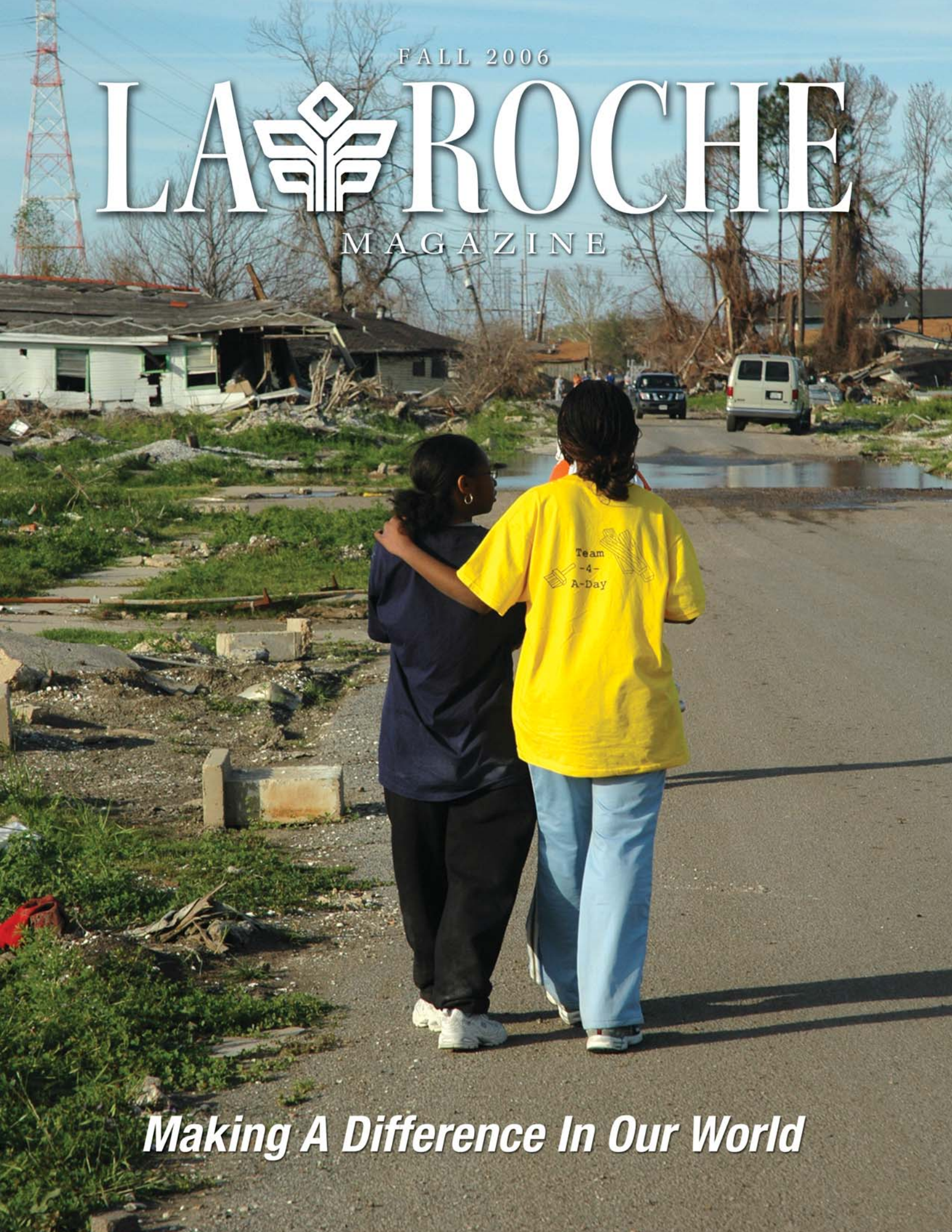


FALL 2006

# LA ROCHE

MAGAZINE



***Making A Difference In Our World***

# Being the Best for the World



**A**t the start of each new academic year, I take the opportunity to address the assembled faculty and staff to bring them up-to-date on the State of the College. My theme for this year's report was "Celebrating What's Right with La Roche." I chose that theme after reflecting on a presentation by Dewitt Jones, a long-time photographer for National Geographic, in his video, "Celebrating What's Right with the World." Dewitt's belief – one that I share – is that by focusing on the positive aspects of life we can foster the energy and creativity needed to make changes and improvements in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

One of the points that Dewitt makes is that changing one word in a phrase can lead to a dramatic shift in how we approach our lives both individually and as a community. Specifically, he notes that when we concentrate on being the best *in* the world, we often focus on the trappings that come with talent and effort, money and recognition. Or, as a college, we can get lulled into complacency by rankings and reputations.

In contrast, when our efforts are devoted to being the best *for* the world, we approach our tasks with an attitude of service and grace. Our perspective widens as we are not thinking only of ourselves and our institution. La Roche College may never be seen in the higher education community as the best college "*in*" the world, but, in light of the way that our faculty, staff, students and alumni live out the College's mission in their lives, we certainly qualify as one of the best colleges "*for*" the world.

Throughout the following pages, you will see examples of the many ways in which members of the La Roche community demonstrate their dedication to the mission of the College as they contribute in so many ways to meeting the needs of the world.

Their dedication can be seen in the help provided to the people of New Orleans as they recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, as well as in the help provided to the citizens of Pittsburgh affected by the flooding in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan. It can be seen in the willingness of our faculty to travel to other parts of the globe to bring a message of understanding, as well as in the hope and opportunity that the Pacem In Terris program has given to hundreds of young people from troubled parts of the world. And it can be seen in the myriad ways in which our alumni serve in volunteer capacities throughout the region and the nation, as well as in the countless hours of guidance and support that our own trustees give to the College.

No matter the setting, however, I think one thing is clear. In big and small ways, in western Pennsylvania and beyond, the La Roche community is making a difference in the world and for the world.

*Sister Candace Introcaso*

Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.  
President

# LA ROCHE FEATURES

LA ROCHE MAGAZINE / FALL 2006

## 6 COVER STORY

### Rekindling Hope Through Compassion

La Roche students and mentors travel to New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.



PHOTO: DAVID RAE MORRIS

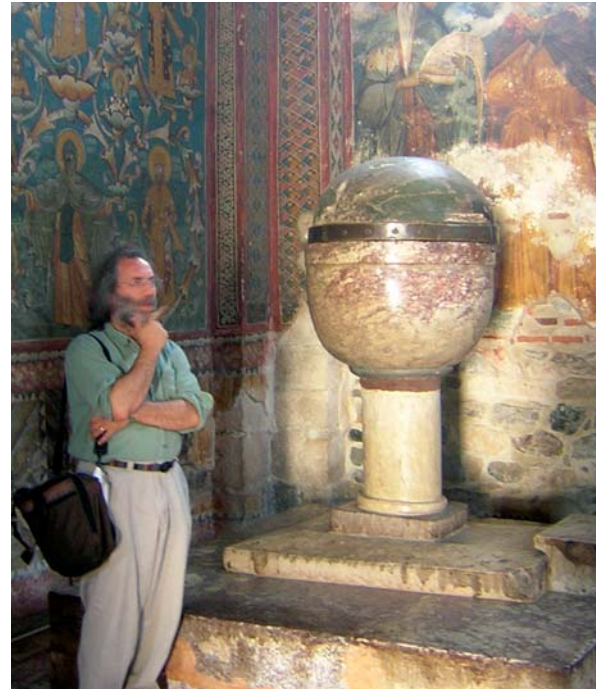


## 22 PROFILE

### Farewell to Beloved Professor

Paul Kremen leaves a legacy of inspiration.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JEFF RITTER



## 4 FOCUS

### La Roche Professor Serves as Summer Mentor in Kosovo

Jeff Ritter helps broaden young students' outlook.

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La Roche College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, founded and sponsored by the Congregation of Divine Providence, creates an international community of scholars from the region, the nation and around the world, including students from conflict, post-conflict and developing regions. Liberal and professional educational experiences are integrated into a way of life that empowers men and women to become lifelong learners, achieve success in their chosen careers and promote justice and peace in a constantly changing global society. 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.

# CONTENTS

LA ROCHE MAGAZINE / FALL 2006

## DEPARTMENTS

### INSIDE COVER

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### 4 FOCUS:

La Roche professor is summer teacher in Kosovo

#### 6 COVER STORY:

Helping to rebuild lives in New Orleans and pitching in locally

#### 22 PROFILE:

Paul Kremen, business professor, is remembered for his service to students and community

#### 23 CAMPUS CLIPS

## IN THIS ISSUE

3 National Security Studies major focuses on keeping our nation safe

10 Development Announces Annual Fund Kickoff

11 Donor Honor Roll:  
La Roche thanks generous individuals, organizations

16 Class Notes:  
Alumni check in; call for news and photo submissions

18 Alumni President Update

19 New Board Chair Kathy Kozdemba  
and other Board News

20 Alumni Profile:  
Angie Longo of National City Bank

20 Thanking the Hesselbergs  
Endowment provides scholarship opportunity

21 Center for Graduate Studies & Adult Education  
All about the world of graduate education at La Roche

25 Calendar of Events  
Make plans now to join us!



ILLUSTRATION: GREG KEMPER

# Making a Career Out of Protecting Our Nation

*National Security Studies Major Developed at La Roche*

BY PAM WIGLEY

**F**ive years ago on Sept. 11, our nation changed forever. An attack on United States soil by a foreign terrorist group was no longer a possibility, but a reality. For every American, knowing the country was adequately protected became Priority No. 1.

The question of adequate protection also caused both government and private industry to examine the skills and knowledge necessary for the various occupational roles that made up our national security work force. Two crucial roles, those of intelligence collector and analyst, were quickly identified. It became apparent, however, that there was a severe shortage of individuals academically prepared for these important jobs. Intelligence collection and analysis relies heavily on analytical thinking; knowledge of history, culture and international affairs; ability to use sophisticated computer programs and databases; and a working knowledge of various foreign languages. Unfortunately, few academic institutions have the qualified faculty necessary to educate an intelligence professional.

At La Roche College, Professor Lawrence Likar, J.D., M.A., and a team of interdisciplinary faculty – all of whom teach the new National Security Studies major and are experts in their fields – are qualified for the task.

Indeed, the faculty within the Department of Justice, Law and Security help students with a genuine interest in the field of national security – and the aptitude to work in the field – accomplish their educational goals. Likar, an associate professor of Justice, Law and Security who also serves as the department chair, is a former supervisory special agent of the FBI. His areas of expertise include violent crime, terrorism and national security law. He has seen the FBI and other agencies adjust their focus in recent years toward an increased emphasis on national security. He believed it was essential to provide a focused major on the subject at La Roche.

Faculty members in the program emphasize instruction in history, foreign languages, analytical techniques, computer applications, international relations, political science and law. The faculty's goal is to send responsible, well-prepared young people into vital roles protecting our nation.

"We combine a solid knowledge base with practical experience gained through an internship or co-op environment, so our students leave the program with a competitive edge," Likar said. "They are ready for various roles within the arena of national security."

*"This national area of focus isn't going to go away; we will continue to see diligence among intelligence agencies to protect our country and our greatest national treasure – its people. Those agencies are relying on institutions like La Roche to prepare their future employees."*

- Professor Larry Likar

One thing Likar is quick to mention, however, is that these roles are not generally the action-packed roles someone might watch on popular television shows like "24" or "Alias." Instead, he says, duties are much more analytical and often require someone who truly likes to work behind the scenes in a team environment, researching a terrorist's country's customs, languages and history, for example. The overall team involves many players, but their unifying mission is to keep the nation safe.

Men and women who graduate with a degree in National Security Studies may obtain jobs within national security agencies, corporate security, international law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.

"Our students obtain exemplary preparation to take on national security roles," Likar said, "This national area of focus isn't going to go away; we will continue to see diligence among intelligence agencies to protect our country and our greatest national treasure – its people. Those agencies are relying on institutions like La Roche to prepare their future employees."

For more information about the National Security Studies program at La Roche, contact Freshman Admissions at 412-536-1272 or e-mail [admissions@laroche.edu](mailto:admissions@laroche.edu).

# La Roche Professor Brings Students New Perspective As Mentor in Kosovo

BY DARRAH MUCHONEY

In regions where political strife and conflict have existed for generations, it becomes easy to wonder if the cycle can ever be broken. Yet listening to what La Roche College professor Jeff Ritter experienced in Kosovo this summer, it's also possible to imagine that there is a force strong enough to turn the future into a more positive place.

The answer may rest with the youth of Kosovo – young people who are broadening their tolerance and expanding their global thinking with the help of strong role models who can help them envision a larger world.

Jeff Ritter, Ph.D., chair of the Communication, Media and Technology Department at La Roche College, is one such role model. Ritter traveled to Mitrovica, Kosovo, this summer to be part of the Mitrovica Youth Program, aimed at educating college students in conflict-filled and post-conflict countries. Ritter spent July 17-28 teaching “Media and Democracy,” a course modeled after his class of the same name at La Roche.

The Mitrovica Youth Program is run by ATA, an independent, not-for-profit foundation based at the University of Amsterdam that supports the ongoing processes of transition and reconstruction in post-conflict societies. Ritter lived and taught on the northern (Serbian) side of Mitrovica, which is connected by a bridge from the southern (Albanian) side. Most of the students in Ritter's course were Serbian college students who received college credit for taking classes in the summer program. ATA advertised for students with flyers and radio ads that were placed throughout Mitrovica. Ritter first heard about the program from a La Roche graduate from Kosovo. He submitted a proposal detailing his “Media and Democracy” class and was selected to teach.

The class of approximately 24 students met six hours a day for 10 days and focused on reading, discussion, movies, group work and presentations. This type of cooperative learning was different from what most of the Serbian students had ever experienced, noted Ritter. The students were used to professors teaching in the European style, in which the instructor gives a lecture and then leaves the room directly afterward. Ritter's class, however, allowed the students to interact with him.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY JEFF RITTER



## BRINGING KOSOVO TO LA ROCHE

**P**rofessor Ritter's summer experience was not the first time that La Roche College extended a helping hand to the young people of Kosovo. In the summer of 2002, Ken Service, vice president for institutional relations, traveled to Kosovo to participate in the final selection of 21 Kosovo students who would come to the College as part of the Pacem In Terris program.

Pacem In Terris was developed in 1993 to respond to the causes and consequences of instability and conflict by preparing young women and men to take leadership roles in building the more just and inclusive societies needed to foster sustained peace and development in their respective nations.

Now, four years later, those students have completed their education at La Roche and have moved on to the next stage of their lives. A number are continuing on to graduate school, but many hold a variety of positions in Kosovo; some in government serving as members of the Kosovo Parliament or working in the Ministry of Industry and Trade; some holding positions in the private sector for banking and telecommunications companies; and one teaching at the University of Pristina. Some are putting their education to work helping those in need in other parts of the world; ranging from working as a counselor for teenage girls with drug addictions in Arizona to being a part of the United Nations Mission to Liberia.

To a person, however, they all credit La Roche College with having a profound impact on their lives. Ibadete Hasani echoed the sentiments of many of her fellow students when she said: "Thanks to La Roche College, I was able to study in a diverse cultural environment, make friends from all over the world, and learn first-hand about American culture, people and life." But perhaps the words of Mjellma Luma sum it up best for all of the Kosovo graduates. She states quite simply and directly, "I would not be who I am without Pacem In Terris."

"Students in the United States and at La Roche, specifically, are used to having back-and-forth discussions with their teachers," Ritter said. "It's a given that their instructors will be there for them, but the students in my Kosovo classes had never experienced this sharing of information before. They really seemed to respond to the fact that I cared about them and was willing to talk to them and listen to their opinions."

In a country that has been politically torn apart, being able to freely voice their opinions is a natural desire for the young people of Kosovo. They are eager to resolve conflicts that still exist from the past, and they are hopeful that they can affect the future. As Ritter explains, Mitrovica is the last, most disputed area in Kosovo.

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*"When I can transmit what I have experienced to my students, they gain in their own global understanding and may be more prepared to interact with the world with a new perspective."* - Professor Jeff Ritter

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As a visible sign of the conflict that remains among many residents today, a river divides the north and south areas of Mitrovica. The aforementioned bridge connects the two sides, but residents are not particularly fond of going into a different side of town.

"Students told me that they had never gone over the bridge—that they were afraid to and that they would be hurt if they did," said Ritter. "I believe that this was just propaganda spread by Serbian nationalists to maintain a level of fear among the people."

Ritter, who often went over the bridge to the south side of Mitrovica, saw people running businesses and living normal lives.

"They all want the same things: peace, prosperity and a future for themselves and their children. But there are larger forces at work trying to manipulate the situation," Ritter said.

Exposing young people to new ways of thinking and living helps to combat this type of political manipulation, Ritter said.

"Compassion and caring may be the best exports we have," Ritter noted. "In return, they produce an import that is just as important—understanding via direct experience. When I can transmit what I have experienced to my students, they gain in their own global understanding and may be more prepared to interact with the world with a new perspective."

He may well be talking about a universal teaching philosophy – one that knows no international boundaries. Students everywhere benefit because of their teachers' experiences. In the classroom and beyond.

As Ritter teaches classes this fall at La Roche College, he imparts knowledge from his experience in Kosovo. La Roche students benefit from his experiences. Across the world in Kosovo, the seeds of knowledge that he helped to plant in his students there may be encouraging the next generation of adults in this conflict-ed area to grow in their thinking.

*Left: Scenes from Kosovo: Students working and socializing together; stately buildings; a striking landscape.*



# REKINDLING HOPE THROUGH COMPASSION

BY DARRAH MUCHONEY

PHOTOS BY DAVID RAE MORRIS

**A**t the end of five exhausting days of work in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, a group of La Roche College students went to the bank of the Mississippi River for a prayer service.

In their hands, the young men and women each held a stone. They walked quietly, some together and some alone, rolling the small stones in their hands and reflecting upon the time they had spent helping to rebuild a part of the devastated city.

One by one, they began to toss the stones into the Mighty Mississippi and a nearby canal. Returning the stones to the water was, they would say later, their personal contribution to rebuilding the levees that had broken under the stress of the flood waters. When all had finished, they joined together in a circle before leaving the river. Like the stones they cast into the water, each La Roche student on the New Orleans trip played a small part in helping the city to rebuild – one piece at a time.

It is more than one year since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, causing a storm surge that broke through the levees protecting the city of New Orleans. The resulting flooding was catastrophic, leaving hundreds dead and destroying entire portions of the city. In the aftermath of the storm, people from around the nation flocked to the ravaged city to offer assistance. La Roche College was a part of this outpouring of aid.

In March 2006, a group of students and chaperones from La Roche traveled to New Orleans to participate in the ongoing rebuilding effort. The La Roche team was organized by Sister Marilyn Bergt, CDP, the College's coordinator of community service. The team had two goals: to dry wall a damaged building on the campus of a Catholic school and to provide tutoring services to the students of three Catholic schools who had been displaced because of storm damage. The La Roche contingent could not erase the impact of the storm and its after-effects, but they could show the victims that compassion and kindness go a long way toward healing hearts.

Hamdi Bata, tutorial and supplemental instruction coordinator at the College, also went on the trip, serving as the tutoring coordinator, and Sister Betty Sundry, CDP, director of social concerns for the Sisters of Divine Providence, participated as an English tutor.



Student Brandon Hassett surveys some of the damage from Hurricane Katrina.

*“I’m not just giving back to the community from which I so readily take, I am actually touching people’s hearts, all the while teaching people a trade.”*

- Brandon Hassett, La Roche student volunteer





## Forming lasting relationships

When she first began investigating ways to help people in New Orleans, Sister Marilyn formed a relationship with three Catholic schools there: St. Mary's, St. Augustine's and Xavier Prep. All three schools work within minority communities and are run independently from the public school system. They are not supported by the Archdiocese of New Orleans, which means that they do not get financial assistance from them. When these schools were damaged by Katrina, they had to raise their own money to cover the costs of repairs. In order to give students remaining in the area a place to continue going to school, the three schools joined together to form the "MAX" school (formed from the first letters of each school's name). The MAX became a temporary school to accommodate the pupils from all three schools.

The College's first interaction with the MAX School came in December 2005, when Sister Marilyn became involved in a collaborative effort with North Allegheny Senior High School to raise money to buy school supplies for MAX students. Through money collected at both sites, the MAX School received 250 backpacks along with notebooks, pencils, pens, hi-liters and rulers for 500 students. When the opportunity to do more than just send supplies arose, Sister Marilyn quickly found a group of La Roche individuals interested in going to New Orleans.

"We drove the supplies down before school began," Sister Marilyn said, noting that her fellow travelers – Shirley and Jim Dougherty from the La Roche Sunday worship community – have been dedicated supporters of many community outreach efforts. "The three school presidents met us and were just so thankful that the children would have supplies. It was the beginning of a lasting relationship."



*A team from La Roche works to dry wall a building on the campus of St. Augustine's, a Catholic school in New Orleans.*



*Sister Marilyn Bergt takes a break with one of New Orleans' youngsters.*

## Getting students involved

During their time in New Orleans, La Roche students slept in sleeping bags on the floor of a building near St. Augustine's and about 15 minutes away from the MAX School. They worked in two teams during the trip. One team worked to dry wall a duplex shotgun house that is part of the St. Augustine campus. Several people from this team also helped prepare the Sisters of the Holy Family Mother House so that the sisters could move back in. The other team of students offered tutoring in English and math to students at the MAX.

Brandon Hassett, a junior biology major, led the dry-walling team. Although Hassett's construction experience was diverse, he had never led a crew before. He quickly found that his peers were eager to learn and were fast studies. At the end of the trip, he was left with a sense of accomplishment – not only based on what his team had achieved, but also because of the opportunity to help others.

"I'm not just giving back to the community from which I so readily take," he said. "I am actually touching people's hearts, all the while teaching people a trade."

## Learning from helping others

Some students went on the trip simply because they felt the need to help their fellow human beings. Others went with more specific goals. Anwar Sadek, who is a sophomore at La Roche, is from Chittagong, Bangladesh. It is an area that frequently experiences hurricanes and flooding.

In high school, Sadek said, "my friends and I tried our best to help the people in my country. I wanted to help as much as possible in New Orleans to gain experience and ideas of ways to help so that when I got back to Bangladesh, I could do my best for people in similar situations."



La Roche student Sarah Trischler tutors a MAX School student.

Sadek worked as a tutor during the New Orleans trip. At first, he explained, the students at the MAX School were reluctant to get tutored, but the idea of the tutors quickly caught on.

“On the first day,” Sadek said, “we didn’t get that much response from the students, but from the very next day, we had so many students that we hardly got time for breaks!”

Jennifer Moore went to New Orleans for a very different reason from Sadek. Before coming to La Roche, Moore lived in Biloxi, Miss., for several years. When she had the opportunity to help those near her former hometown, she jumped.

“I just knew I was supposed to be there – with no doubt in my mind,” she said.

On the trip home, the group made a quick stop in Biloxi, which was very emotional for Moore. She noted that the telecasts of the disaster damage were nothing compared to actually seeing it, especially because she knew the area well.

“Being there in person was heart-wrenching,” she said. “You automatically think of all the memories you had there, like, ‘my prom was in that building, but it’s no longer there.’ It was all just gone. Everything was gone. I’ve never had such a feeling of emptiness and sadness before.”

### Sorting through the devastation – and their feelings

Each evening, the La Roche group gathered to pray and meditate. They discussed their experiences each day and tried to process the feelings and emotions brought on by working in an area filled with such suffering and tragedy. Many of the students commented that the destruction was so unimaginable, there were no words to put it into perspective.

In a journal entry from the day that Sister Marilyn took the students to view the 9th Ward, La Roche nursing student Sarah Trischler wrote: “Sister took us down to the lower 9th Ward. This is where most of Katrina’s wrath was felt. Words can’t even

describe what we saw. All I can say is that no one spoke a word, yet the expressions on everyone’s faces and the tears were enough to tell a story. Everywhere we looked, where houses once stood in rows, there were now heaps of garbage, cars piled up on their sides and trees ripped from the ground.”

Seeing this devastation firsthand was extremely powerful for the group. And they knew that no matter how they felt, the students at the MAX School were feeling it even more, because this was their home. Many of these students had fled the hurricane only to return to vacant places where their houses once stood. Families often moved frequently after leaving New Orleans, trying to find places to stay until it was safe to return.

One MAX student wrote in a school essay about the experience of evacuating. “I was having a good time touring Houston, but reality finally set in for me,” the student wrote. “When CNN broadcast the broken levees, flooded neighborhoods and the people being rescued from their rooftops, my heart was shattered.”

*Everywhere we looked, where houses once stood in rows, there were now heaps of garbage, cars piled up on their sides and trees ripped from the ground.”*

- Sarah Trischler, La Roche student volunteer

Although no one can erase the trauma of what the MAX students experienced, Sister Marilyn and the La Roche student volunteers found solace in knowing that they could help in small ways. By helping to get St. Augustine’s back in shape, for instance, and assisting students with schoolwork, they were enabling them to return to normal routines in their lives.

“Even in the rough times,” Sister Marilyn said, “they were able to say ‘we’re here for the kids’ and to find that common ground.”



Hamdi Bata, La Roche tutorial and supplemental instruction coordinator, works with a student at the MAX School.



## “LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE A BAND!”

**T**he idea began small ... an offshoot of the volunteer program that Sister Marilyn Bergt organized for New Orleans residents.

Sister Greta Jupiter, SSF, president of St. Mary’s Academy, told Sister Marilyn that this girls school in New Orleans had lost all of its marching band instruments when flood waters ravaged the first floor. She was particularly sad because the band was often chosen to lead many of the most prestigious carnivals and parades in New Orleans. Now, marching in a parade seemed impossible.



*La Roche Facilities Management employees load some donated instruments on a van bound for New Orleans.*

“First, we sent her \$1,000 – plus paint and painting supplies for eight classrooms,” Sister Marilyn recalls. “When she told me about the band, I just knew we had to give a band back to that school. It was part of who they were.”

Sister Marilyn began rounding up the troops. She had just under six months to gather 65 instruments. A name and logo were created by Joshua Wisniewski, a sophomore interior design major, and BandAID was born.

Sister Marilyn learned about North Hills businessman Mike Esch, who owns Esch Musical Instruments and specializes in selling used band instruments. He would prove to be a key player in the project from start to finish. From flutes to tubas to an electronic piano, the band began coming together as a result of community donations.

“We had so many people working on this great cause, but by May of this year, I knew that we were going to need funds to buy the rest of the instruments,” Sister Marilyn recalls. “Then came the BandAID Bash.”

Catherine and Gene Paski of Gene’s Last Chance in Pittsburgh’s Strip District loaned Sister Marilyn their restaurant on Saturday, July 8, and the BandAID Bash brought in the faithful. St. Mary’s President Sister Greta came to town and toasted the effort. Countless donated prizes, themed gift baskets and a luxurious vacation timeshare were raffled to raise funds. And finally, at the end of the evening, Sister Marilyn grabbed a microphone to let the crowd know what had happened.

“Ladies and gentlemen,” she said, her voice filling with emotion, “we have a band!”

The bash had raised \$8,334 in ticket and raffle proceeds, as well as donations. Sister Marilyn and Mike Esch procured the final instruments – all but five marching baritone, which cost about \$900 each.

On Aug. 2, Mike Esch unloaded a truck that he had driven from La Roche College to St. Mary’s Academy – filled to capacity with band instruments. Sister Marilyn had accomplished the impossible. Now, she says, all that’s left to do is see the band march again.

## LOCAL VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

**T**he La Roche community lends its services to local charities and events in need, too.

*Here are some of the outstanding efforts that La Roche students, faculty, staff and Sunday Mass community members have made:*

- September 2004 Hurricane Ivan response, Pittsburgh: Collected food, clothes, cleaning supplies and monetary donations for various sites in Millvale and Etna, Pa., communities.
- Provided Halloween party for the children of the above communities, affected by Hurricane Ivan; attended by 500 people.
- Provided housing rehabilitation in Millvale, Etna and Bridgeville, Pa., areas through fall 2005.
- September 2005 Hurricane Katrina Response, Pittsburgh area: Collected non-furniture household items for five households comprising 20 people who relocated to Pittsburgh after Katrina struck. Materials covered everything from pots and pans and silverware to mixing bowls and spices.
- Dinner at Miryam’s, Ongoing: Volunteers serve homeless women dinner on a regular basis. They cook the meal at the Sisters of Divine Providence on the La Roche Campus.
- Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, Summer 2006: “Gleaning” at the end of the summer season took volunteers to a farm in Adams Township, Pa., where they picked remaining hearty corn crops for the food bank.

# Annual Fund Enables Everyone to Invest in La Roche's Future

**E**very day, you may treat yourself to a flavored coffee beverage at the trendy local coffeehouse on your way to work. Or, you may give in to your chocolate addiction by visiting the vending machine for your afternoon pick-me-up. If you added up what you spent during one week's time, you may have anywhere from \$5 to \$20. Is the reward worth it? Did it make you feel better?

How would it make you feel to know that your \$5 to \$20 per week, donated to programs at La Roche College in a one-year period, could help today's students realize their dreams of getting an edu-

cation? Chances are, you would feel terrific. You would have provided a lasting gift to someone who otherwise may not be able to afford an education. Now, that may make you feel good, right down to your soul.

This year's Annual Fund Campaign centers on a quote by noted author Maya Angelou. She writes, "I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver." You have the opportunity to feel that great reward this year when you make a pledge to La Roche College. Your donation will go to any of the deserving causes that this fund benefits: scholarships, the President's Fund for Excellence and areas of greatest need.

Annual giving programs are, often times, the sustaining force behind a non-profit organization. By giving, you are making an investment that will last so much longer than a daily snack or cup of coffee. You can make a difference every day, no matter the amount you give.

So this year, when your appeal comes in the mail or when a student calls during the College's annual telethon, think about all that you have. Think about your ability to make a difference by giving up just one small extravagance so that a student has access to a computer lab, a new library book or scholarship funds. Feel liberated right down to your soul. Give this year to the La Roche College Annual Fund.

PHOTO: JAMES KNOX



La Roche College President Sister Candace Introcaso and Board of Regents Chair Ralph Gilbert greet gala attendees.

*"Honoring the Sisters of Divine Providence was a wonderful way to begin the tradition of the La Roche 'Founders Gala.' These are the women whose dreams and spirit created the College that exists today." - Sister Candace Introcaso*

## Inaugural Founders Gala Celebrates Sisters of Divine Providence Work

**T**he La Roche College community came together at the College's inaugural "Founders Gala" to celebrate those individuals whose vision, leadership and determination transform dreams into reality. More than 200 people attended the event, which was held at the Westin Convention Center and hotel on Saturday, March 18.

At the Gala, Sister Candace Introcaso, La Roche president, joined members of the La Roche College Board of Regents in presenting the "Ad Lucem Award," which borrows from the College's motto, "Ad Lucem Per Amorem" (To Light Through Love). Inaugural recipients were the Sisters of Divine Providence, the congregation of religious women that founded La Roche College in 1963.

"Honoring the Sisters of Divine Providence was a wonderful way to begin the tradition of the La Roche "Founders Gala," Introcaso said. "These are the women whose dreams and spirit created the College that exists today."

Guests at the gala were members of the La Roche College Board of Trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, students, friends and benefactors of the College. Sally Wiggin, WTAE-TV news anchor, served as mistress of ceremonies. Guests enjoyed dinner, cocktails and a silent auction along with entertainment from the band "In the Mod." Proceeds from the evening benefited the La Roche College President's Fund for Excellence, which supports initiatives of the highest priority identified by President Introcaso.

# Thank You for Your Gift

During Fiscal Year 2006, nearly \$3 million was raised by more than 1,000 donors to support academic excellence at La Roche College. We gratefully appreciate the generosity of our donors and recognize their participation in the 2005-06 Annual Fund.

## Alumni

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*(T) - Trustee of La Roche College*

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# Class Notes

**1970's** PATTI MCKENNA, BA '77, earned a dual master's degree in Library Science and Marketing. She currently works as a consultant for Checkpoint Systems and resides in northern New Jersey.

KAREN KIRSTING '79 is using her Interior Design business in New Orleans to help people restore their homes and buildings. A long-time resident of New Orleans, Karen experienced the devastation of Hurricane Katrina firsthand. Her house was severely damaged in the storm and flooding. She and her son were only able to move back into their house in September. Still, there is major work ahead as she continues her progress on the renovations.

**1980's** RICK KRANIAS, BS '84, has been accepted into the Virginia Tech Executive MBA program. Recently, he joined Herff Jones Company, an international employee-owned company, as a Territory Manager for the Nystrom division.

GARY POLLOCK, BA '89, is the director of constituent relations at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education in Pittsburgh.

RICHARD VAREHA, BS '84, is the CFO at the Greenville Tube Company in Greenville.

GARY WELFER, BS '89, and his wife, Gina, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Kendra Elise, on April 3, 2005.

**1990's** LISA BALKOVEC, BA '97, is a high school English teacher at Fox Chapel. She recently published her first novel, "Setting It Straight," which is about the pressures teens face in school. She is currently working on her third novel.

LORI CLAUS, BS '92, is on the interior design faculty at The Art Institute of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh.

TIMOTHY COYLE, BA '93, is the national director at the American Institute for Public Service in Wilmington, Del.

LAURA (VAUGHAN) FROESE, BS '90, and husband, Kurt, welcomed their fourth child, Jenna Lynn, on April 12, 2005. She joins her siblings, Kyle David, 11, Andrew Jonathon, 8, and Annaliese Marie, 6, in Traverse City, Mich.

JOANN GIUFFRE, BA '99, is the youth minister at North American Martyrs Catholic Church in Monroeville.

STACEY GOLDSTEIN, BA '98, is an attorney for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin, Texas.

JONATHAN HOOVER, BS '90, is the vice president of operations at West View Savings Bank in Pittsburgh.

JANINE (KUNZ) KLESCH, BS '90, is the business office and catering manager at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Pittsburgh.

APRIL (PERGL) LANOTTE, BA '95, is a teacher at Challenger Middle School in Colorado Springs, Colo.

LAURIE (SMITH) MAHALKO, BS '93, is the manager of quality assurance at Accredo Health in Memphis, Tenn.

MELISSA MCBRIDE, BS '99, has been working at the Defense Department, Inspector General, for seven years. She earned a master's degree in Policy Management from Georgetown University in 2005 and was recently promoted to a GS-14 project manager. She lives in Alexandria, Va.

DONNA NEDELK-BOYER, MS '96, is the resource development manager at NiSource Energy Company and is working on her doctorate in education at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

**WILLIAM OPPERMAN, BA '99**, has been an elementary teacher for the past seven years at the Keystone Oaks School District and recently was recognized as an outstanding educator in southwestern Pennsylvania by the Teacher Excellence Center.

**KATHERINE OTT-BELLAVER, BS '99**, is the women's volleyball head coach at West Chester University in West Chester, Pa.

**CHARLES SALVETTI, BA '96**, is the manager of student programs at the Society for Human Resource Management in Alexandria, Va.

**CHERYL SMITH, BS '94**, is a developer analyst at FedEx Ground in Coraopolis.

**EDENIS (TORRES) VELAZQUEZ, BS '97**, worked as a junior graphics designer in New York City after graduation and then taught computer skills to elementary students for seven years. She currently holds a master's degree. She was married in 1999 and has a son, Emilio, who was born in 2004. Velazquez hopes to start her own business soon in Debary, Fla.

**MARK WERLE, BS '99**, is the lead graphic designer – design services at Schwak Inc. in Moon Township.

**THOMAS WHITE, BA '97**, is the University archivist & curator at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

**FERAS ABU AMRA, BS '03**, is an information management assistant at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C.

**RODAYNAH ABUKHUDHAIR, BS '02**, is a design engineer at Nesma & Partners Contracting, Co., Ltd. in Saudi Arabia.

**AZEH ATOUT, BS '03, MS '05**, is a compensation analyst at RR Donnelley in Chicago.

**RAINNA (HAMERSKI) BERNESSE, BA '02**, is a medical education specialist at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh.

**ALLISON (ROBINSON) BICKERSTAFF, BS '01**, and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their first son, Logan Scott, on July 3, 2005.

**BECKY BOZYM, BS '01**, is working on her thesis for a doctorate in Medical Biochemistry at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. Her work has been published in "ACS Chemical Biology" with highlights in "Nature" and "Chemical and Engineering News."

**JOHN COLEMAN, BA '01**, is starting graduate school in fall 2006 and is working as a police officer at the Dulles Airport in Washington, D.C.

**EMILY FIKE, BS '05**, is a design assistant at Kitchen & Bath Concepts in Pittsburgh.

**TRACEY GARIZAS, BA '03**, is engaged to marry Robert Parrish in 2008 and is currently teaching at The Watson Institute in Leet Township.

**KELLY (EBEL) GREEN, BS '00**, married Daniel in November 2004. She was promoted to graphics print coordinator at Advo, Inc., in 2005 and currently lives in Monaca.

**BEN HACKETT, BA '05**, is a singer-songwriter who works on piano. He recently released his third record with a show at Club Café in Pittsburgh.

**ERNESTINE HARRIS, BS '03**, was chosen as a 2006 Athena Award finalist, an organization that recognizes initiatives in women's leadership. She is the director of human resources at GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare, Pittsburgh.

**SUSAN (LUURTSEMA) PAFF, BA '03**, is the associate research director at the Pittsburgh Business Times in Pittsburgh.

**KARI PEYTON, BS '05**, is a graphic design and communications specialist at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh.

**DAVID SALAI, BS '03**, is a Financial Analyst at UPMC Children's Hospital in Oakland.

**SEAN SLEBRICH, BS '03**, is a marketing specialist – graphic design at TrueCommerce in Wexford.

**BRENDA (SLAGEL) STANKOVIC, BS '06**, is a senior associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Pittsburgh.

# Send us your news and photos!

Let us know what's new! (Send notice of awards, marriage, births, promotions/job changes, change of address, advanced degrees, etc.)

*Just fill out this form and mail it with a related photo (optional) to:*

La Roche College Office of Alumni Affairs  
9000 Babcock Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Or fax it to 412-536-1090. You can also e-mail your latest news to [alumni@laroche.edu](mailto:alumni@laroche.edu). We would love to keep in touch!

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## From the Alumni Association President

**G**reetings! Let me welcome the La Roche College Class of 2006 to the Alumni Association. We're happy to have you join us. It's a great time to become part of the group because we've been rejuvenating the association and its activities, and we're refocusing our efforts on keeping alumni involved in La Roche.

The Alumni Association Board is busy planning and preparing for an exciting year. For specific dates, check out the Calendar of Events in the back of this magazine. We hope you will be able to join us for this year's great events!

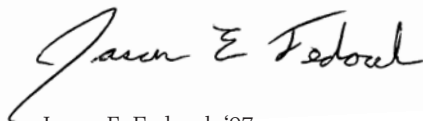


Speaking on behalf of my fellow board members, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Rose Woolley as the newly appointed director of Alumni Affairs and Special Events. Rose is focused on building and growing a stronger and more dynamic alumni organization, and the board supports her efforts in advancing alumni programming and alumni volunteer efforts. To that point, I invite you to become part of the newly reenergized association by joining us at a La Roche College event and becoming more involved as a volunteer. My hope is that, once you see what we have going on, you'll want to become more involved.

Membership in the association is free, and there are so many ways to become active in the association. You may want to serve on the alumni association board, become a mentor or an ambassador for the College, help the admissions team in the recruitment process, or just gather a group of old friends together and attend College events.

For more information, please check the College web site at [www.laroche.edu](http://www.laroche.edu) or e-mail us at [alumni@laroche.edu](mailto:alumni@laroche.edu). We'll be posting details about all our activities on the web, so make sure you visit frequently. And let us know how we can reach you. If you have an e-mail address, send it along. If you have moved and need to update information, we would appreciate your forwarding that to us. This is a time to celebrate La Roche. Please join us!

Sincerely,



Jason E. Fedorek '97  
President  
La Roche College Alumni Association

## BOARD OF TRUSTEE NEWS

### Former Board Chair Recognized, New Members Announced

**A**t the April 28 meeting of the La Roche College Board of Trustees, outgoing Board Chair Peter B. Mulloney was given The Donald C. Peters Lay Trustee of the Year award for his service to the board. He served as chair from 2001 to 2006.

Mulloney was an executive at USX Corporation and joined the La Roche board in 1994. He retired from USX as vice president and assistant to the chairman, board of directors – a post he held after a series of marketing and executive roles there.

"We want to thank Peter for his long and distinguished service to La Roche," said Sister Candace Introcaso, president of La Roche. "There were many challenges during Peter's time as chair, and he approached them all with quiet resolve, turning them into opportunities that made us grow stronger."

### New Board Members Join

**F**rom the time that the last La Roche magazine was published, three new board members joined the Board of Trustees: Sister Lydia Steele, CDP; Gennaro J. DiBello, CPA; and Kathryn A. Jolley (Madej), BS '81, MBA, ASID.

Steele was elected in February 2005. She is financial administrator and facility manager of Sacred Heart Elementary School in Kingston, Mass. She also is the testing coordinator for all standardized testing at the school and for new applicants to the school. She brings to the board a long history of financial experience. Including her school background, Steele also worked in the banking industry. Her undergraduate degree is in education from Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, Mass. She earned her master's degree in education and her master's degree in special education from Bridgewater, as well. She also is



certified in "Education in Therapeutic Techniques in Reading," which she earned from The Orton Gillingham Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston.

DiBello, elected to the board in February 2006, is a CPA and shareholder with the accounting firm of Schneider Downs since 1987. He has extensive experience in all areas of tax and business planning and tax compliance associated with closely held companies. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He is a member of the Constructors Association of Western



Pennsylvania, Construction Financial Management Association and Master Builders Association, the Young Presidents Organization in Pittsburgh, and a member of the National Association of Industrial & Office Properties. He is a member of the Schneider Downs Construction Industry and Real Estate Industry groups. DiBello also serves as a basketball coach for St. Simon and Jude School and is active in several community groups. He and his wife, Joni, live in the North Hills with their three children: Vanessa, Elesa and Anthony.

Jolley, of Washington, Pa., also joined the La Roche board in February 2006. She is director of client/staff relations and director of interior design at DRS Architects, Inc., in Pittsburgh. A summa cum laude graduate of La Roche in the interior design program, she went on to earn her MBA (focus on leadership) from Waynesburg College. A former business owner and lecturer on gardening and cooking, Jolley brings diverse experience to the College board. She has been an adjunct professor at La Roche, a junior designer for the health care, corporate and hospitality industries for DRS' team, and a senior designer for Oliver Design Group in Pittsburgh. She also served as the architectural design market manager for major office systems furniture manufacturer Haworth, Inc., covering Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio. She is the current past president of the La Roche College Interior Design Advisory Board and is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers, among other community volunteer roles. She and her husband, Gregory, have four children and two grandchildren.

Farewell to Don Peters, Former Board Chair

**D**on Peters served on the Board of Trustees from 1967 until the mid-1980s. He served as board chair from 1983-84 and was recognized for his myriad contributions to the College by having one of the student residence halls named after him.

Sadly, La Roche lost a great friend and supporter on Aug. 16 when Don Peters died from complications of a stroke. He was 91 years old and was living in Ohio at the time of his death.

He was a former president of Mellon Stuart construction company and a longtime resident of the North Hills, where he lived with his wife, Twila, for 40 years.

"He was an active and enthusiastic supporter of La Roche for most of his life, and we will always appreciate all that he did to pave the way for those of us who are here now," said College President Sister Candace Introcaso.



## NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR KATHY KOZDEMBA TO HELP DIRECT THE FUTURE OF LA ROCHE

**R**etired newspaper executive and Allison Park resident Kathleen (Kathy) M. Kozdemba was named the 15th chair of the La Roche College Board of Trustees at the April 28 meeting of the Board. Kozdemba, the first lay woman chair in the College's 43-year history, brings a wealth of management and communications experience to the post.

A member of the Board since 1993, Kozdemba has served in several Board roles at La Roche. She is currently chair of the Board's Executive Committee, chair of its Institutional Relations Committee and a member of the Committee on Trustees. Also, as chair, Kozdemba is an ex-officio member of all standing committees.

"La Roche College has educated and improved the lives of thousands of individuals from the region, nation and world," Kozdemba said. "It is an honor and privilege to serve on the Board of Trustees and to help the College as it continues to make positive and lasting contributions to the community and society at large."

Kozdemba had a successful 34-year career with Gannett Co., Inc., the nation's largest media company. She began her career while in high school as a reporter for her hometown newspaper, the Elmira (N.Y.) Star-Gazette, and rose through the ranks there to become managing editor. She held management positions at Gannett newspapers in Ithaca, N.Y., Springfield, Mo., and suburban Washington, D.C. and was an executive on the corporate staff of Gannett, headquartered in northern Virginia.

She came to Pittsburgh to lead the creation and launch of the daily North Hills News Record, an award-winning newspaper covering Pittsburgh's northern suburbs. She served as president, publisher and chief executive officer of that newspaper. Her final role with Gannett before retiring in 2003 was director of readership for the company's 100 daily newspapers.

Kozdemba has served as a board member and treasurer of the Associated Press Managing Editors and received its Meritorious Service Award. Her other professional affiliations included the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association, the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania, the Women's Press Club of Pittsburgh, and the Chambers of Commerce of Greater Pittsburgh, North Hills and Cranberry. The North Hills Chamber of Commerce honored her with the Athena Award for her leadership and mentoring efforts. While publisher of the North Hills News Record, she was named one of The 25 Most Powerful Women in Pittsburgh by Pittsburgh Magazine.



## One of Pennsylvania's Best is One of La Roche's Graduates

**A**ngela J. Longo, La Roche graduate (BS '89) and successful businesswoman, is proof that hard work and dedication yield success. She is a role model for Pittsburgh and its businesswomen, which led to her being selected as one of Pennsylvania's "Best 50 Women in Business" in 2006 by Governor Ed Rendell.

On receiving the award, Angela Longo was gracious to her nominators and flattered by the honor. Above all, she was humble and kind – traits that those who know her best say illustrate what kind of person she really is.

Despite the fact that Longo is a vice president at National City, one of the nation's largest financial institutions, she remains grounded and respected by her friends and colleagues. Mostly, though, she is described with superlatives usually reserved for friends you've known for years.

"Warm, caring, dedicated to friends and family, loving, a model of devotion" ... these are the words that describe Longo best, according to a recent speech given in her honor as the 2006 Chairman's Cup Recipient, presented at the 23rd Annual Family House Polo Match in Pittsburgh. They are words to describe the ultimate multitasker and role model for women businesswomen everywhere.

Longo began her banking career in 1965. She joined Integra Financial Corp. in 1988 and was retained by National City in 1996 when the former was acquired. Her value was clear to the new management, and Longo quickly rose in the ranks, serving in such roles as vice president of public affairs and manager of corporate

giving programs. Giving is a role that comes naturally to Longo. Then again, there isn't a lot that seems difficult to her.

"There were times when going to school, being married, managing a household and pursuing a career became overwhelming," Longo said. "But there were always people who were there to help me. And I remembered the words of my mentor, Dee Wilden, my former supervisor at Equibank in the 1980s. She said, 'Stay focused and don't give up.' I have never forgotten that."

Her tenacity was of great benefit when she decided to earn her college degree at La Roche in the late 80s. She was, indeed, a master juggler when it came to keeping home, work and school aloft. In addition, Longo is involved in a number of civic organizations and charitable causes in and around Pittsburgh. But, Longo persevered and earned her bachelor's degree in administration and management – two seats away from her niece, Lisa Longo Shade. They became the first two women in their family to earn college degrees. Her sister, Margaret Longo Martorelli, graduated from La Roche in 1996.

"I'm thrilled that I earned my degree, and I believe my experience at La Roche has helped me in my career," Longo said. "I am glad I listened to my mentor during my journey through business – and life – and I encourage other people who are juggling busy lives to persevere. It's definitely worth it!"



## Hesselbergs Exemplify Generosity



*The Hesselbergs on their wedding day.*

**D**oris and Ken Hesselberg were life-long givers, and they have left their legacy of sharing in a special endowment fund at La Roche College.

Such generosity was part of the Hesselbergs' history from the time they were very young. Married during Ken's military leave in 1942, the Hesselbergs began teaching jobs shortly thereafter. Doris was one of the original members of the teaching staff at Bishop Canevin Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, and she also was a coordinator of the foreign language department. Ken was a teacher in Maine, and then earned his master's and doctoral degrees. He joined Pittsburgh's Duquesne University staff in 1952. After serving as chair of the political science department for many years, he retired in 1979.

That year, the Hesselbergs created an endowment at Canevin High School in recognition of Doris' exemplary learning, leadership example and Christian spirit. In all, their bequests benefited several schools, colleges and non-profit organizations.

The Hesselbergs' selfless giving has made them among the most generous supporters of La Roche College. Their relationship with the College began in the mid-1990s when the Hesselbergs became faithful members of the La Roche College Societe. Most recently, Ken's estate established the Dr. A. Kenneth & Doris B. Hesselberg Endowed Scholarship, which provides one annual award available to a full-time undergraduate student in any major, having a minimum GPA of 3.5 and demonstrating outstanding academic merit with or without financial need.

# Center for Graduate Studies & Adult Education: *Where Education and Lifestyle Find a Fit*

**B**ack to school. Those three little words usually conjure up images of backpacks, big yellow school buses and gleeful parents. When the parents are the students, though, those three words can mean the onset of serious angst as these “non-traditional” students struggle to fit higher education into their already hectic lives.

La Roche has a new program to help ease the transition of going back to school for adults, whether they are in certificate programs, undergraduate programs or master’s programs.

“We recognize that being a ‘non-traditional’ student brings a set of challenges all its own to your educational experience,” said Hope Schiffgens, director of Graduate Studies & Adult Education at the College. “That’s why we offer the Center for Graduate Studies & Adult Education, providing a conveniently located home base for adult students at La Roche.”

## Graduate Studies & Adult Education Open Houses

*(Learn about the many programs offered to adult learners)*

- Thursday, Oct. 19, 4-7 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 16, 9-11 a.m. & 4-6 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 7, 9-11 a.m. & 4-6 p.m.

## Cranberry Woods Information Sessions

*(Information sessions differ slightly from open houses in that they are very specific to the program mentioned, as opposed to general information)*

- Wednesday, Nov. 15, 4-6 p.m./Topic: Human Resources Management
- Thursday, Nov. 16, 4-6 p.m./Topic: Leadership and Administrative Development (LEAD)

Register at [www.laroche.edu/cw/events.htm](http://www.laroche.edu/cw/events.htm)  
724-741-1034 • [cw@laroche.edu](mailto:cw@laroche.edu)

The Center is a place where adult students can find a home on campus. They can stop by to ask questions of the staff, pick up forms, use a computer, or grab a cup of coffee. Or, maybe, Schiffgens said, students just need a place to decompress after work, relaxing for a few minutes before class.

“With all that’s going on in their lives, we’re helping to make reaching their education goals a little bit easier,” Schiffgens said.

The new center is located in the A.J. Palumbo Science Center, Room 104B, on the College’s East Campus. It is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday.



## Professional Development Series II

**T**ap into the expertise of HR professionals in the region who are transforming the work place! Attend this series by the Department of Human Resources School of Graduate Studies & Adult Education, which includes refreshments before each session.

Cost is \$10 per session; all conducted on Wednesday evenings, unless noted. Located in Zappala College Center, Ryan Room, La Roche College East Campus.

**NOTE:** Each of the following seminars has been approved for 2 recertification credit hours toward PHR, SPHR and GPHR recertification through the Human Resources Certification Institute. Attend all four and earn 8 CEUs.

**Reception:** 6:30 to 7 p.m.

**Presentation:** 7 to 9 p.m.

**Oct. 18**

*Liberating Greatness Using Your Whole Brain*

**Nov. 9 (Thursday)**

*Mergers and Acquisitions – An HR Perspective*

**Nov. 29**

*Spirituality in the Workplace*

# LA ROCHE FAMILY SAYS GOODBYE TO BELOVED BUSINESS PROFESSOR

**T**he La Roche College community this summer mourned the loss of Paul F. Kremen, professor of administration and management/accounting and finance, who died on Sunday, Aug. 6.

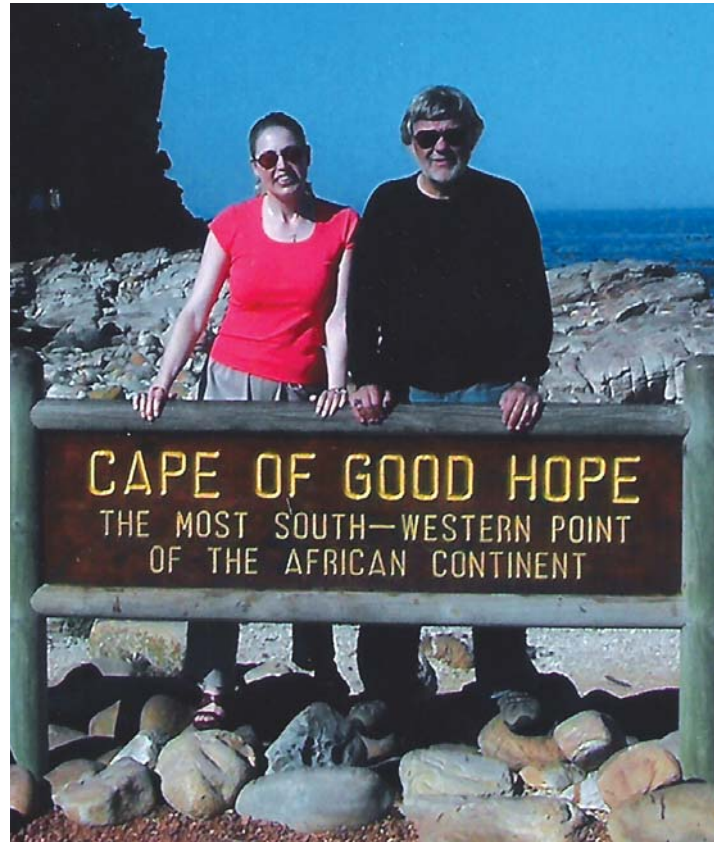
Paul is remembered on campus for his kindness and sense of humor. He was a caring instructor who always tried to give his students practical experience.

“Paul always found a way to balance the needs of an active practice with teaching, and he brought the most current issues and practices into the classroom,” commented Mark Dawson, chair of the Accounting Department.

“Our alumni often comment on how important Paul’s classes were to their professional development,” added Wendy Beckwith, dean of the School of the Professions.

A member of the La Roche faculty beginning in 1980, and a certified public accountant who had a private accounting practice, Paul still found time to share his talents. Each spring, for instance, he volunteered his time to assist La Roche’s international students with their tax returns. He was a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and held a master’s degree from Duquesne University.

Family and friends celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, Aug. 9, at St. Richard’s Church in Gibsonia. Paul is survived by his wife, Sherri, and also by his faithful golden retriever Riptide, a frequent campus visitor. He will be missed.



Paul Kremen pictured with wife Sherri (above) and beloved companion Riptide (bottom, left).

## COLLEAGUES REMEMBER PAUL KREMEN

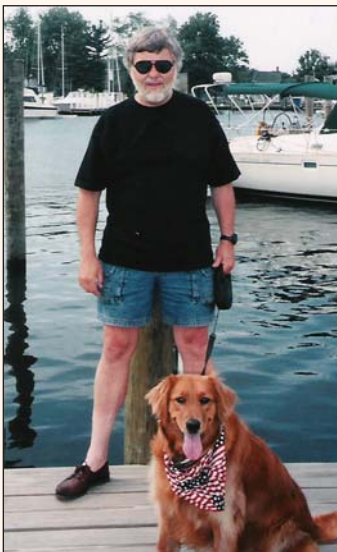
*“Paul was a generous man and a caring teacher. For both of those qualities, he will be deeply missed.”* - Josh Bellin, Associate Professor of English

*“I will remember Paul fondly as a warm and genuine human being.”* - Jean Forti, Chair, Graduate Program in Human Resources Management

*“An inspirational teacher, a great colleague and a wonderful friend.”* - The Rev. Peter Horton, Director of Campus Ministry & Community Service

*“During my first year at La Roche College, Paul and I were grouped together at a faculty in-service activity. Paul, although a much more senior faculty than I, was gracious, respectful, kind and supportive of my role in that group meeting. Over time, I came to know that these traits were typical of Paul’s interaction with his colleagues.”* - Gail Rowe, Associate Professor of Biology

*“I valued his candor, intelligence and kindness.”* - Michelle Maher, Professor of English





# LA ROCHE CAMPUS CLIPS

## COLLEGE RATED AMONG THE BEST IN THE NORTHEAST

For the second year in a row, La Roche College was noted in a nationally recognized publication that reviews institutions of higher education. The Princeton Review rated La Roche College as one of 224 select colleges and universities in the Northeast to be included in the new 2006 edition of its book, *The Best Northeastern Colleges*. The book includes academically superior schools in the District of Columbia and 11 states, including Pennsylvania. The Princeton Review based its ranking for The Best Northeastern Colleges on a host of factors, including institutional data and surveys completed by current students.

"The recognition from The Princeton Review reinforces what we have known for years," said Sister Candace Introcaso, La Roche president. "La Roche students are receiving a high-quality education, one that helps them lay the foundation for their futures and prepares them to succeed in a global economy."



## NURSING PROGRAMS RECEIVE ACCREDITATION, GRANT

La Roche College's Associate of Nursing Program recently received accreditation from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). NLNAC accreditation is a voluntary peer review process designed to enhance quality improvement in nursing education. In order to sit for the state boards, students must have graduated from an accredited institution.



"This accreditation speaks volumes about the quality of the curriculum, faculty members and resources we have at the College," said Rosemary McCarthy, chair of the Department of Nursing at La Roche.

The nursing department also received a Nursing Education Grant for the 2006-07 academic year in the amount of \$16,000 from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Foundation (PHEF). The grant was established in order to combat the critical shortage of nurses and nurse educators in the nation.

"This funding is intended to assist in increasing the number of nursing majors and improving the graduation rates of nursing majors," said Rosemary McCarthy, chair of the department of nursing. "We will use the money for scholarships to assist students financially to help them meet their academic goals."

## STUDENTS SELECTED AS FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

Three La Roche graduates in the last two years have been named Fulbright Scholars. The most recent scholar was named after May's graduation. **Reem Al Masri**, who studied information technology at the College, is using her Fulbright scholarship to attend Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., this fall. Masri is pursuing a master's degree in Communication, Culture and Technology.

"I applied for the scholarship in order to work toward my master's degree and to become qualified to work at non-governmental organizations on social reform projects using technology," Masri explained. "Being awarded the scholarship makes me feel very proud and satisfied."

Masri is a native of Jordan who attended La Roche through the Pacem In Terris international student program and is a 2004 graduate. La Roche graduates **Mohammed Al-Wadeai** and **Ameen Sanad**, both from Yemen, also were named as Fulbright Scholars.

Al-Wadeai graduated from La Roche in May 2003 with a dual degree in information systems and accounting. Upon graduating, he returned to Yemen, where he worked with an international auditing firm. After being awarded the Fulbright Scholarship, Al-Wadeai returned to the United States and is currently pursuing his master's degree in accounting at the University of South Florida.

Al-Wadeai is grateful that the Fulbright is allowing him to continue his studies. Being in the United States, he believes, is helping him to become a strong leader while also leading to increased global understanding.

"The Fulbright promotes better understanding between Yemen and the United States," he said. "My experiences in the United States have always helped me to define my sense of responsibility, leadership and tolerance."

Sanad is currently working in public relations in Yemen. His Fulbright scholarship begins in fall 2007, and he is currently applying to master's degree programs in international and public affairs.

# LA ROCHE CAMPUS CLIPS



PHOTO: RIC EVANS

## BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMED

**T**he Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) announced that La Roche College was awarded reaffirmation of accreditation of its business programs at the ACBSP Annual Conference in Chicago on June 18.

“La Roche College has shown its commitment to teaching excellence by participating in the accreditation process, achieving accreditation, and then continuing the process of quality improvement. This reaffirmation is evidence of La Roche’s commitment to quality business programs,” said Douglas Viehland, Executive Director of the ACBSP, as he spoke of the reaffirmation.

ACBSP was established in 1988 and is the only business accrediting organization for both associate and baccalaureate/graduate institutions. ACBSP has 407 member institutions. The reaffirmation by ACBSP covers a 10-year period.

## COLLEGE SPONSORS MONTHLY RADIO SHOW ON KQV

**V**ice President of Institutional Relations Ken Service and Director of Public Relations Pam Wigley co-host a monthly La Roche College radio program called “World of Learning” that airs the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and repeats on the following Saturday at 9 a.m. on Pittsburgh radio station KQV-AM 1410. It is simulcast online via [www.kqv.com](http://www.kqv.com) for those who are not in the Pittsburgh area.

“This program gives us an opportunity to showcase the talent and expertise of our faculty and staff, while at the same time highlighting the many ways that the College contributes to the community,” Service said.



## LA ROCHE STUDENTS HELP CREATE ZOO HOUSE

**V**isiting contractors who work with the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium will have a calming environment in which to spend their off-hours, thanks to the efforts of a La Roche Interior Design team.

Working with zoo staff members, who renovated an older home near the entrance to the zoo in Highland Park, Pa., the interior design students brought their expertise to the project. Students decorated each of three floors with a bright, vibrant color scheme. The first floor boasts an underwater theme; floor two’s design is based on Africa. The third level’s open floor plan is different shades of green, invoking the feel of a rain forest.

Amanda Butchko, now a senior interior design student at La Roche, recalls learning to work within a budget for the first time and how that experience helped her and her teammates experience something they hadn’t done before.

“This project helped us learn how to accomplish our design goals and, at the same time, remain conscious of how we had to achieve them with the money we had,” she said.

Butchko’s teammates were fellow students who, out of almost three dozen people competing for the honor, won the overall design proposal based on their ideas about how the house should be redone. They worked together to choose paint, format space and, finally, hang pictures to make the house a home.

## MASTER’S IN HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAM REVISED TO MEET STUDENT NEEDS

**I**n a curriculum change that went into effect for the 2006-2007 academic year, La Roche adjusted its master’s degree program in Human Resources Management (HRM). The College’s Office of Graduate Studies & Adult Education has trimmed the degree requirements from 42 credits to 36, in part to help the pool of non-traditional graduate students fit their education goals into their life. (See related story, Page 21.)

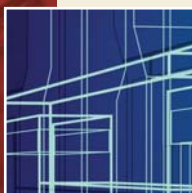
“We realized that we needed to keep up with the busy pace of graduate students’ lives today, and we were able to revise the program without disrupting the quality educational content that has become a hallmark of our HRM program,” said Hope Schiffgens, director of Graduate Studies & Adult Education.

Students in the HRM program take seven core courses, three elective courses and two classes in a selected area of concentration. People who are interested in earning their master’s degree in HRM will find topics of study in the curriculum that are pertinent in today’s business world, such as diversity, training and development, and managing conflict in the work place.

# La Roche College

## Calendar of Events

*Mark these down now so you can be with us!  
Want more information? Visit [www.laroche.edu](http://www.laroche.edu).*



### **Interior Design Speaker Series**

**Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2006**

Carnegie Science Center • 6 p.m.

*Sponsored by the Interior Design Department Advisory Board,  
this lecture will be given by the editor of **Metropolis** magazine.*



### **Theta Mu 20th Anniversary Reception**

**Thursday, Oct. 26, 2006**

Duquesne Club in Pittsburgh

*Details available by calling Rose Woolley at 412-536-1085.*



### **Family Day**

**Saturday, Oct. 28, 2006**

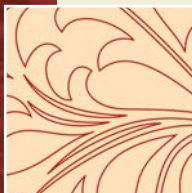
*New and old members of the La Roche family will gather once  
again for this fall tradition on the East Campus. Registration begins  
at 10:30 a.m. in the Zappala College Center Square.*



### **Festival of Lights**

**Friday, Dec. 1, 2006**

*We're hosting a special alumni gathering from 5 to 8:30 p.m., and the  
spectacular craft show will once again be hosted in the College Square from  
3 to 9 p.m. Parents: Bring the kids for fun and games in the Kerr Fitness &  
Sports Center, sponsored by College Activites. The Festival of Lights is spon-  
sored in part by The Hampton Office of Coldwell Banker Real Estate, Inc.*



### **Founders Gala**

**Saturday, March 24, 2007 • 6 p.m.**

Carnegie Music Hall Foyer, Pittsburgh

*Watch for more details to come!*



### **Spring Dance Performance**

**Tuesday, April 10 • 7 p.m.**

Byham Theatre

*Join us as the La Roche College Dance Department performs in Pittsburgh's  
Cultural District.*



# LA ROCHE COLLEGE

FALL 2006 OPEN HOUSE  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Tour the campus, the residence halls and our “smart” classrooms.
- Meet our professors and learn more about our academic programs.
- Get answers to your questions on admissions and financial aid.
- Lunch will be provided for all attendees.

Register at [www.laroche.edu](http://www.laroche.edu)

*Learning that brings your world together.*

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