

LA ROCHE COLLEGE
REDHAWKS

Connected

the La Roche College Magazine | FALL 2013 • WINTER 2014

New Athletic
Complex Plans

Science Center
Renovation



A Message from the President



PHOTO: HECTOR CORANTE

While celebrating our 50th Jubilee last year, we realized that so much of what La Roche College is about today is rooted in our past, in the dream of our founding Sisters of Divine Providence.

In 1963, our founders envisioned a nurturing campus where faculty, staff and students interact and openly share knowledge with each other and the community. Our founders embraced diversity, celebrating differences and fostering understanding across cultures and backgrounds.

Our founders' dream lives on today, in every corner of our campus, a testament to their vision and vitality. As we begin our next 50 years, it seems appropriate to reclaim that pioneering spirit of our founders, to reimagine and redefine La Roche for today's students and those who will follow, for many more years to come.

You will notice a new, more forceful and direct way in which we are telling the La Roche story. In August, we unveiled the College's new branding initiative to help us more clearly define and distinguish La Roche in a highly competitive market. Our new tagline, "Engaging Minds. Embracing the World.," describes the rich, residential campus that has emerged from our commitment to quality education, our deep faith heritage and our social justice mission. La Roche's new voice is full of pride in what we accomplished in the past 50 years, a voice brimming with excitement over the great potential that lies ahead.

In this magazine, we update you on two major undertakings designed to keep La Roche competitive and attractive to current and potential students.

First, in academics: To further enhance the long-established reputation of our science programs, we plan a major renovation of the Palumbo Science Center. This will involve a full-floor demolition, creating larger, updated laboratories, the pairing of laboratories with secondary labs and offices, updated faculty offices and a central lounge area where students can study, relax and meet for study groups.

And, in athletics: Before the end of the year, we plan to break ground on a renovated athletic complex, which includes the installation of a turf field, concessions, restrooms, pavilions and landscaping.

These capital improvement projects will be a solid first step in reimagining and redefining student life on the La Roche campus. But this is only the beginning of a very exciting future for the College. More will follow.

This issue will reach you at the time of year when we gather with family and friends to celebrate and recall our many blessings. Be assured of my thanks for your interest in the College and of my prayers for a blessed Christmas and a new year full of promise and peace.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Candace Introcaso". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Connected

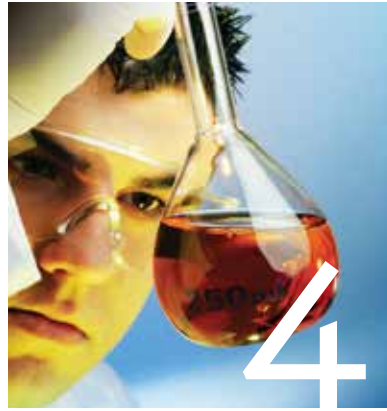
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CONTENTS:



Award-Winning Student Exhibit Explores Issues of Social Justice



Renovations to the Palumbo Science Center



College Unveils New Brand



Athletic Complex Plans Revealed

7 Academics

- 7 • Ed Brett 2012 Book of the Year
- 7 • Knit The Bridge
- 8 • Award-Winning Dissertation
- 8 • International Design Competition
- 9 • Professor's Innovative Technology
- 9 • Performing Arts Students
- 10 • From Steelworker to Professor

12 Campus News

- 13 • Father Peter Departs

14 Athletics

- 16 • Sports Round Up

18 Alumni

- 18 • Citizens of the World
- 19 • Alumnus Serves Youth in Tonga
- 20 • Love of Film

21 Class Notes

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



Shared Border, Shared Dreams

Award-winning student exhibit explores issues of social justice

When Sister Michele Bisbey, CDP, Ph.D., wanted to examine contemporary justice issues in the La Roche Experience (LRX): Regions of Conflict course, she chose an untraditional method: a student-designed exhibit that simulated the journey of undocumented immigration.

After intensive research in the Design for Social Impact class taught by Professors Neha Agarwal and Beth Shirrell, students conceptualized and designed an exhibit for more than 600 LRX students to explore the U.S. immigration policy.

"Immigration is a broad topic, but we spent a lot of time researching," senior Jenna Breitbach-Eldredge said. "We thought about what that experience would be like for LRX students, what they would take away from it, and what would be the best way to make people think about undocumented immigration."

The best approach, ultimately, was a hands-on simulation that triggered discussion and allowed participants to decide how they felt about the issue. Inspired by Pittsburgh's Conflict Kitchen, a restaurant serving food only from countries with which the U.S. is in conflict, the exhibit took an objective stance.

"They [Conflict Kitchen] aren't trying to convince their patrons of one opinion or another. They just want to get a dialogue going. We thought that approach was a smart way to treat our topic," Ms. Breitbach-Eldredge said.



The simulation was displayed in the John J. Wright Library on campus.

“Shared Border, Shared Dreams,” depicted what couldn’t be divided by a border: universal dreams that give humans a sense of belonging and safety.

“We wanted to focus on the fact that we’re all the same and have the same wants, but that sometimes circumstances don’t allow us to achieve them,” senior Nikki Johnson said. “Americans are taught that you can live the American Dream as long as you try your hardest. But with undocumented immigrants, it’s a lot harder for them.”

The group surveyed other students to determine common dreams to include in the simulation.

“Recurring dreams were things like living a healthy life, securing a job and raising a family,” Ms. Johnson explained. “We took those responses and boiled them down to seven dreams. Each student researched one dream to see how attainable or unattainable it is for an undocumented immigrant.”

**“An opportunity
for students to
walk in another’s shoes ...
It was truly a La Roche Experience.”**

- Sister Michele Bisbey, CDP '71, Ph.D.

To portray those challenges, the exhibit invited participants to choose personas, along with dream cards that represented goals they wished to accomplish. Dreams included living without fear, traveling, pursuing an education and securing a job. After visiting stations that corresponded with their dreams, students discovered whether their goals were attainable for their personas.

“We agreed to do this project because it was the best way to show how designers can contribute to social justice issues,” Professor Agarwal said.

**“Immigration
is a broad topic,
but we spent a lot of time
researching”**

- Jenna Breitbach-Eldredge, Senior



Graphic design students and creators of the “Shared Border, Shared Dreams” exhibit from left to right: Matt Puwalowski, Nikki Johnson, Malia Ault, Katherine Wilson, Maria Vujevich and Jenna Breitbach-Eldredge. Not pictured: Evan Wallace.

The exhibition was incorporated into LRX as a simulation event, where students responded to the experience through a reflection journal. The Regions of Conflict course required students to think critically about contemporary justice issues, and the journal prompt allowed them to reflect on the latest plan for immigration reform in America.

“It became clear that what many of us have as U.S. citizens is not ours by merit. It is merely the fortuitous circumstances of our birth,” Sister Michele said. “This was an opportunity for students to walk in another’s shoes and come to know immigrants face-to-face. It was truly a La Roche Experience.”

“Shared Border, Shared Dreams” received a Merit Award in the HOW Magazine International Design Awards, an international competition that recognizes design innovation and excellence on a global level.

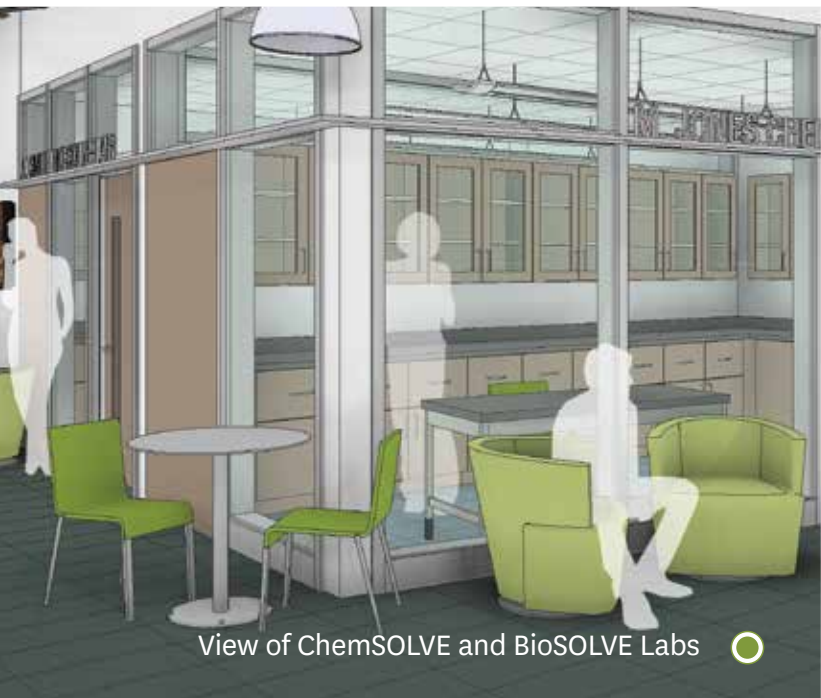
BY BECKY JESKEY | PHOTOS: BETH SHIRRELL



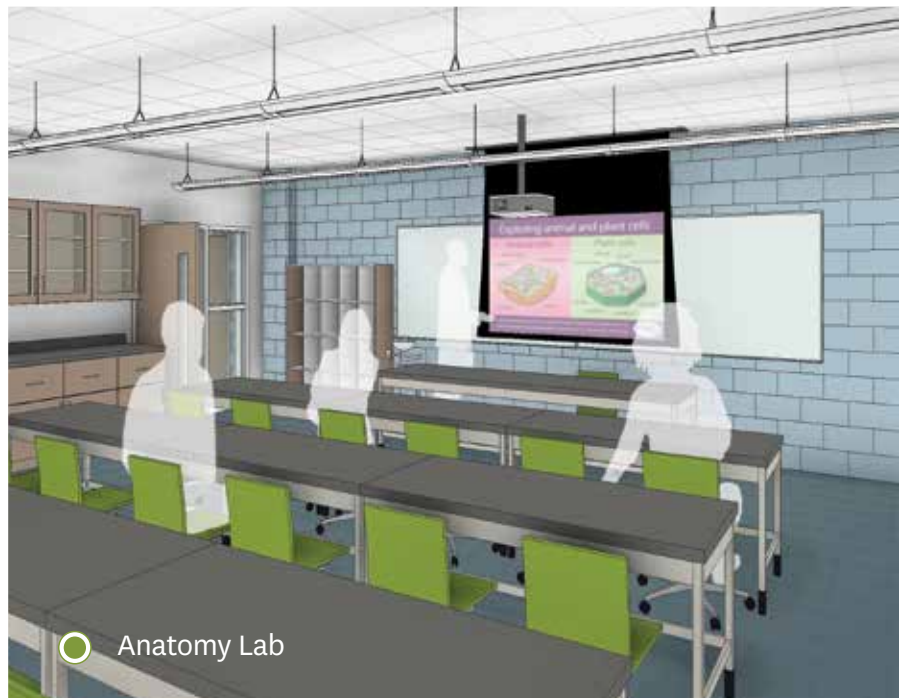
Entrance to Science Center



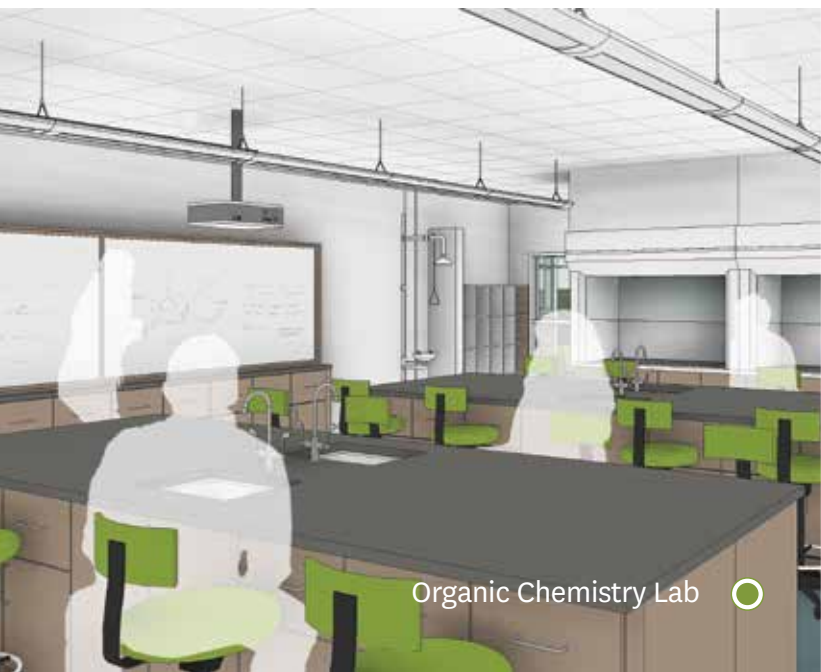
View down "Main Street"



View of ChemSOLVE and BioSOLVE Labs



Anatomy Lab



Organic Chemistry Lab



Lounge Area

Science Center

RENOVATION

The laboratories and classrooms were state-of-the-art in the Palumbo Science Center when the building was built on the La Roche College campus.

There was great excitement surrounding the new Center and what the new facility would add to program offerings, most specifically, of course, to the science courses and majors.

But that was 30 years ago, and now it is time for an update.

“The building hasn’t been changed in a significant way since it was constructed. It is certainly sound, but it looks like a building that was built some 30 years ago,”

Howard Ishiyama, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and academic dean, said.

Jane Arnold, chair for the Natural and Behavioral Sciences Division, agreed.

“We have outgrown the labs. Some of the rooms are rather awkward for labs. We need more storage space, and we are just crowded. We really need to make some changes,” she said.

La Roche prides itself on its strong sciences programs.

Dr. Ishiyama said in the past decade, more La Roche students have decided to pursue graduate degrees and research careers than ever before, in part because of the excellent faculty.

“That is one reason we need to renovate the facility – to elevate it to reflect the faculty expertise,” Dr. Ishiyama said.

According to Dr. Ishiyama, the Natural and Behavioral Sciences Division is the largest on campus. With the popularity of the sciences programs and science requirements for other students, new, updated classrooms and laboratories will benefit a significant number of students and faculty at La Roche.

As the need for renovating the Science Center became more apparent, Dr. Ishiyama reached out to the faculty to seek their expert advice for suggested updates.

Ms. Arnold said items the faculty felt would add to the strength of the science curriculum included more spacious and efficient laboratories, increased storage space and upgraded technology in the classrooms.

“For example, in one of our labs, the professor can’t see all of the students while she is teaching. The equipment gets in the way. We need better functionality,” Ms. Arnold explained.

Using the faculty’s input, the College worked with Kevin Wagstaff, a principal architect from Perfido Weiskopf Wagstaff + Goettel, to create a design for renovations. The result would be a beautiful, new science area that involves a full floor demolition to create larger, updated laboratories, the pairing of laboratories with secondary labs and offices, and updated faculty offices.

A highlight of the design is the creation of a central lounge area, a place where students can sit and study, relax and meet for study groups.

“The area would really help to build a sense of community with our students,” Ms. Arnold said.

That sense of community is important in the sciences, Dr. Ishiyama said, as students often work together on research and laboratory experiments. It also is one reason the proximity of laboratories to faculty offices is important and a reason why the new Student Operated Laboratory Venture (SOLVE) laboratories are important.

The science curriculum at colleges and universities includes two layers, Dr. Ishiyama explained: classroom lectures and laboratory work where information learned in the lectures is applied.

“We need to renovate the facility to elevate it to reflect the faculty expertise.”

*- Dr. Howard Ishiyama, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Academic Dean*



● Proposed Science Center floor plan

“At La Roche, we add a third layer where students are in charge of a laboratory. That adds an additional component to their studies and research,” he added.

The biology students often work on real-life community problems and partner with local organizations including high schools or animal shelters for their research. Dr. Ishiyama said in the past, La Roche students have created science kits for high school students which were then sent to local schools. The high school students performed the experiments and returned the results to La Roche, where the students evaluated the work by the younger students. Other students are working with a local animal shelter to test the effect feral cats may have on illness and diseases in a community.

For the chemistry students at La Roche, the SOLVE laboratories are the caliber that students would find in a commercial laboratory. There also is a nursing SOLVE laboratory with a patient simulator.

Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., president of La Roche, credits the SOLVE programs as the key reasons more La Roche students are pursuing graduate work and research positions after graduation.

“Our academic programs in the sciences are producing some of the most sought after graduates of La Roche. These programs have some particularly unique features, including our ChemSOLVE and BioSOLVE programs, that are academic engines for student growth

and development within the context of their field of study,” Sister Candace said.

Renovations to the Palumbo Science Center also will attract future students to the sciences programs at La Roche.

“Renovating the Science Center will provide a facility that matches the quality of our academic programs,” Sister Candace said. “The new facility will attract and keep the most talented students and faculty, and they are the ones who will have the greatest impact on the future of La Roche and the world.”

The estimated costs for the Palumbo renovations are approximately \$4 million. The campaign to raise the funds for the project is in the preliminary phases, according to Vice President for Institutional Advancement Michael Andreola.

“We are in the very early stages, but we will have dedicated fundraising for the renovations. It is obviously very costly, so we will be looking to major funders and foundations first,” Mr. Andreola said.

While the exact start date for the renovation hasn’t been announced, it is something that Ms. Arnold and the rest of the faculty look forward to in the future.

“The renovation will be huge for us. We will be able to teach more efficiently, and it will attract more students and programming to the College,” she said.

BY KATHLEEN GANSTER | PHOTOS: KEVIN WAGSTAFF

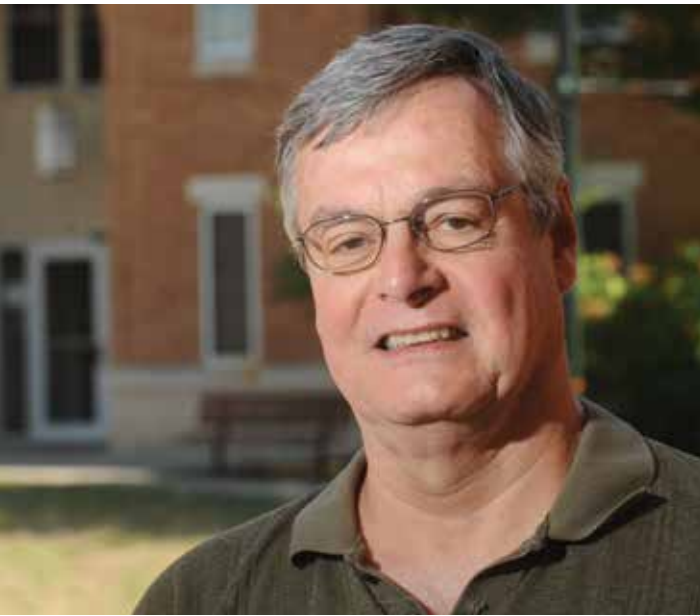


PHOTO: JAMES KNOX

Edward T. Brett, Ph.D., Earns 2012 Book of the Year Award

A book written by Edward T. Brett, Ph.D., professor emeritus of history, won the 2012 Book of the Year Award by ForeWord Reviews, a magazine and book-review service honoring the best work produced by independent and small press communities.

“The New Orleans Sisters of the Holy Family: African American Missionaries to the Garifuna of Belize,” received the Bronze Award in the religion category and was one of 248 winners announced at the 2013 American Library Association Annual Conference. Published by University of Notre Dame Press, the book is an account of the 110-year mission of the first African American Catholics to serve as missionaries.

“The value of the book is that these sisters were African American. They had to face both racism and gender inequality within society and within the Catholic Church,” Dr. Brett said. “It’s amazing how these sisters were able to deal with these obstructions and do incredible work both in Belize and the southern part of the United States. Some of what’s going on today we can see in their history.”

Read more about Dr. Brett’s book at undpress.nd.edu.

“It’s amazing how these sisters were able to deal with these obstructions and do incredible work both in Belize and the southern part of the United States.” - Edward T. Brett, Ph.D.

Design Instructor Contributes to Pittsburgh’s Knit the Bridge Project

In September, a colorful Andy Warhol Bridge captivated our city. But what many Pittsburghers didn’t know was that Adjunct Professor Kitty Spangler was one of its lead artists.

Ms. Spangler worked as the ground level installation and panel specialist for Knit the Bridge, a grassroots community-led project that created a fiberarts installation to yarn-bomb one of Pittsburgh’s 446 bridges. Yarn-bombing employs knitted or crocheted yarn to celebrate public space.

“A few other bridges in the world had been yarn-bombed, but nothing of this scale,” Ms. Spangler said. “In public art, unlike guerrilla art, there must be back-up plans, documentation, machinery, tools and many volunteers to make it all happen.”

According to Ms. Spangler, the best part of the project was the creation of its parts, the planning for its execution, and the people. “Color-rich yarns and a simple concept drew people together. We literally bridged people, neighborhoods and communities beyond our area,” she said.



“In public art, unlike guerrilla art, there must be back-up plans, documentation, machinery, tools and many volunteers to make it all happen.” - Professor Kitty Spangler



Korrin Mozisek accepts her award from Robyn Remke, former OSCLG president and chair of the Award Committee.

contribution of the dissertation is that it shows the progress of female athletes. Girls and women, even in adulthood, now are encouraged to continue their athletic ways, but there is an emphasis to balance their masculinity and femininity.”

This fall, Ms. Mozisek accepted the Cheri Kramarae Outstanding Dissertation Award and presented her topic at the OSCLG annual conference in Michigan. In the future, she hopes to expand her dissertation into a book. PHOTO: EMIL GROTH

Professor’s Award-Winning Dissertation Examines History of Women and Baseball

Assistant Professor of Communication, Media and Technology Korrin D. Mozisek won the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender’s (OSCLG) Cheri Kramarae Outstanding Dissertation Award for her dissertation, “Throwing Like a Girl!: Constituting Citizenship for Women and Girls in America’s Pastime.”

The dissertation challenges the traditional narrative of baseball by exploring female athletes throughout history. Ms. Mozisek examines three case studies: the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, the women’s U.S. Olympic softball team and the Little League boys-only rule.

“The project argues that the stories we tell about women are successful because they parallel the stories we tell about men. That they’re masculine. That they’re competitive. That they fulfill the American Dream,” Ms. Mozisek said. “The big

Students Named Semi-Finalists in International Design Competition

Graphic design seniors Jenna Breitbach-Eldredge and Maria Vujevich were selected as semi-finalists in the 2013 Adobe Design Achievement Awards (ADAA).

ADAA honors the most talented and promising student graphic designers, photographers, illustrators, animators, digital filmmakers, developers and computer artists from the world’s top institutions of higher education. The competition received a total of 3,752 entries from around the world, and the projects created by Ms. Breitbach-Eldredge and Ms. Vujevich were four of only 813 submissions selected for the semi-final round.

“This accomplishment shows the talent, intelligence and dedication of two very committed students,” Graphic Design Department Chair Neha Agarwal said. “Their success is a testament to the recent redevelopment of the graphic design department.”

The restructured program integrates critical thinking and aesthetics with real-world training, a curriculum Ms. Breitbach-Eldredge said prepared her for success in the ADAA competition and beyond. She said, “These experiences have helped me to develop more as a designer and become better prepared to enter the design industry as a professional.”



Seniors Maria Vujevich and Jenna Breitbach-Eldredge were among the most promising student designers honored in this year’s ADAA competition.

“This accomplishment shows the talent, intelligence and dedication of two very committed students.”

- Neha Agarwal
Graphic Design Department Chair

Professor Uses Innovative Technology to Serve Rwandan Youth

Communication, Media and Technology Department Chair Jeff Ritter has learned the value of cutting-edge technology and education.

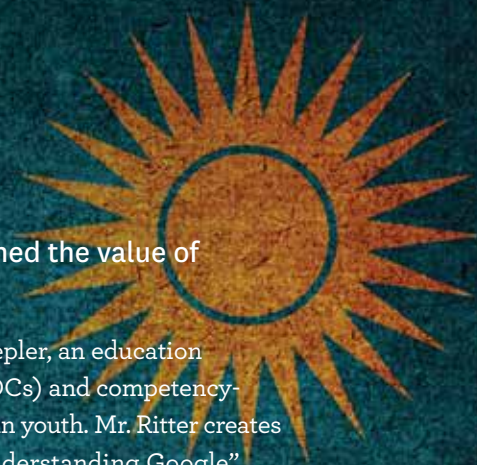


PHOTO: CAITLIN THOMAS '09

This summer, Mr. Ritter began volunteering for Kepler, an education program offering mass open online courses (MOOCs) and competency-based degrees at a low cost to college-aged Rwandan youth. Mr. Ritter creates lesson plans for the “Understanding Media by Understanding Google” course and works on professional development for program facilitators.

“Rwanda has the potential to be a role model, talent pool and manufacturing base for East Africa,” Mr. Ritter said. “I am interested in learning about new models of creating low-cost, high-value education in developing countries. No one has really figured out how to do it yet.”

The benefit of using MOOC-based curriculum is two-fold: it is price-effective and reaches a large audience. “At this point there are thousands of free, high-level educational experiences available on the Web. With trained facilitators, this could be one of the best ways to educate large numbers of people who have Internet access and are highly motivated but don’t have much money,” Mr. Ritter said.



Performing Arts Students and Professional Dancers Share Byham Theater Stage

Through La Roche’s unique partnership with Bodiography Contemporary Ballet, performing arts students have the opportunity to gain real-world experience in an ideal environment: on stage.

Founding Artistic and Executive Director Maria Caruso, MSPL, chair of La Roche’s performing arts department, said the partnership gives apprenticing students a competitive edge in today’s workforce.

“Bodiography allows students to express a variety of movement genres and become proficient in performing at a high level in a professional environment,” Ms. Caruso said.

Student Kaylin Treese said she has benefited from performing with an outside company. “The professional world of dance is one of the hardest job categories out there,” she said. “I’ve become stronger and more confident, and I know more about the professional world.”

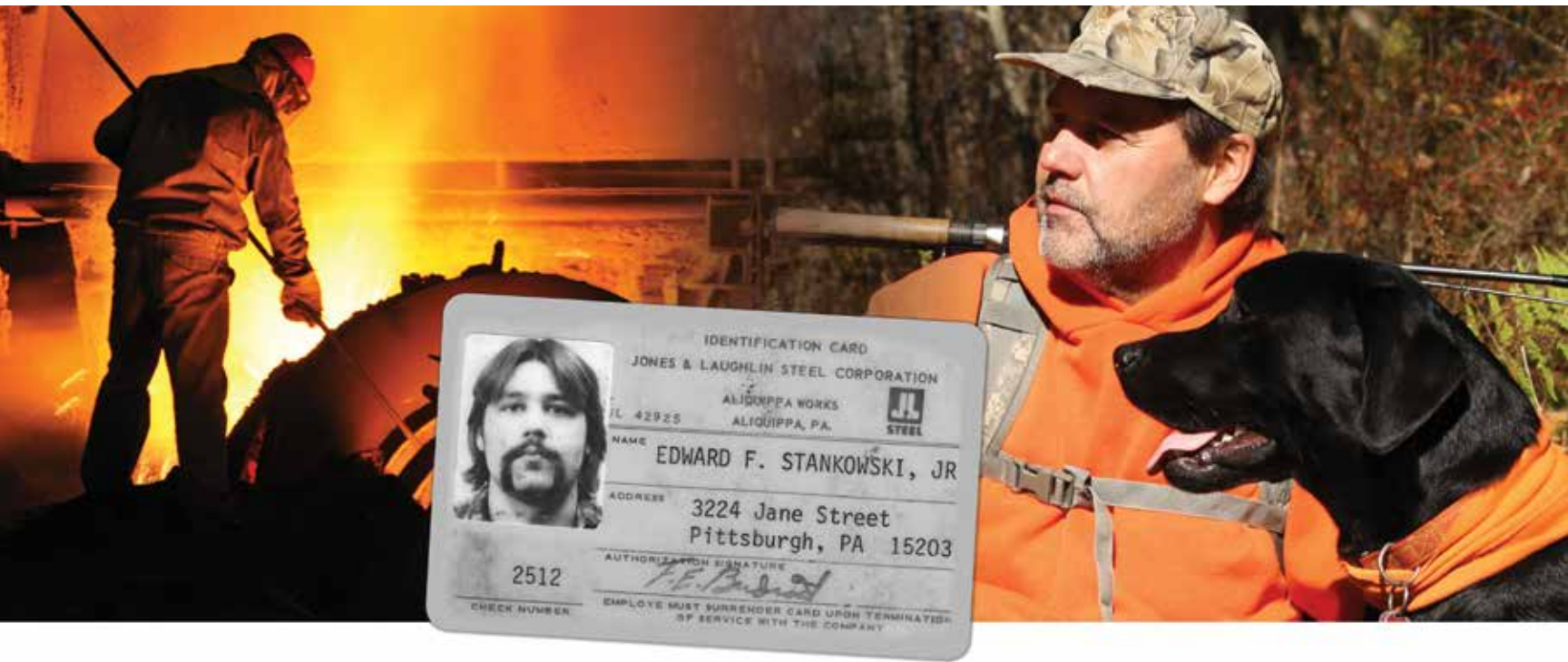
In November, students shared the stage with Ms. Caruso and other trained artists at the Byham Theater during Bodiography’s 12th Annual Multiplicity Concert. Presented by La Roche, Multiplicity featured collaborative and artistic work while exploring each choreographer’s vision and talent.

PHOTOS: ERIC ROSÉ



The Path Less Traveled:

From Steelworker to Professor and Published Author



Pittsburgh's South Side no longer exists in the way ex-steelworker Ed Stankowski remembers it:

The commercialized South Side Works stands where the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation once operated, burying Pittsburgh's difficult and bloody history with upscale bars, bistros, boutiques and lavish restaurants.

Mr. Stankowski, now a professor of English at La Roche College, knew this place more intimately than most of us. After graduating from high school, he worked as a steelworker and was a member of the United Steelworkers Union from 1978 to 1983, an experience chronicled in his 2004 book "Memory of Steel."

"There's nothing there to interpret how the South Side Works got that name. That was the name of the J&L Mill. That was the South Side. We have the echo and vestige of the past, but we have no respect for it," he said.

The echo of Mr. Stankowski's past is one that continues to haunt him. Remnants remain, reminding him of Pittsburgh's once-authentic identity as the Steel City: Monday night football and The Pittsburgh Steelers; Homestead's boarded-up storefronts, the result of small businesses failing when the mills closed. The memory of a South Side neighborhood that once *was* but no longer *is*.

"I was part of something bigger – something that is researchable. Something that existed and produced artifacts, produced people, and produced history," he said. "That's precious to me. I hope I don't lose that memory."

So how does an ex-steelworker transition to college professor? How does a man who earned a claim to history embrace his role in a collegiate environment? For Mr. Stankowski, it meant traveling along the untraditional path. Measuring losses. Writing books. Self-reflecting. Using an obligation to the past to accept a new future.

"I was part of something bigger - something that is researchable ...

That's precious to me."

Opportunities dissolved when the steel industry collapsed. With limited options, Mr. Stankowski earned a bachelor's degree in English writing and a master of fine arts in creative nonfiction from the University of Pittsburgh, a path he admits he chose

because it was easy, but says that it provided opportunities when only circumstance dictated his life.

“Education can give you a little bit of control over your own destiny. In the mill I was just a cog, a disposable part. When I became an educated person, I had things to say and people who were willing to listen to them,” he said. “I don’t think education changed who I was at my core, but it helped me to understand myself and my values.”

Today, Mr. Stankowski’s values are obvious. A man with no superiority complex, he defines himself not by his profession, but by his relationship to others. He’s a father. A husband. A loyal friend. A dog lover. A teacher who is practical and fair.

Mr. Stankowski, who joined La Roche as a faculty member in January of 2000, said part of teaching includes showing students the practicality of their education.

“I talk about how education can change your life. I think I bring maybe a different kind of perspective. I like to ground whatever I teach in some sort of practical application,” he explained. “I think it’s part of my responsibility to show how what I’m teaching can benefit students down the road.”

Mr. Stankowski’s hands-on approach is grounded in his own experience. Between the mill and La Roche, he worked as an editor, reporter, even a security guard in Kaufmann’s garage. Teaching, however, presents its own challenges.

“Dealing in human capital sometimes, it’s hard for me at the end of the day,” he said. “I drive home and wonder, ‘What did I accomplish today? Did I get through to people?’”

Mr. Stankowski also is a man who avoids growing complacent, especially in a world that often and unexpectedly changes. After overcoming prostate cancer in 2012, the effects of circumstance challenge him but never defeat him.

Instead, he chooses to write about his experiences.

Last fall on sabbatical, he began writing a new book, “Super-Chimp and the Domesticated Wolf: A Love Story.” Still in the revision process, the book explores what has remained constant throughout his life: a relationship with Man’s Best Friend.

“Dogs’ lives and my life have been so intertwined. It got me thinking to how powerful that relationship is and how symbiotic that relationship was in the early stages of our civilization,” he said.

Mr. Stankowski said that writing the book was a form of self-analysis, a way of understanding himself, his cancer diagnosis and his connection to another species.

“I think if you’re not writing about something you care about, you’re wasting your time. What’s hard about it is that you relive those emotions. There were times when I was on sabbatical that I’d be crying like a baby,” he said. “But I know if I didn’t get to that point, I knew this book wouldn’t have what it needed to have.”

Part of Mr. Stankowski’s goal with “Super-Chimp and the Domesticated Wolf” was to draw an emotional response from his readers. “This book isn’t just about my experience, but it shows how you might see yourself in this story,” he explained.

“I don’t think education changed who I was at my core, but it helped me to understand myself and my values.”

Writing the book also helped Mr. Stankowski cope with cancer without the company of a creature in which he’s always found solace. “Part of this book was my way of trying to make sense out of all of it. When I got divorced I had a dog to lean on, when I lost this job or that job, I had a dog. This time I didn’t have that.”

He added that he did, however, have the support of the La Roche community.

“La Roche is a good place to get sick,” he said, laughing. “I had so many people pulling for me. This place has heart. We do practice what we preach, or at least I’ve experienced that here.”

Mr. Stankowski doesn’t always embrace his role at La Roche with ease but said he believes the road that brought him here gives him greater appreciation.

“It’s kind of surreal. Sometimes I question my own legitimacy. How did I get here? Did I earn this? Do I deserve this? It took me a long time to get to where I am,” he said. “I never dread coming to work. I think there’s something to be said about that. I like the fact that every class is different, every semester is different. Students change, the world changes. If I had stayed a steelworker, I would’ve always dreamt of that path not taken.”

BY BECKY JESKEY



Engaging Minds. Embracing the World.

College Reveals New Branding Initiative

This past summer, La Roche College launched a new branding initiative to showcase its rich heritage, varied academics, and commitment to peace and justice.

The initiative is the result of a two-year effort to reimagine and redefine the La Roche brand. Research, analysis and testing involved current and prospective students, faculty and staff, alumni, members of the board of trustees, as well as community leaders, friends and supporters.

La Roche President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., said the new brand gives the College an ideal platform to share its story.

“Since its founding 50 years ago, La Roche has been a collegiate community with a rich faith heritage and social justice mission. We have long been known for our small class sizes and dedicated faculty and staff who engage students in pursuit of a practice-based education,” Sister Candace said. “With international enrollment at 20 percent of our student body, we are uniquely able to prepare our students for success in an ever-changing global economy. We have great pride in what we do and great humility in how much more we might yet accomplish.”

Drawing inspiration from the College’s mission statement, the brand platform highlights La Roche’s defining principles of global justice and quality education. The new logo includes a stylized

fleur-di-lis placed within an archway, representing La Roche founders, the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, and the architecture across campus.

Central to the College’s brand and visual identity, the new tagline, “Engaging Minds. Embracing the World.,” portrays La Roche’s distinctive social, interpersonal and professional values that benefit the regional, national and global communities.

“The two-year process that led to this new branding allowed us to identify our strengths and distinctions and pinpoint our competitive niche in a crowded marketplace,” Brady Butler, director of marketing and media relations, said. “It became clear that the message of La Roche is that our campus is an inspiring place where minds and lives flourish at any age, where diversity is embraced, and where peace and social justice are pursued.”

La Roche revealed the new brand and launched its extensive multimedia marketing campaign at the College’s Opening Assembly in August. The new advertising campaign includes outdoor, television, print and radio advertising, as well as social media. The College’s expanded and redesigned website will launch in 2014.



PHOTOS: CAITLIN THOMAS '09

Dear Alumni and Friends:

For the past 19 years, Father Peter Horton has been one of La Roche College's truest blessings as its campus minister. We wish him the best in his transition to Pastor of St. Winifred's Parish in Mount Lebanon.

His daily investments in our lives as a priest and friend are innumerable, and we will miss his devotion and commitment to higher education. For our students, he has been their counselor and confidante, supporting them in their difficulties, celebrating their achievements, and providing them with the type of pastoral care that is encouraging, compassionate and respectful. For our faculty, staff and Sunday Mass worshipers, he has been a role model for their faith development and spiritual growth.

Actively present in all areas of college and student life, Father Peter has built a religiously vibrant campus community based on the mission and Catholic values that are the very fabric of what makes La Roche College an extraordinary place to learn, to work, and to worship.

It is for these very reasons that the College would like to recognize Father Peter for his service and presence in our lives in a very special way. One of Father Peter's many talents has been his ability to build communities that are open to working together. For this purpose, he has used the entrance hall to the Magdalen Chapel as a gathering space for Bible study programs, student discussions, celebrations and pizza parties. In his honor, we plan to renovate and rename the area the Father Peter Horton Campus Ministry Commons and continue his tradition of using this area as a site for spiritual reflection and student activities.

I hope you will consider joining with La Roche College and lending your generous support toward the renovation. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 to complete the renovation as soon as possible. In recognition of your generosity, a donor plaque will be installed prominently in the area.

I would like to share what Father Peter wrote in his announcement to the campus community:

"To the entire community, my sincere thanks for what you have done for me. You have made me a better priest, a better person, and I will carry all of the lessons of your wisdom, love, and friendship with me..."

We, too, are better people and the College is a better institution for having worked with and had the prayers of Father Peter. He has had a profound impact, and his love for La Roche College will always be his legacy. Please join us in honoring the work of Father Peter with your most generous donation for the renovation of the Father Peter Horton Campus Ministry Commons.

Most sincerely,



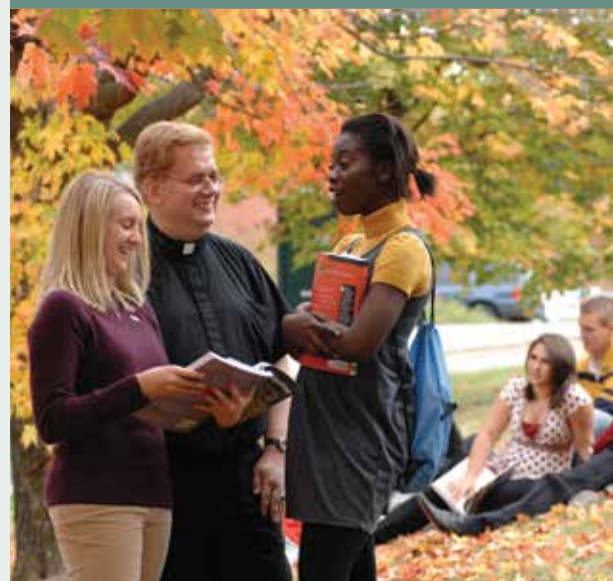
Colleen Ruefle

Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students

TOP AND BOTTOM PHOTO: PHIL PAVELY
MIDDLE PHOTO: RIC EVANS



*"To the entire community,
my sincere **thanks**
for what you have done for me."*



*"He has had a profound impact,
and his love for La Roche College
will always be his legacy."*



OUTDOOR ATHLETIC COMPLEX

to Receive Major Upgrades

La Roche College's athletic complex will undergo a \$2 million dollar renovation project that includes the installation of a turf field, concessions, restrooms, pavilions and landscaping.

Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., College president, said the plan is to break ground before the end of 2013 and complete the project before the 2014-2015 academic year.

"Our facilities must be competitive with other colleges and universities in order to recruit well-rounded and academically qualified student athletes," Sister Candace said. "Athletics at La Roche enhances and compliments the educational experience. Our NCAA Division III athletic program has strong appeal for recruiting students who play for the love of the game, who are looking to experience camaraderie and achieve team goals."

Athletics Director Jim Tinkey said the renovated complex will increase enrollment by allowing the College to expand its varsity athletics programs.

Mr. Tinkey said, "In the last five to eight years, we've grown in terms of roster sizes and the number of teams we sponsor. We'd like to expand a little further. Our immediate plans would be to add women's lacrosse as a varsity sport, which will impact the overall enrollment of the College."

La Roche currently sponsors 12 varsity sports. The addition of a women's lacrosse team in the 2014-15 academic year depends on the transition from the grass field to synthetic turf, an upgrade Mr. Tinkey and Men's Soccer Coach and Assistant Dean of Students David Day said will improve the experience of La Roche's athletes and visiting students.

"The major benefit of synthetic turf is having a fine and flat surface to play on. Right now, men's soccer, women's soccer and men's lacrosse all practice and play their games on the same chunk of grass," Coach Day said. "It has become nearly impossible to maintain the surface to the standard that helps us in games."

An overused grass field affects athletic performance. "The field gets really torn up, bumpy and patchy. We would describe ourselves as a fast, skillful team. When you play on that kind of surface, it takes away our skill and speed," Coach Day explained.

Men's Soccer Mid-fielder Philip Ross said a synthetic turf field will help the team to compete against other college and university teams. "We practice on the grass every day," Mr. Ross added. "But when we play our away games, we usually play on turf. Turf feels more durable."

A synthetic turf field is only one of many upgrades planned for the complex. The renovation project includes all of the amenities needed to provide a first-class experience for student-athletes, fans and visitors: a concession stand, public restrooms and a covered pavilion area housed within a 1,700 square-foot building. As a result, Mr. Tinkey said La Roche will enjoy higher visibility and increased attendance at sporting events.

"We think the amenities will draw more people to our campus and create more of a collegiate, festive atmosphere," Mr. Tinkey said. "This project will put us on the map. Our baseball and softball fields are great facilities for a Division III school. The improvements to our soccer and lacrosse facilities, and the addition of concessions, will be the centerpiece of our outdoor complex."

The improvements also will increase community collaboration and serve as a resource for outside athletics and youth organizations year-round. Vice President for Institutional Advancement Michael Andreola said, "The renovations will significantly enhance the educational experience for La Roche students, but the value will extend beyond our campus. The project will allow us to better serve countless teams, groups and clubs throughout the region."

For more information or to support the project, please contact Michael Andreola at 412-536-1096 or michael.andreola@laroche.edu.

PHOTOS: DRS ARCHITECTS



The improved athletic complex will include a covered pavilion area, a concession stand and public restrooms housed within a 1,700 square-foot building.





Shane Healey at bat.

PHOTO: CATHY TOUGHER

Six Redhawks Named AMCC All-Conference Performers

Shane Healey led the AMCC Conference in hits, runs scored, stolen bases, at bats and plate appearances, and finished in the top eight in batting average, total bases, assists and fielding double plays. He became the first Redhawk to ever make D3Baseball.com's Team of the Week.

Tyler Ferguson boasts a 7-3 record and a 3.03 ERA and ranks second in the AMCC Conference in wins, strikeouts, innings pitched and starts. He is fifth in the AMCC in opposing batting average, ninth in earned run average and was named the AMCC Player of the Week in April of 2013.

Dan Burns leads La Roche with 35 RBIs and is second on the team in batting average, while ranking in the top 10 in the AMCC in RBIs, hits, doubles, total bases, at bats, chances, putouts and fielding double plays.

James Connelly, Sean Lubin, and Colin Williamson were All-Conference Third Team honorees. Mr. Connelly broke the school record for career wins and currently ranks second in the AMCC Conference in ERA and starts and fourth in innings pitched.

Men's Cross Country Runs to Eighth Place Finish at Conference Championships

Jeff Turner paced La Roche with a 36th place finish and a time of 29:27 on an 8K course at the AMCC Conference Championships, the fastest a Redhawk has run at the conference championships since All-American Andrew Musinguzi in 2002.

Joseph Kurcina clocked a time of 32:23 and 66th place finish while **Brandon Hartz** crossed the line just four runners later with a 33:28. **Robby Patterson** (34:31) and **Bryan Mutiso** (34:47) worked well together to finish 76th and 78th while **Matt Johnson** (37:28) followed closely behind to place 82nd.



Jeff Turner races to the finish.

PHOTO: D'YOUVILLE COLLEGE



Chanda Paup runs her first conference championship race.

PHOTO: D'YOUVILLE COLLEGE

Women's Cross Country Places Ninth at AMCC Championships

The women's cross country team placed ninth at the AMCC Conference Championship hosted by D'Youville College. The race was run on Delaware Park's six kilometer course.

Senior **Alecia Kidder** had a fantastic run in her last collegiate race. She finished 32nd overall and crossed the finish line in 27:37.

Freshman **Chanda Paup** ran a very fast 29:23 to come in 51st in her first conference championship race. **Raeanne Palmer** and **Morgan Churilla** worked well together to place 78th and 79th overall, and **Amanda Delullis, Anastasia Carling** and **Kaitlin Oliver** completed their strong seasons by placing 81st, 82nd, and 84th.

Behrend Edges Redhawks in AMCC Semifinal

La Roche men's soccer played a strong team game, but Penn State Behrend scored early and hung on to eliminate the Redhawks in the AMCC Tournament Semifinal.

The Lions struck in the 13th minute and added goals in the 20th and 21st minutes to build a three goal advantage. The Redhawks responded with quality scoring chances and nearly found the back of the net before halftime, but La Roche entered intermission down 3-0.

La Roche came out of halftime motivated, and seniors **Chad Trozzi** and **Tyler Irwin** almost tallied goals, but the Redhawks could not overcome the early deficit.

Trozzi had two shots and Irwin, **Yousef Barqawi**, **Dave Hiding** and **Dan Gelzhiser** each registered a shot. The team ended its season with an overall record of 11-9.



PHOTO: GORDON SNYDER

Taylor Breen battles for a shot against Pitt-Greensburg.

Pitt-Greensburg Edges Lady Redhawks in Women's Soccer Season Finale

La Roche women's soccer dropped their season finale 2-1 to Pitt-Greensburg.

Christine Chiodo gave the Lady Redhawks a 1-0 lead after burying her third goal of the season from inside of the box.

La Roche had some quality scoring chances in the second half and goalkeeper **Maria DiPerna** made some big saves, but the host Bobcats added the winning tally in the 78th minute.

Chiodo had a goal on two shots and **Carly Sorco**, **Nicole Ferraco**, **Alex Rouda** and **Taylor Breen** had a shot each. DiPerna finished with 5 stops for La Roche. The Lady Redhawks' overall record was 3-13-1.

PHOTO: RACHEL BACHRI



Golfer Matt Urgitis chips a shot toward the green.

Freshman Achieves Lowest One-Day Score in AMCC Championship History

AMCC Golfer of the Week **Matt Urgitis** shot a 150 (69, 81) to finish the AMCC Conference Championship in third place and as the leader among freshmen. Urgitis handed in a 69 on the first day, which was the lowest one-day score in AMCC Championship history. The third place finish also marked the fourth straight year a Redhawk has finished in the top three. La Roche men's golf carded a 666 (325, 341) to finish tied for sixth place at the two-day AMCC Conference Championship. The tournament was held at the par-71 Oak Tree Country Club in West Middlesex, Pa.

Lady Redhawks Sweep At D'Youville Gives Them Most Wins In Ten Years

La Roche women's volleyball (14-17, 3-6) swept D'Youville (9-18, 2-7) 3-0 in their season-finale to finish the year with their most wins since 2003.

The Lady Redhawks used 16 kills to take the first set 25-17. La Roche matched the same 25-17 score to take a 2-0 lead and closed out the sweep with a 25-19 third-set victory.

La Roche finished with 43 kills to D'Youville's 21. The Lady Redhawks 43 kills were their second highest in a three-set match this year, and their .281 kill percentage was their fourth highest mark.

Tori Pernell led the team with 12 kills and a very impressive .478 kill percentage. Pernell and **Kelly Slates** had 4 aces each and the team finished with 10. **Vicky Danko** added 34 assists to her season total 877 to finish the season with the most since **Catie Ferree** had 1038 in 1998. Danko also led La Roche with 11 digs while **Hope Gregg** and **Holly Yurek** recorded 10 each.



PHOTO: JIM JUDKIS



Left: Bosco Muyango '01. Center: Mutete HIV/AIDS Foundation volunteers deliver nutritional support from local farms to HIV and AIDS patients in Uganda. Right: Endrias Zewde '06.



Citizens of the World

After Bosco Muyango '01 lost his parents to the AIDS epidemic, food was scarce. The hope of an education was lost. But inspiration was born.

In 2012, Mr. Muyango teamed up with Endrias Zewde '06 to found the Mutete HIV/AIDS Foundation in honor of Mr. Muyango's late mother, Muteteri.

"I know how hard life was for my siblings and me after the loss of our parents," Mr. Muyango said. "Our firsthand experiences instilled in me the desire to help those who suffered similar hardships."

Based in Allison Park, Pa., Mutete focuses on alleviating the effects of HIV and AIDS in Uganda and Rwanda. By creating a food bank and establishing a community garden, Mutete will provide sustainable long-term support to impacted families.

Mr. Zewde said that reaching out to those in need, especially younger generations, has always been his passion. "I always asked myself, 'Why do people get hungry or become homeless? Why don't others who have plenty, help?' I have realized that the poor are the rich because when you give small, you receive much," he explained.

The foundation creates partnerships with local schools to promote HIV and AIDS awareness. In Baltimore, Md., Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health conducts seminars and allows students to work directly with Mr. Muyango and Mr. Zewde to promote Mutete's mission. Students design HIV and AIDS awareness programs to help Mutete carry out its mission

of promoting proper nutrition as an important component of the treatment plan for HIV and AIDS patients. They also spend time in Uganda's Mulago Hospital and other clinics to gain knowledge and find solutions for treatment plans.

"Our goal is to empower local students to create programs that work for their communities and to replicate those programs to fit east Africa," Mr. Muyango said.

Mr. Zewde and Mr. Muyango met 15 years ago through La Roche College's Pacem in Terris Institute, a program initiated by former President Monsignor William Kerr. Latin for Peace on Earth, Pacem In Terris invited students from conflict, post-conflict and developing countries to study at La Roche.

"Our goal is to empower local students to create programs that work for their communities and to replicate those programs to fit east Africa." - Bosco Muyango '01

"At La Roche, I developed love and respect for people from other parts of the world. My stereotypes and biases died there, and I became a citizen of the world," Mr. Muyango said. "Monsignor Kerr is no longer here, but his kindness is still woven in our lives."

Help the Mutete HIV/AIDS Foundation achieve its mission. Donate online at mutetehiv.org or mail a check payable to Mutete HIV/AIDS Foundation to the following address: **Mutete HIV/AIDS Foundation**
8814 Royal Manor Drive #204 | Allison Park, PA 15101



Left: Michael Hassett '12 reads "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" to help Tongan students practice their English speaking skills.
Right: Grade four students sing along to the "Hello Song" as Mr. Hassett leads on guitar.

Alumnus Serves Youth in Tonga

Michael Hassett '12 has gone months without running water. His housemates include cockroaches, termites, rats and venomous centipedes. For more than a year, he has lived in a third-world village in the Kingdom of Tonga, far from home. And despite a lack of first-world luxuries, he's the happiest he's ever been.

Inspired by his older brother, Brandon, Mr. Hassett entered the Peace Corps after graduating from La Roche College with a degree in political science and history in 2012. He now lives in the remote, rural village of Ha'utu on the island Tongatapu and teaches third to sixth grade English at a local primary school.

"I now know the difference between a luxury and a necessity," he said. "Running water, reliable transportation, supermarkets, consistent electricity, cell phones and the Internet are all luxuries. Back in the States, I had the perception that I was entitled to these amenities. After doing without for so long, you realize that this is not the case."

Mr. Hassett traded luxury for a more simple life of service. When he's not in the classroom, he's forging relationships with his community. "By living village life, relationships become paramount. Neighbors will stop by without calling just to spend time. Tongans will always make time for others, and it is such a refreshing way to live," he said.

Mr. Hassett works on teacher development and implements the use of resources and materials into the classroom. Outside of school, he

**"Alternative Spring Break
and the many other services
offered by Campus Ministry
really prepared me
for my current service."**

tutors high school students in his home, holds night classes, works on adult literacy and started a reading club with his fellow teachers.

When his service began, Mr. Hassett faced two unique challenges: a language barrier and difference in culture.

"Corporal punishment is huge in Tonga. At first, students were deathly afraid of participating in my classes because they thought I would beat them," he said. "My job as a teacher was unnecessarily arduous." His previous service experience, however, gave him a better understanding of how to meet the needs of his village.

"My courses with Azlan Tajuddin allowed me to conceptualize what third-world living looked like. Alternative Spring Break and the many other services offered by Campus Ministry really prepared me for my current service," he added. "I was able to cut my teeth on similar work long before I stepped on a plane to Tonga."



Love of Film

Greg Weimerskirch Pursues His Passion in Pittsburgh, Los Angeles and Beyond

When Greg Weimerskirch graduated from La Roche College in 1990 with a degree in interior design, he knew that his education would expand his horizons. What he didn't know was that it would land him work in a galaxy far, far away.

"When I was a kid, I saw the movie 'Star Wars' and loved it. I thought 'Wouldn't it be cool to do that?'" he explained. "I didn't know that people actually designed sets and built models for movies."

After reading about Director George Lucas' company, Industrial Light and Magic, Mr. Weimerskirch applied for an internship. He then won a scholarship that enabled him to pursue a master's degree in production design at the American Film Institute (AFI).

Since then, Mr. Weimerskirch has served as art director on a number of films and TV shows: the recent "Star Wars" movies, "Star Trek: The Next Generation," "Unstoppable," "Jack Reacher," "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," "I am Number Four," "Promised Land," "Contraband" and "Draft Day." He also worked as the production designer on the pilot episode of "Those Who Kill" for the A&E Network.

His road to Tinseltown was not without some detours. In 1991, he joined Urban Design Associates (UDA) in Pittsburgh and worked on and off at the architectural firm for 15 years. "I would work at UDA in Pittsburgh for a bit, then go do a film," he said. "It was a pretty bicoastal existence."

In late 2004, Mr. Weimerskirch returned to Pittsburgh. "I let go of film and became a partner at UDA but later took a leave of absence," he explained. "A month after I left, the film 'Unstoppable' came to Pittsburgh, and a woman I'd worked with a decade before remembered me and asked me to work on it. It was a total fluke."

Mr. Weimerskirch's most recent project, "The Fault in Our Stars," required the crew to design and build a replica of the Anne Frank Museum in

"I felt well prepared when I graduated, and those skills have helped me my whole life."

Monroeville. "We were only allowed to shoot the outside of the Anne Frank Museum in Amsterdam, so we had to build the inside of it in Pittsburgh," he said. "It was a very elaborate, four-story building. We created three individual sets, which required us to work out different angles so that we could have characters coming up a set of stairs, walking down a hallway and then traveling up another set of stairs. It takes a lot of research."

There are also budget and time challenges. "If you could break down the cost of a movie by minutes, it would cost about \$5,000 per minute," he said. "I've worked in small and large movies, and the stress never goes away."

Mr. Weimerskirch said his experience at La Roche prepared him for a demanding career. "I left La Roche with very definite skills," he said. "You need to know how to draft, design and manage a project. I felt well prepared when I graduated, and those skills have helped me my whole life."

BY VANESSA ORR

Class Notes

La Roche alumni achieve professional and personal success in life after college.

1960s and 1970s

Mary Ann Flanigan Nicholls '73 is now the pastoral associate at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois, Pa. She and her husband, Dave Nicholls, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Sept. 29. Mr. and Ms. Nicholls were married at La Roche College, where Father Gene Lauer presided.

Greg Riley '76 celebrated his 30th year designing model homes for builders from Pennsylvania to Florida, and as far west as Indianapolis, Ind.

Don Sedei '72 launched The Amusement Park, a new brand of agency, in early 2013.

Sister Rita Yeasted '68 and Roberta Kardell '72 now serve on the international communication coordinator team for their religious community, Sisters For Christian Community. Sister Rita and Sister Roberta were called forth last year at the International Assembly for a transition year and began their two-year term this past July at the Assembly in Louisville, Ky.



Alumni Happy Hour: Tuesday, Dec. 17

Stop by the Fox & Hound on McKnight Road on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m. to enjoy appetizers, drink specials and a cash bar while catching up with former classmates. All alumni and guests are invited to attend. Preregistration is required. Call 412-536-1085 for more information.

1980s

Mary Rita Hurley '84 executive director for the Oregon Center for Nursing, was named president of the National Gerontological Nurses Association. Ms. Hurley also was appointed to the Governor's Commission on Senior Services in Oregon.



Career Development Resources

Are you job searching or looking for a shift in your career? Manage your search with College Central, a resource for career-related articles, podcasts and employment positions. Visit collegecentral.com/laroche to create an account, or join the La Roche College Career Development group on LinkedIn for recent job postings. Alumni also may schedule an appointment with Coordinator of Career Development Rebecca Rosswog: rebecca.rosswog@laroche.edu.

1990s

Lisa Mikolajek Barton '99 and her husband welcomed their daughter, Evangeline Grace, in September of 2012.



Jill L. Ferguson '92 recently signed her fourth book contract. "Assessment in Creative Disciplines: Quantifying and Qualifying the Aesthetic," written with David Chase and J. Joseph Hoey IV, will be published in early 2014 by Common Ground at the University of Illinois.



College Launches Alumni Varsity Club

La Roche College has established the La Roche College Alumni Varsity Club, the first all-inclusive organization for former athletes.

The Varsity Club provides an opportunity for alumni to continue a relationship with their alma mater and establish a connection with today's students. Membership is free and open to anyone who played a collegiate sport at La Roche, no matter the team or era.

Members of the Varsity Club enjoy opportunities to reconnect with former athletes, support today's students and attend exclusive reunions and events. Working with the Office of Alumni Relations, alumni athletes plan and participate in athletic reunions, attend the La Roche Athletic Hall of Fame inductions, and serve as alumni office liaisons.

Director of Alumni Relations Gina Miller said the College chose to establish the Varsity Club after holding successful athletic reunions for men's basketball, men's baseball and women's volleyball. Ms. Miller said, "Alumni have asked for a way to remain connected in an ongoing, organized way. This club will be the perfect vehicle for alumni athletes to stay involved with their alma mater."

Alumni athletes also can experience the exhilaration of a good game or outstanding performance - this time from the sidelines. Varsity Club members enjoy opportunities to attend sporting events and support current La Roche athletes in championships and away games.

To become a member of the Alumni Varsity Club, please submit your name, current mailing address and email address to gina.miller@laroche.edu.



Riley Folds '97 published his first book, "Your Queer Career," a career resource for LGBTQ job seekers.



Natasha Garrett '96 and her mother-in-law shared their Macedonian poetry translations during a reading at the Macedonian United Diaspora in Washington, D.C. in October. Their translations were published in two literary journals "Arts and Letters" and "Christian Century."

Denise A Scharding Grdnic '98 '06 is now the director of nursing at Pediatric Specialty Care Hopewell. Ms. Grdnic previously worked at Bayada Home Health, Stat Staffing, Villa St. Joseph and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh on the transplant floor and in the emergency department.

Sister Bibianna Hwang '99 pursued a master's degree in graphic design and currently works in Parish Ministry in the Diocese of Seoul.

Sister Michaela Park '98 works in the Marriage Tribunal Office in the Diocese of Suwon, South Korea.

Gus Pennock '97 was promoted to a brand compliance manager position with the Los Angeles-based brand firm SKG / Schawk (Los Angeles, Calif.). Mr. Pennock is responsible for the day-to-day brand compliance, advocacy and education worldwide, evaluating effective cohesiveness across multiple marketing channels and customer touch-points. He resides in the Phoenix, Ariz. area.

Gloria J. Rodriguez-Ransom '95 completed The Infant Mental Health Certification Program at Chatham University in 2012 and became licensed for The PLAY Project, an intense play-based intervention for families and children with autism.

2000S

Sister Stella Chung '02 is pursuing a master's degree in psychology while working full-time in pastoral care at a hospital in South Korea.

Pam Corn '04 won first place for the mobile site she designed and built for her current employer. Ms. Corn received the Platinum Award for Best Mobile App by Hanley Wood Brand Builder Manufacturer Awards.



New York City Dinner Party

The New York City Alumni Chapter will hold its first gathering for former students to meet each other and celebrate the holiday season on Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Chop House, Heartland Brewery. The event will run from 6 to 9 p.m., and Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., president of La Roche College, will be the special guest. Visit laroche.edu/nyc to register.

Whitney Kerr '09 has received several promotions by securing high-level clientele in residential, commercial and special event design and consultation. Ms. Kerr currently travels throughout the United States to serve clients at corporate special events and trade shows. She now works as a senior account executive for DesignShop Group of Companies, headquartered in Orlando, Fla. and is an independent model and spokesperson for various agencies. Ms. Kerr was named Miss Earth Florida in 2012 and placed in the top seven at Miss Earth United States.

Sister Columba Kim '00 completed a two-year certificate program in religious formation. Sister Kim serves as novice director for the St. Joseph Province (Korea) of Sisters of Divine Providence.

Sister Rosa Kim '04 is a member of provincial leadership team for the St. Joseph Province in South Korea and is the business manager for Charity House.

Sister Teresa Kim '06 pursued a two-year certificate program in religious formation. She currently serves as postulant director/vocation director for the Korean Province in South Korea.

Melissa Killian '03 won first place in the Children's Literature category of the 2013 Writers-Editors Network International Writing Competition for her short story "The Metamorphosis of a Marshmallow." Ms. Killian is currently working on a young adult novel and teaches preschool.

Sister Hanna Park '09 is in Parish Ministry for the Incheon Diocese in South Korea.

Erin May '03 was honored for her professional achievement and nonprofit involvement in "Pittsburgh's 50 Finest" by the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Carrie Nurnberger '06 is now the library director of North Versailles Public Library. She married Dennis Lane on Oct. 26, 2013.

Andrea Peck '00 became principal of Seneca Valley Middle School in 2012. She now is pursuing an educational doctorate degree at the University of Pittsburgh.

Mike Radich '05 and his wife, Mandie, welcomed their first son on June 27.



Jeff '07 and Laura Saporito '08 met at La Roche in 2004 and married in 2009. On Aug. 16, 2013 they welcomed fraternal twins, Dexter James and Sadie Jane. Laura currently teaches dance, and Jeff works as an Internet business manager. The couple lives in Houston, Pa.



Suzi (Thomchick) Shotter '08 married Jason Shotter on May 4, 2013, at the National Aviary. She and her husband moved to Finleyville, Pa. and are expecting twins in February of 2014.



Tip Solomon '85, Connie Solomon and Lisa Mlinac.

Dallas Area Alumni Dinner Party

With 83 alumni living in Texas and 38 in the Dallas area, La Roche held its first gathering in Texas for alumni to meet each other and become reacquainted. The dinner party was held in November at ilume GALLERIE, owned by alumnus Ron Radwanski '77.

Melissa Vrable '07 is now the assistant director of admissions at Alvernia University in Reading, Pa.



Jeff White '01 and Nicole White '02 welcomed their second child, Camden Jeffrey, on Dec. 15, 2012.



Elizabeth Williams '07 married Andrew Herman in October of 2013 at Saint Rosalia's Church, and Father Peter Horton officiated the ceremony. This fall, Ms. Williams also released her first published book, "Pittsburgh in World War I: Arsenal of the Allies," which explores the Pittsburgh area as it was transformed

from the Smoky City into the Arsenal of the Allies. Ms. Williams also works as the La Roche College archivist.

Sister Martha Yang '06 now serves on the General Leadership Team of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

2010S

Christine Chismar '11, a first grade team leader, entered her third and final year of teaching before becoming tenured.

Chris Churilla '10 now teaches fifth grade math and science at Shaler Area School District. Mr. Churilla also works at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium in the Visitor Services department.

Chris K. DeCrane '10 moved to Bluffton, South Carolina and now works as an officer with the Bluffton Police Department. Mr. DeCrane married his wife, Jacqueline, in April of 2013. The couple will welcome their son, Jason Scott Decrane, this January.



Florida Alumni Receptions

Two different alumni receptions are being planned for March of 2014 in the Tampa / St. Petersburg area and the Miami / Ft. Lauderdale area. All Florida alumni and visitors are invited to attend. For more information and to request an invitation, contact Director of Alumni Relations Gina Miller at 412-585-1845 or gina.miller@laroche.edu.

Serge Gasana '13 joined ParenteBeard, a top 25 accounting firm, as a staff accountant in September of 2013.

Scott R. Genser '12 recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. He now is certified as a machinist mate.

Sister Susanna Jung '12 runs the Providence Migrant Worker Center in Suwon, South Korea.

Timothy R. Layman '13 recently accepted a position as a clinical nurse manager in a 28-bed intensive care unit.

Becky Lewis '12 was named Teacher of the Month in September at Mattamuskeet Elementary School in North Carolina, where she teaches first grade.



Sarah Egolf McKinney '11 married **Eric McKinney '11** in September of 2013. Ms. McKinney and her husband met through the Graphic Design program during their freshman year at La Roche.

Peggy Schmiedecke HRM '12 was recently promoted to assistant director of admissions at La Roche.

Christina Shields '12 started her own professional photography business in 2009. Ms. Shields now works as an image retoucher for ModCloth, an American online retailer specializing in vintage, vintage-inspired and indie clothing, accessories and décor.

Nicole Shuster '12 accepted a fourth grade teaching position with Manassas Park City Schools in Manassas Park, Va.

Tara Smith '11 completed a year-long term of service with KEYS-AmeriCorps. Ms. Smith's placement site was with the Community Human Services in South Oakland. She served as the volunteer coordinator for the Oakland Food Pantry and was a community liaison.

Sister Theresa Yue '11 is in Parish Ministry for the Incheon Diocese in South Korea.

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