design, was commissioned to create a new chain of office for the President to wear at official College functions. The resulting sculpture is a double-strand, hand-woven sterling silver chain and accompanying sterling silver medallion. Its design reflects both the College’s mission and commitment to its core values.

The six-foot-long chain has two major components. The thousands of small links in the chain represent the founders, donors, past presidents, board members, faculty, staff, students and other supporters whose contributions have built and maintained the College. The three leaf-shaped links incorporated into the chain represent the three schools in existence at La Roche at this moment in history: the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of the Professions, and the School of Graduate Studies.

The medallion is a bowl and a rim hand-fashioned from sterling silver. The rim incorporates four compass points, representing the College’s commitment to educating people from across the nation and around the world. The center of the bowl carries the College’s seal and motto, “Ad Lucem Per Amorem,” which means “To Light Through Love.” The College’s motto formed the theme for Introcaso’s inauguration. Use of both the seal and motto in the center of the medallion serves as a reminder of the College’s Catholic identity.



A Powerful Alliance

A New Educational Cooperative Creates a Satellite Campus that Represents Significant Growth Potential.

Twenty-five years ago, Cranberry Township was a sleepy, rural borough in the southeastern corner of Butler County, PA, 20 miles north of the city of Pittsburgh. Family farms occupied most of the land.

At the dawn of the 21st century, Cranberry Township is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, home to more than 25,000 people. Some analysts say that number could nearly double in ten years. In addition, industrial parks and business complexes in and around Cranberry play host to major multinational corporations, including Marconi Networks and Mine Safety Appliances.

This potential for growth and expansion makes the Cranberry area the perfect home for La Roche College's newest satellite campus, located in the Regional Learning Alliance (RLA) at Cranberry Woods. A state-of-the-art education and conference center, the RLA is the product of a ground-

breaking partnership among 11 local colleges, universities and proprietary schools in the Pittsburgh area.

"The RLA positions the College very strategically to create a much broader footprint in this region," said Howard J. Ishiyama, vice president for academic affairs at the College. "It is a unique opportunity, one we intend to fully explore."

The founding partners have labeled the RLA an education mall, because prospective students can "shop" for their educational needs in one facility. The RLA also hopes to capitalize on the need for a conference center in the area. Some say the eyes of the nation may soon be focused on how well the concept works.

A Look Inside

Completed in August 2004, the Regional Learning Alliance at Cranberry Woods is housed in the Cranberry Woods Office Park, located off Route 228 in Cranberry Township and adjacent Marshall Township.

The 76,000-square-foot modern facility boasts a grand entrance and main hallway with sweeping windows. The 32-foot wooden ceiling in the main foyer is fashioned out of Arkansas Yellow Pine. A “green” building, the RLA boasts a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) designation, which requires contractors to adhere to strict environmentally-friendly construction guidelines.

Twenty-eight flexible meeting rooms can accommodate small groups or up to 400 people. The entire facility boasts advanced computer technology and conferencing with two wireless mobile computer labs, a Great Room with wireless touch-panel audio-visual controls, and computer projection in all meeting rooms. Students who take classes at the RLA and corporations that choose to hold conferences there can utilize on-site dining and catering services.

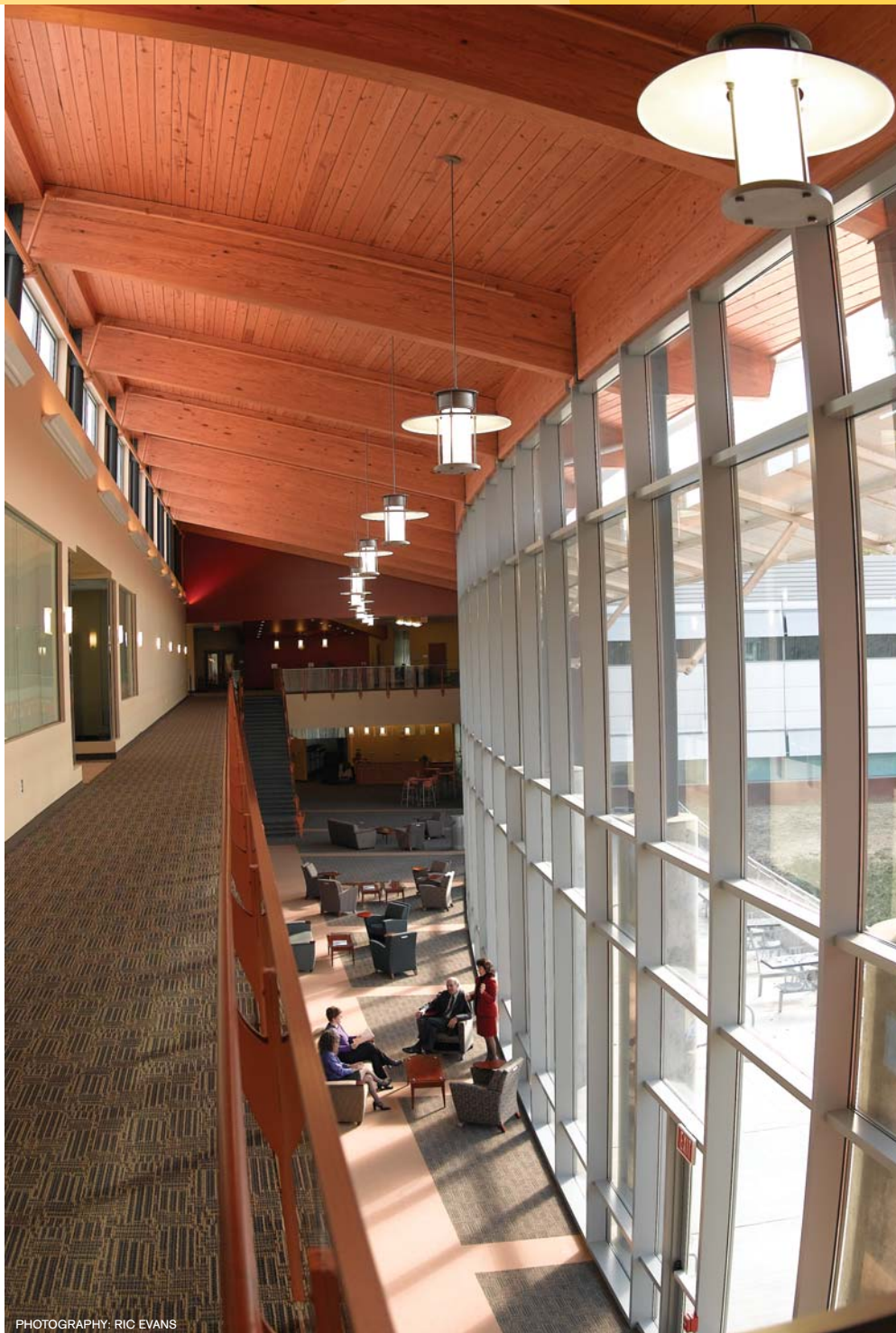
Accessibility and Possibilities

In addition to its in-house resources, the Regional Learning Alliance’s strategic location is a major plus for La Roche. The facility is situated near Route 19, I-79 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

“Even though the RLA is only 15 or 20 minutes from La Roche’s main campus, because of its proximity to these major corridors, it makes us much more accessible to potential students,” said Ishiyama. “If we offer an educational service that is first-class and we have adults in this region that experience it, (continued on page 13)

At left: Howard Ishiyama, vice president for academic affairs, in one of the meeting rooms at the Regional Learning Alliance (RLA) at Cranberry Woods.

At right: A view of the main foyer.



PHOTOGRAPHY: RIC EVANS

“If we offer an educational service that is first-class and we have adults in this region that experience it, then we have emissaries that stretch across the region of Pittsburgh who are constantly championing the La Roche mission.” - Howard Ishiyama

Choose Your Partner

Here is a glance at regional partnerships and affiliations maintained by La Roche College:

- **Allegheny Valley Hospital:** Students pursuing a Master of Science in Health Sciences (Nurse Anesthesia) gain practical experience at this hospital when they enroll in this degree program.
- **Articulation Agreements:** La Roche College allows students to transfer credits from several Pittsburgh area community colleges, including: Community College of Allegheny County, Community College of Beaver County, Butler County Community College, and Westmoreland County Community College. La Roche has a similar agreement with Geneva College in Erie, PA and the University of Laval in Quebec, Canada.
- **Challenge Program:** This is an educational program for gifted students from 14 Pittsburgh area Catholic elementary schools.
- **Duquesne University:** La Roche students who enroll in degree programs such as Respiratory Therapy, Physical Therapy, Athletic Training and Physician Assistant complete part of their course work at La Roche and part of it at Duquesne University.
- **Lawrence County Learning Center:** In the spring of 2005, the College became the only four-year institution of higher learning in the region to offer degree completion programs at this center in New Castle, PA.
- **Newport Business Institute:** The College offered its LEAD (Leadership and Administrative Development) undergraduate degree completion program at this facility in Beaver County and maintains an articulation agreement with the institute so that its students can transfer credits to La Roche.
- **Ohio Valley General Hospital:** La Roche students that are pursuing degrees in Radiography or Nursing obtain practical experience through a partnership with this Pittsburgh area healthcare provider.
- **Palinet:** This consortium of regional colleges allows member institutions in greater Pittsburgh to share library resources.
- **Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education (PCHE):** La Roche is a long-standing member of this organization. That membership allows La Roche students to cross-register with other member institutions in the region.
- **Pittsburgh Filmmakers:** In the fall of 2004, La Roche College became the principal four-year institutional partner with this organization. Students who enroll in Film, Video and Media can tap into the resources of Pittsburgh Filmmakers.
- **Pittsburgh Public Schools:** In the summer of 2004, students from the city school district attended the inaugural edition of "CSI: La Roche," a forensic science camp. The College is also offering science scholarships to students in the district.
- **REALTORS® Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh (RAMP):** This is the local branch of a national professional organization for realtors. The College has formed an exclusive relationship with RAMP, to support La Roche's real estate degree program. Members of the organization serve as mentors for students. In addition, RAMP helped La Roche secure a \$50,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Realtors Education Association to support the La Roche degree program.
- **Regional Learning Alliance at Cranberry Woods:** This learning consortium and conference center opened its doors in the summer of 2004 and represents the collaboration of 11 Pittsburgh area colleges, universities and other proprietary schools.
- **Scholar Program:** Through this program, teachers in 17 western Pennsylvania high schools (both Catholic and public) are also adjunct professors at La Roche. They teach courses in their districts that are approved by La Roche. Students who complete these courses at their own high schools receive college credit.
- **Scholar Credit Initiative Program:** High school students in the Pittsburgh area can enroll in La Roche classes and earn up to 15 credits toward their college education while they are still in high school. They may transfer the credits to La Roche or to another college or university.
- **Sewickley Valley Hospital:** Students in the College's Radiography and Nursing programs gain practical experience at this hospital through this partnership.
- **St. Clair Hospital:** This Pittsburgh area healthcare provider also serves as a place for nursing students at La Roche to get on-the-job training.
- **University of Pittsburgh:** Through this partnership, students who enroll in La Roche's Chemical Engineering or Material Sciences Engineering programs spend the first three years at La Roche and complete their studies at Pitt.
- **UPMC Passavant:** This hospital serves as more than La Roche's neighbor on Babcock Boulevard in Pittsburgh's North Hills. UPMC Passavant has given La Roche a \$50,000 grant to support the Associate of Science in Nursing Lab, located in Providence Hall on the West Campus. In addition, the College is holding ongoing discussions with the hospital to expand La Roche's health-related course offerings and degree programs.
- **Westmoreland Hospital:** La Roche students enrolled in the Master of Science in Health Sciences (Nurse Anesthesia) program get their practical training at this hospital.

then we have emissaries that stretch across the region of Pittsburgh who are constantly championing the La Roche mission.” These factors contribute to making the RLA a linchpin in the College’s plans to recapture that adult student market in the region.

The La Roche Approach

La Roche College offers two adult-oriented academic programs at the Regional Learning Alliance. For those seeking an advanced degree, the Master of Science in Human Resources Management (HRM) is one of the most comprehensive programs of its kind in the area. The program is tailored to the needs of the HR professional and offers a solid managerial base to others who take on the challenge of managing a workforce. The College also offers LEAD (Leadership and Administrative Development), an undergraduate degree completion program for students seeking careers in business and management.

“This venture will test institutions of higher learning to practice what we teach our students – the paradigm of cooperation. The question, ‘What can we do if we work together?’ will be answered.” - Howard Ishiyama

The College has identified potential areas of expansion at the Regional Learning Alliance, including a Writers’ Center similar to the one on La Roche’s main campus. Experienced professional writers and English professors would offer advice and counsel to students tackling a term paper or other writing project. La Roche may also offer corporate language training to businesses in the area that send teams of employees to regions such as the Far East or the Middle East.

The “Education Mall” Concept

The Regional Learning Alliance is a unique concept in higher education – a partnership among competing institutions.

“This venture will test institutions of higher learning to practice what we teach our students – the paradigm of cooperation,” said Ishiyama. The question, ‘What can we do if we work together?’ will be answered.”

Ultimately, La Roche could participate in the formation of regional learning alliances in other parts of Pennsylvania and in other states. The College would be able to introduce its educational programs to a market that is currently not accessible. Instead of flying solo, La Roche would enter that market backed by the strength and flexibility of a learning cooperative.

It could take years for such an aggressive expansion to take shape. For now, Ishiyama is content that La Roche was instrumental in formulating a prototype, a new model for adult higher education in the United States.

PRISM

Poverty is a leveling force in many nations in the third world, creating disenchantment, disease and despair. Its effects can be felt on a global level.

In July, high school students from across the region conducted intense discussions on the subject at PRISM (Poverty Research in a Social Science Mode), an interactive, two-day summer camp hosted by La Roche College from July 6 through July 9.



Students who participated in PRISM videotaped the sessions for use in their documentaries.

“As the world becomes more and more interconnected, poverty and inequality are issues that the next generation must face,” said Paul LeBlanc, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at La Roche and organizer of PRISM. “This session hopefully gave these young people some context to search for solutions.”

The 13 students enrolled in PRISM attended workshops with La Roche College professors in history, political science, sociology, international studies and communications. They also participated in a teleconference with personnel from the United Nations. In addition, they produced video documentaries focusing on what they had learned. The College’s partnership with Pittsburgh Filmmakers allowed participants to utilize state-of-the-art video and audio equipment to produce their documentaries.

FINAL GIFT

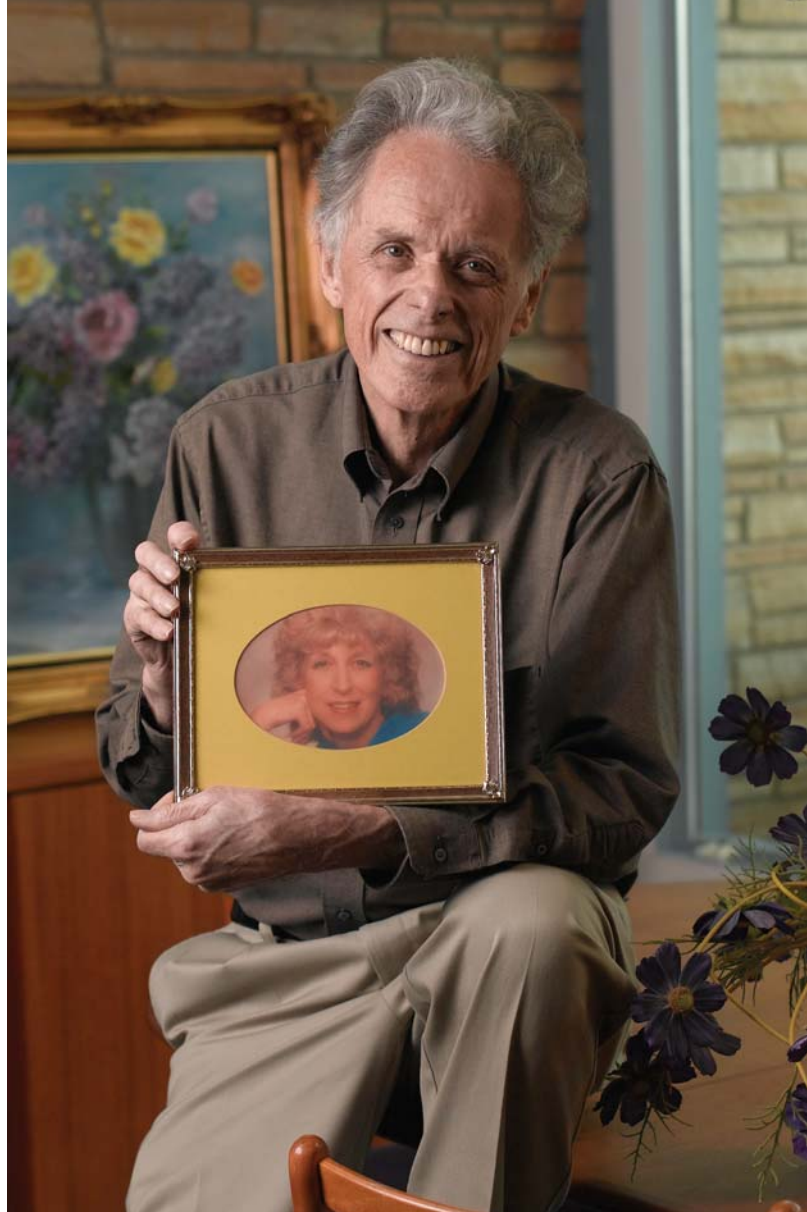
BY DARRAH MUCHONEY

Losing a loved one to disease is a life-changing event for many spouses. When Harry Rosenberg lost his wife Kris to brain cancer in June 2004, he knew that it was important to honor his wife's exceptional spirit.

"I feel like half of me is missing," said Rosenberg of his former spouse. "She was such a part of me that I miss sharing things with her. When she was excited about something, it was genuine. Those were the moments I lived for."

As a teacher, mentor, author, and psychotherapist, Kris Rosenberg touched many lives, including her students at La Roche College, where she was an adjunct instructor of psychology for more than 20 years. To pay tribute to his wife's legacy, Harry Rosenberg recently established the Kris Rosenberg Memorial Scholarship Fund for Returning Women at La Roche College. Its goal is to assist women who have postponed their education so that they could tend to family or personal issues. Rosenberg's choice of La Roche for the scholarship was easy because of his wife's deep connections to the College.

PHOTO: RIC EVANS



"Kris had boundless energy for her students. She loved teaching kids to learn, to grow, to think for themselves and to become an original." - Harry Rosenberg

"She felt at home there," reflected Rosenberg. "Everyone was like family."

Kris Rosenberg spent her early years in Alabama, and although she began college, she left school after her first semester to marry her first husband. After having two daughters, Rosenberg contracted polio at the age of 27 and lost the use of nearly all of her trunk muscles except one in her back. Although this condition presented physical limitations, Rosenberg went on to give birth to two more daughters.

After her first marriage ended in divorce, Kris Rosenberg met and married Harry Rosenberg when the two were living in Las Vegas. With Harry's encouragement, Kris went back to college full-time at the University of Las Vegas – Nevada, earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology.

In the late 1970s, the Rosenbergs moved to Pittsburgh, and Kris became an adjunct professor of psychology at La Roche College.

"Kris had boundless energy for her students," recalled her husband. "She loved teaching kids to learn, to grow, to think for themselves and to become an original."

In addition to her teaching and counseling duties, Rosenberg found time to write a book. *Talk to Me: A Therapist's Guide to Breaking Through the Male Silence* has gone through five translations. To recognize the success of her book and her contributions to La Roche, Rosenberg received the Mary C. Stuart Award from the College in 1994. She retired from teaching in 2000.

Harry Rosenberg remembers that his late wife, Kris, reached out to everyone she encountered. His hope is that her legacy will enable women to reach for possibilities in their own lives.

FITTING TRIBUTE

Re-enactors often bring history to life by portraying important figures from the past. MariJean Ferguson, former professor of sociology at La Roche College, had a passion for stepping into character and becoming Queen Victoria of England or Jane Grey Cannon Swisshelm, an abolitionist and Civil War nurse from Pittsburgh.

“She really admired these women that she portrayed,” said Carol Moltz, chair of the Modern Languages Department and Ferguson’s colleague and friend. “These were women of very strong character, much like MariJean herself, who were bucking the system at the time they lived.”

MariJean Ferguson died on Friday, February 25 at the age of 65. The former chairperson of La Roche’s Department of Sociology had been a member of the College’s faculty for 15 years. To honor her memory, Ferguson’s family has established the Dr. MariJean Ferguson Sociology Scholarship for Women. Beginning this year, the College will award the scholarship to one deserving female undergraduate student preparing to pursue a degree in sociology.

“She would want her work to continue,” reflected Moltz, who saw firsthand Ferguson’s dedication to both her profession and her students. “She was very passionate about having her students think about their lives in terms of race, class and gender, issues that are central to the study of sociology. She would encourage them to do honors papers. She would take them to conferences so they would get involved in their discipline.”

Born in Winnipeg, Ferguson grew up in mining towns in northern Canada. She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Alberta and a doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley. She was the author of two



MariJean Ferguson dressed in one of her authentic period costumes.

“She genuinely enjoyed people. She knew how to reach out to them. She had so many different circles of friends. She was just so much fun to be around.” - Carol Moltz

books and the recipient of the Alumni Association Educator’s Award in 1997. In April 2005, the College honored Ferguson posthumously with the Faculty Excellence Award.

Carol Moltz will remember her friend’s infectious smile and sense of humor. In Moltz’s view, Ferguson provided others with an example of how to live life – with passion, with energy, and with a commitment to seize every opportunity that comes along.

IN THEIR MEMORY

La Roche College recently received three generous gifts that will help deserving La Roche students finance their college education in the years ahead.

The estate of Dr. Hesselberg presented the College with a bequest of \$300,000 for the A. Kenneth and Doris B. Hesselberg Endowed Scholarship Fund, which will provide general scholarship support for La Roche College undergraduates. The College received a bequest of \$250,000 from the estate of Josephine

Zappala, the late mother of Richard Zappala, emeritus trustee. The Frank and Josephine Zappala Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide scholarships to freshmen of Italian-American heritage. The Robert B. Anticole Endowed Scholarship Fund is earmarked for deserving La Roche students who plan to pursue degrees in disciplines such as mathematics and computer science. Anticole is the late husband of Inta Anticole, administrative assistant in the Office of Development at the College, who established the fund in his honor.

These gifts are examples of how memorial scholarships and planned giving can provide additional resources to the College while also creating a lasting tribute to a loved one that has died. La Roche College employs a number of options that can assist individuals with their estate planning. For more information on this initiative, contact the Office of Development at 412-536-1092.



PHOTOGRAPHY: GREG BLACKMAN

A CONGRESSWOMAN'S ADVICE

Members of the La Roche College class of 2005 marked the beginning of a new phase in their lives by receiving their degrees at the College's 40th commencement ceremony. Relatives and friends of 175 graduates joined members of the La Roche community for the annual ceremony in the Kerr Fitness and Sports Center, held on Saturday, May 7.

Graduates benefited from the guidance of Congresswoman Melissa Hart, this year's commencement speaker, whose district includes Pittsburgh's North Hills. In her address to the class of 2005, she called on the graduates to remain open to unexpected challenges or unplanned happenings in their lives.

"Regardless of the choices you make for your life from here on, they limit you only to the extent that you allow them to. You could wake up tomorrow and view life differently, not quite sure what your role should be," reflected Hart. "We have all experienced this. The question is whether or not you will embrace such moments, and trust your heart and pursue your dreams."

In 2004, voters in the fourth Congressional district re-elected Hart to serve a third term in the U.S. House of Representatives. During nearly five years in office, Hart has championed the causes of domestic violence and abandoned newborn children. A member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Hart has also been instrumental in securing funding for so-called "brownfields" in Pittsburgh, abandoned industrial sites that are often transformed into business and entrepreneurial ventures. Prior to her election to Congress, Hart served for ten years in the Senate of Pennsylvania. She is an Allegheny County native and a graduate of North Allegheny High School.

In her remarks to the graduates, Sister Candace Introcaso, La Roche president, reminded students to search for balance in their lives.

"When you were a student, you learned the fine art of juggling: classes, studying, family, job, friends, and, dare I say, maintaining a social life on top of all of this. You are probably experts on multi-tasking," said Introcaso. "However, I want to caution you as you leave your role of student and begin to focus on your career. Don't get so consumed by your work that you lose touch with what is really important in life."

Howard J. Ishiyama, vice president for academic affairs, served as master of ceremonies for commencement. Janet Gates, associate professor of psychology, was this year's class marshal.

"I'd be willing to bet that some of the best experiences of your life didn't come about because of meticulous planning and careful research. They were merely a part of the everyday spontaneity or the inherent lack of certainty in the world."

- Congresswoman Melissa Hart



Woman of Providence

She was a member of La Roche College's first graduating class in 1965 and has been a fixture in the La Roche community for many years. This year, La Roche College presented the Woman of Providence Award to Sister Marilyn Bergt, CDP, M.S., coordinator of community outreach for the Office of Campus Ministry.

Following her graduation from La Roche in 1965, Bergt completed her M.S. in biology at St. Mary's College in Winona, MN. During her first tenure at La Roche (1973 to 1982), Bergt served as assistant professor of biology, assistant to the academic dean and registrar. Since then, her ministry has placed her in a number of important positions: director of the Newman Catholic Center at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI; one of the founding members and executive director of the AIDS Interfaith Network of Michigan; and chaplain for Dignity Detroit.

Bergt returned to the La Roche community in 2000 to assume her current role in the Office of Campus Ministry. She has led students, staff and faculty in hundreds of community service initiatives. Most recently, Bergt was instrumental in forming a partnership with Hosanna Industries for a project called Team-4-A-Day (*see article on page 3*).

The Woman of Providence Award is given annually to a member of the Congregation of Divine Providence whose life of service, as a part of the mission of the Congregation, is a compelling example of God's Providence made visible.

Head of the Class

College professors spend the entire year reviewing and judging the work of their students. At commencement, members of the graduating class receive the opportunity to recognize the efforts of one of their professors with the Brother Gregory Nugent Award for Faculty Excellence.

The 2005 recipient of this award was Frances Sabo, Ph.D., associate professor of education in the School of Arts and Sciences. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh and both an M.Ed. and a B.S. from California University of Pennsylvania. She has won numerous awards, including the Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award from the Sears-Roebuck Foundation and the Teacher Educator of the Year Award from the PA Association of Colleges.

Sabo received the Brother Gregory Nugent Award at the Graduates' Breakfast and Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 6. The Brother Gregory Nugent Award is given annually to a member of the faculty who – in the estimation of the graduating students – is an outstanding teacher and dedicated mentor. The award is named for Brother Gregory Nugent, F.S.C., who was a member of the Middle States team responsible for the initial accreditation of La Roche College.





SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BY RON CICHOWICZ

For many college graduates eager to begin their careers, the lure of New York City is irresistible. After she graduated from La Roche College in 2002, Melissa Blythe left her suburban Pittsburgh home for the attraction of the Big Apple. The call did not come from Wall Street, Madison Avenue, or even Broadway.

Blythe traded in the pursuit of fame and fortune for an assignment that allows her to help the less fortunate. For more than two years, she was a Lasallian Volunteer at Bishop Loughlin High School in Brooklyn.

“Fate had a lot to do with this,” said Blythe, the 2002 recipient of the prestigious President’s Award for Leadership and Scholarship at La Roche. “Once my senior year at La Roche started and I began my job search, I had no burning passion for any of the jobs I was considering. I didn’t want to teach, but I love kids, so I thought I’d give Lasallian Volunteers a try.”

Now employed at Bishop Loughlin as the campus minister, Blythe works closely with underprivileged students enrolled at the school. Her introduction to that community began by sharing in the apostolic and community life of the De La Salle Christian Brothers who founded the Lasallian Volunteer Movement in the 1980s.

“We were very happy Melissa made the decision to join the Lasallian Volunteers. It showed us that she was thinking beyond herself and wanted to

give something back,” said Mary Blythe, Melissa’s mother, who added that her daughter’s choice was not a surprise. “Melissa has always been a child ready to do things for others.”

When it came time to choose a site, Blythe opted to apply for Bishop Loughlin, which has about 850 students from low-income families. About 85 percent of the student population is African-American, and 15 percent is Hispanic. Less than half are Catholic. The school is more than 150 years old and has turned out a number of distinguished graduates, including former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. It is funded in part by the Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and adult mentors who help defray the cost of the \$6,000 annual tuition for some of the students.

Since she arrived, Blythe has organized and conducted an extensive retreat program. She continues to be involved with the school’s youth group, working with the students to schedule service projects all over New York City, such as working in soup kitchens or cleaning up parks. She also has worked with students to update and improve the school’s Website (www.bishoploughlin.org).

“In some ways, Melissa is probably doing too much,” said Brother John McMahon, one of Blythe’s former supervisors at Bishop Loughlin. “If she has a weakness, it’s that she says ‘yes’ too often. She does it all with cheer and charity galore, and her personal relationship with the kids is just wonderful.”

Blythe learned about the Lasallian Volunteers from her college roommate, who had volunteered. David Kasievich ‘98, the movement’s current director, had also encouraged Blythe to get involved. Kasievich’s involvement in Lasallian Volunteers stretches back to his days as a student at Seton La Salle High School in Pittsburgh.

Kasievich’s current responsibilities include recruiting volunteers such as Blythe. Full-time volunteers are required to have a college degree or related work experience and must make a one- to three-year commitment. The program provides room, board and a small stipend.

Even though she has evolved from volunteer to employee, Melissa Blythe is not collecting a huge paycheck, but she is quick to say that she is reaping plenty of rewards for her efforts.

“I’m learning a lot about myself,” she said. “I’m also learning that life is simple. I don’t have a lot of money to spend, but that doesn’t matter. The kids here are great. They want you to be around them, and they want to be around you.”

For Blythe, at least for now, that constitutes job satisfaction.

LA ROCHE CAMPUS CLIPS



La Roche College Student Government members (left to right) Leigh Ann Judkins, Melissa Vrable and Lonnie Nolker answer phones at a telethon that benefited the victims of the December 2004 tsunami in East Asia.

TSUNAMI TELETHON

The devastating tsunami that struck several Asian countries in December 2004 sparked an outpouring of support from people across the Pittsburgh area, and the La Roche community joined the effort. On Friday, January 7, all four area commercial television stations simulcast a live telethon titled “Pittsburgh Responds,” which raised money for the Red Cross to benefit the victims of the tsunami. La Roche students joined students, staff and faculty from other area colleges by answering phones and collecting pledges.

“I think it’s a great way to start off the new year – by helping others who need our support,” said Lonnie Nolker, president of the Student Government Association (SGA) at La Roche and an elementary education major who volunteered his time to answer phones. “This shows that our students and our institution care about what’s going on elsewhere.”

Joining Nolker in the effort were Melissa Vrable, vice president of SGA and a Spanish education major; and Leigh Ann Judkins, an SGA member and an elementary education major.

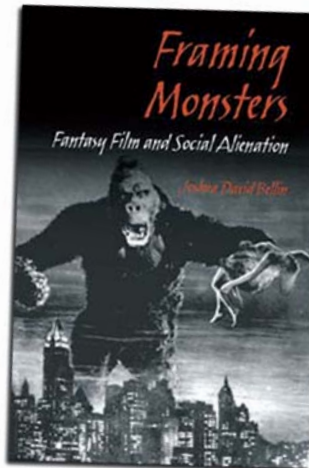
NEW HRM CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Human resources management professionals looking for an edge can benefit from the new HR Professional Certificate Program, being offered by the Human Resources Management (HRM) Department at La Roche College. This graduate-level track is designed specifically for the practicing HR professional who wants to take the Professional in Human Resources (PHR) or the Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) certification examination.



Students who enroll in this certificate program must complete four courses that relate directly to material on the PHR or SPHR exam. They include The SHRM Learning System, Managerial Psychology, Legal Aspects of HRM, and a choice from the following electives: Compensation, Benefits, or Collective Bargaining. Students can complete the certificate in as little as two semesters. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions for Graduate and Continuing Education at 412-536-1262 or admissions@laroche.edu.

PROFESSOR’S BOOK RECEIVES ATTENTION



This spring’s release of “Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith,” the final installment in the “Star Wars” saga, created some buzz for a La Roche professor’s latest book. Joshua Bellin, associate professor of English, critically analyzes the cultural significance of fantasy films, their characters and how both tend to offer commentary on important social

trends in *Framing Monsters: Fantasy Film and Social Alienation* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2005). The book explores the genre of fantasy film from the 1930s cult classic “King Kong” to recent blockbusters such as “X-Men.” In May, Bellin discussed his book with members of the Pittsburgh area media. He was a guest on KQV-AM and on “The Mike Romigh Show” on KDKA-AM.

“These movies used to be classified as nothing more than escapism, a chance to enter another world and to be entertained,” said Bellin. “I believe many of these films carry a deeper message about societal trends and cultural beliefs.”

A member of the La Roche faculty since 1999, Bellin is also the author of *The Demon of the Continent: Indians and the Shaping of American Literature* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001). He holds a B.A. from Wesleyan University and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Bellin is a native of Pittsburgh.

LA ROCHE CAMPUS CLIPS



NATIONAL ACCLAIM FOR WEBSITE, PUBLICATIONS

This year, La Roche College received national acclaim for several publications and for the College's website, www.laroche.edu. In July, Apex 2005, an annual awards program recognizing excellence in publications work by professional communicators, presented La Roche College with an Award of Excellence for the freshman view book. Written, designed and produced by the Office

of Public Relations, the view book is the key recruitment piece being utilized by the Office of Freshman and International Admissions. In April, the view book received an honorable mention from The Communicator Awards, an international competition that recognizes outstanding work in the communication field. The Communicator Awards also presented La Roche with an Award of Distinction for both the College's website and *La Roche Magazine*.

LONGTIME SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTS

She was a member of the College's senior administrative staff for many years and a fixture at La Roche since 1975. In February, the La Roche community expressed its thanks and best wishes to Sister Carolyn Winschel, CDP, former special assistant to the president for mission and planning. "This is bittersweet," said Winschel. "While I am saddened to leave the wonderful and exciting world of La Roche which I have always enjoyed tremendously, I'm happy about being able to better serve my community as a member of the Marie de la Roche Provincial Leadership Team."

Winschel's two-year leave of absence will allow her to concentrate on her duties as assistant provincial for the Congregation of Divine Providence.

VP VISIT

The Bush administration's efforts to reform Social Security took center stage at La Roche College this spring. On Thursday, March 24, Vice President Dick Cheney hosted a town meeting in the Kerr Fitness and Sports Center. About 400 guests listened to Cheney discuss the need for reform and the administration's proposals for change. He was joined by Rep. Melissa Hart, who co-hosted the event. Cheney's stop on campus was part of a national tour to outline President Bush's plan for social security.



PHOTO: DAVE SIROKI



NEW ACADEMIC SENATE PRESIDENT

Jean Forti, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Human Resources Management, has been elected president of Academic Senate at La Roche College.

"My goal this year will be to ensure that all individuals present during Senate meetings have a voice in expressing their thoughts and opinions in a way that is thoughtful, respectful of other viewpoints, and constructive," said Forti. "I see my role more as a facilitator – keeping the meeting and discussions on track, ensuring all present have a voice, and providing a climate conducive to collaboration."

A native of Buffalo, NY, Forti joined the La Roche faculty in 2002.

EMERITUS TRUSTEES RECOGNIZED

This summer, La Roche College recognized the distinguished service of two emeritus trustees who have contributed immensely to the College's success over the past two decades. On June 30, Sister Candace Introcaso, La Roche president, hosted a reception at her residence to honor Richard Zappala and Earnest Edwards. Zappala, chairman of First City Company, served on the College's Board of Trustees for 16 years. At various times, he held posts including vice chair and chair of the board. Edwards, former senior vice president and controller of Alcoa, joined the Board of Trustees in 1991 and served as both vice chair of the board and chair of the Development Committee at various times during his tenure. At the reception, both Edwards and Zappala received a framed copy of the resolutions of appreciation that had been unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.



Join us for the
14TH ANNUAL
LA ROCHE COLLEGE GOLF OUTING

Monday, September 19, 2005

Wildwood Golf Club • Allison Park, PA

9:00 a.m. - Registration and breakfast

9:30 a.m. - Putting contest

10:00 a.m. - Shotgun start

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Lunch (*provided at the turn*)

2:30 p.m. - Reception and raffle

*Choose from a variety of golf packages
and sponsorship opportunities!*

Proceeds benefit La Roche College Athletics.

For further information, please contact Rose Woolley,
Director, Annual Fund and Development Information Services,
at 412-536-1085 or annualfund@laroche.edu.

Register for the event online at www.laroche.edu.

Their future. **Your investment.**



Your investment in the **LA ROCHE COLLEGE ANNUAL FUND** makes a difference in the classroom, on the athletic field, and in every facet of our students' lives. Make a contribution, and help us further our mission of preparing young minds for the challenges of the 21st century.

Your donation is tax-deductible. Find out more information by calling the Annual Fund Office at 412-536-1085 or e-mail annualfund@laroche.edu.

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