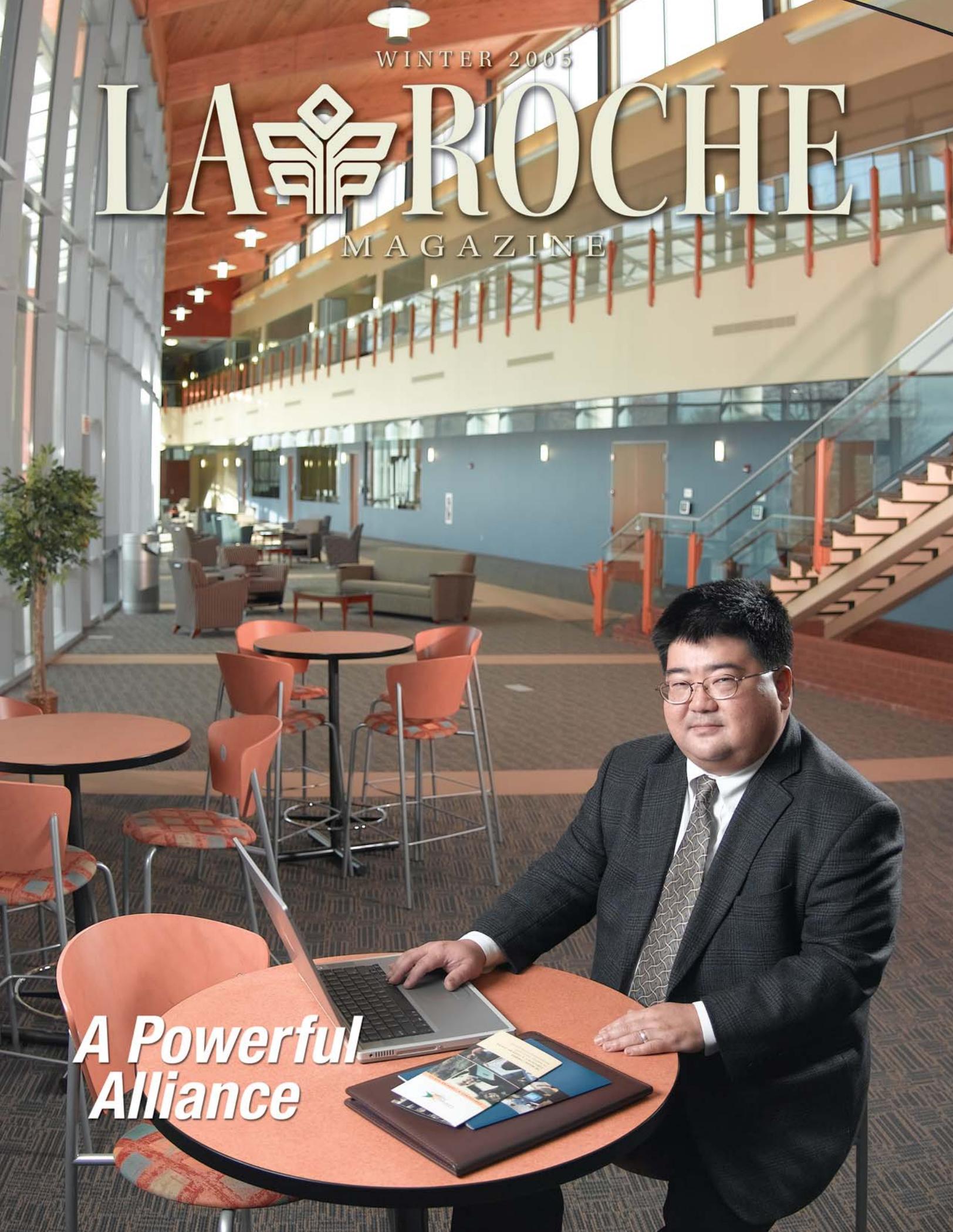


WINTER 2005

# LA ROCHE

MAGAZINE

***A Powerful  
Alliance***



# Back Home

Thomas Wolfe warned that “you can’t go home again.” But this admonition, like many seemingly absolute statements, turns out to be not quite that simple. With the completion of my first six months as president – a position that represented something of a homecoming for me, after being away for 13 years – I think I have gained a few insights into the nature of “going home.”

Among the first things you notice, after being away for a number of years, are the obvious physical changes to the campus. The new classroom building with its state-of-the-art instructional technology, the fitness center, the new residence halls, all represent handsome additions to the campus landscape. As new and different as these facilities are to the physical environment, it doesn’t take long to discover that they are just the latest material manifestations of a learning environment that has remained steadfast in its core values over the years.

One key aspect of the College’s learning environment is our commitment to academic excellence. That commitment was recognized most recently when the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted last semester to reaffirm our accreditation. This decision by Middle States represents the final step in a process that began almost two years ago with the preparation of the College’s self-study report. The reaffirmation of the College’s accreditation reflects the dedication and commitment of everyone at La Roche to serving our students and furthering our mission.

There are a number of factors that contribute to our academic excellence. First and foremost is the quality of our faculty. Not only are they recognized experts in their respective disciplines, with the publications and honors to prove it, but, as I am sure that many of our alumni can attest, they are also excellent teachers who care deeply about their students.

Another essential component of our academic excellence is our students themselves – young people who enliven the campus with their intellectual curiosity and their sense of exploration and discovery.

Finally, the real proof of our academic excellence is found in our alumni. As our graduates go forth into the world, they continue to make their mark in their chosen careers and their success continues to reflect well on La Roche. One of the most gratifying experiences I have as president is to hear compliments about our graduates from area employers.

As I begin my second semester as president, I am grateful for all of the good wishes and support that I have received from faculty, staff, students, alumni and others in the community, and I am excited about the progress that the College has made and some of the new directions that we are pursuing. As we all work together to move the College forward, I can say, without hesitation, that it good to be “home again.”



*Sister Candace Introcaso*

Sister Candace Introcaso  
President

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

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Students from the Pittsburgh Public Schools collect evidence during "CSI: La Roche."

## GETTING A CLUE

This year, high school students from across the region became crime scene investigators and forensic scientists by attending "CSI: La Roche," a four-day workshop designed to connect evidence collection with scientific analysis. A dozen students from the Pittsburgh Public Schools attended the inaugural edition of the camp this summer. In November, a select group of the best and brightest science students from the region attended the second such camp.

"What TV shows such as 'CSI' don't show you are the hours of work and precise analysis that forensic scientists must perform before they can help catch a criminal," said Roberta Hartman, professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry and an instructor for the camp. "The students who attended these camps have a much better sense of that now."

"CSI: La Roche" utilized the College's Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Lab, which employs fingerprinting techniques, mock crime scenes and other practical exercises. After students recovered evidence at a mock crime scene, they processed the evidence in the College's biology and chemistry labs. From their analysis, students drew conclusions, named a suspect, and presented their findings at a reception on the camp's final day. This fall, the departments of chemistry and biology expanded their curriculum to offer bachelor's degrees in both disciplines with a concentration in forensic science.

## Leaders for Today and Tomorrow

La Roche College students tackled important global issues such as gender equality, human rights and poverty this fall. The Student Government Association formed a partnership with the offices of Academic Affairs and College Activities to sponsor a forum titled "Global Problems, Global Solutions: Leadership and Action for Today and Tomorrow." Organizers invited students from peer institutions in the greater Pittsburgh area to participate in engaging discussions and workshops. The event drew 100 participants.

"This generation faces difficult challenges in the decades ahead — the AIDS crisis in Africa, turmoil in the Middle East, global hunger, an endangered environment, and more" reflected Paul Le Blanc, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and one of the chief organizers of the event. "I am encouraged that so many of our students and faculty are confronting these issues in the spirit of the La Roche College mission."

Featured speaker for the event was Eveline Herfkens, United Nations Executive Coordinator of the Millennium Development Goals Campaign. Herfkens has served as the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation and as a member of the World Bank and IMF Development Committee. Formerly a member of Parliament in the Netherlands, she has also served on the Council of the Labor Party and the Development Committee of the Netherlands Council of Churches. Other speakers included Liz Carty, National Outreach Coordinator of Oxfam America, and Barney Oursler, Director of the Mon Valley Unemployed Committee.



**GLOBAL PROBLEMS  
GLOBAL SOLUTIONS**

PHOTOGRAPHY: RIC EVANS



# FRESH FACES

**A**t the beginning of the 2004-2005 academic year, the La Roche community witnessed one of the most tangible signs of the College's recent growth and development.

Faculty welcomed into their classrooms one of the largest contingents of new students in recent years. Total enrollment stood at 1,681 students. That included 350 new students, including 215 freshmen (a 24 percent increase over last year) and 135 transfer students (representing a 32 percent increase compared to last year.)

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

"We're delighted by the number and quality of students that are attending La Roche for the first time," said Thomas Schaefer, assistant vice president for academic affairs and dean of enrollment services, referring to this year's new students.

Along with a nationally ranked website (*see companion article*), counselors in the Office of Admissions are recruiting the next freshman class with recently updated marketing materials, including a new freshman view book that gives prospective students a comprehensive look at how a La Roche education can prepare them for the next step in their lives. The view book's premise has several major underpinnings. It articulates the College's approach to education, one that combines thoughtful instruction,



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

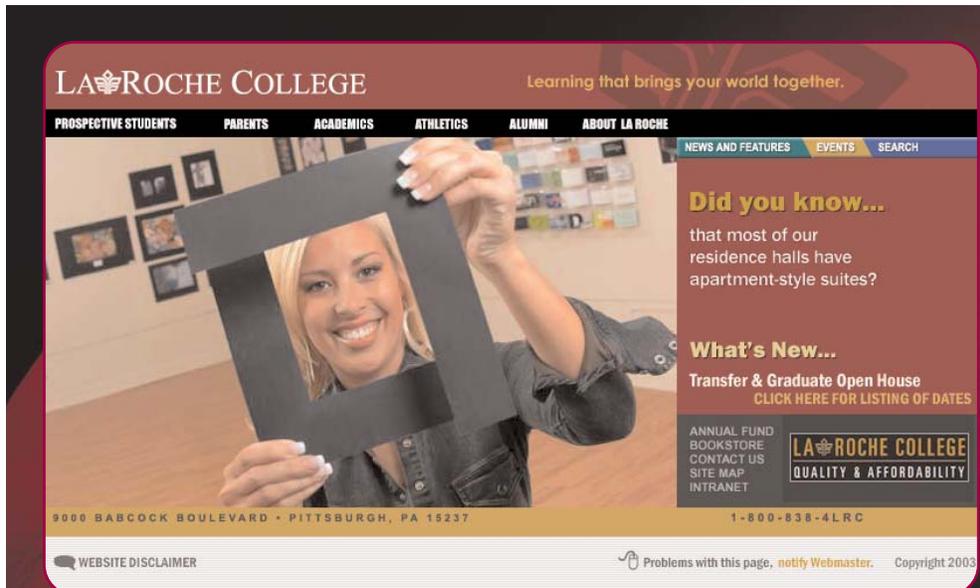
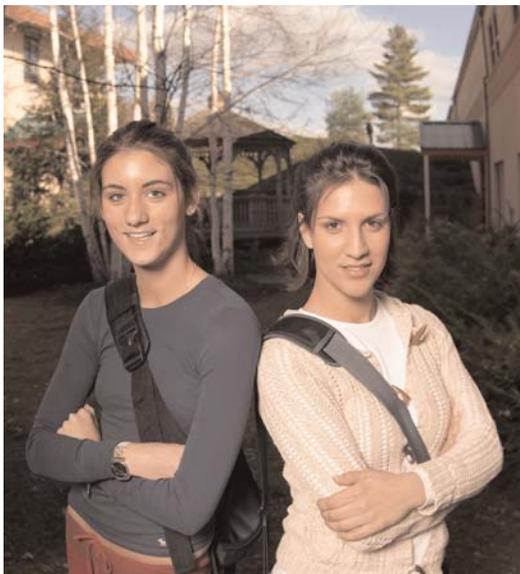
- Sister Candace Introcaso

personalized attention and 21st-century technology to prepare students for a global economy. It highlights the College's beautiful campus at the doorstep of Pittsburgh, PA, a campus that is nationally ranked for being safe and culturally diverse because its students come from across the globe. In addition, the view book underscores the College's firm commitment to its Catholic roots and a belief that a college education should involve more than solely intellectual or social pursuits.

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

- Thomas Schaefer

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



## Well Woven Web

**T**he La Roche College website ranks among the top seven percent of college and university websites nationally, according to a study by the National Research Center for College and University Admissions (NRCCUA).

The recently released study examined almost 3,000 sites to determine their effectiveness as a student recruitment tool. The study evaluated each site on 40 different objective criteria, including appeal, ease of navigation, completeness of information and overall quality. The La Roche College website was ranked 212 out of the 2,931 sites evaluated.

The Office of Public Relations unveiled the College's new website in October 2003, replacing its predecessor that was two years old. The new site includes: a more user-friendly navigational system; detailed information on how to plan a visit to campus; a comprehensive look at admissions, financial aid and student life at La Roche; an online application; biographical information on deans and faculty members; an augmented presence for athletics; a search function; and a site map. Plans are under way to further enhance the site by providing more information on individual academic programs.

# A Powerful Alliance

BY JEFF DONALDSON

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

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

This potential for growth and expansion makes the Cranberry area the perfect home for La Roche College's newest satellite campus, located in the recently completed Regional Learning Alliance (RLA) at Cranberry Woods. A state-of-the-art education and conference center in nearby Marshall Township, Allegheny County, the RLA is the product of a groundbreaking partnership between 11 local colleges, universities and proprietary schools in the Pittsburgh area, including La Roche.

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

"We believe that we can make a huge difference in the local economy and help develop a local workforce that's ready to take on new jobs and help rebuild the area," noted Mitch Seltzer, general manager of the Regional Learning Alliance. "These resources aren't available anywhere else in southwestern Pennsylvania."

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

PHOTO: RIC EVANS



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

## A Look Inside

Completed in August 2004, the Regional Learning Alliance at Cranberry Woods is housed in the Cranberry Woods Office Park, located off Route 228 in Cranberry Township and adjacent Marshall Township. The 76,000-square-foot modern facility boasts a grand entrance and main hallway with sweeping windows that seem to reach to the sky. The 32-foot wooden ceiling in the main foyer is fashioned out of Arkansas Yellow Pine. A “green” building, the RLA boasts a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) designation, which requires contractors to adhere to strict environmentally-friendly construction guidelines.

**“It’s a beautiful facility,” said Ishiyama. “Beyond that, everything is under one roof.”**

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

## Accessibility and Possibilities

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

“Even though the RLA is only 15 or 20 minutes from La Roche’s main campus, because of its proximity to these major corridors, it makes us much more accessible to potential students,” said Ishiyama.

Combine that with childcare services, in-house dining, and 21st-century technology, and the College is now operating an adult-centered satellite campus.

*(Continued on page 10)*



PHOTO: RIC EVANS

**“The adult market is too important from a reputation and revenue perspective. If we offer an educational service that is first class and we have adults in this region that experience it, then we have emissaries that stretch across the region of Pittsburgh who are constantly championing the La Roche mission.”**

**- Howard Ishiyama**

# Choose Your Partner

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

- **Allegheny Valley Hospital:** Students pursuing a Master of Science in Health Sciences (Nurse Anesthesia) gain practical experience at this hospital when they enroll in this degree program.
- **Articulation Agreements:** La Roche College allows students to transfer credits from several Pittsburgh area community colleges, including: Community College of Allegheny County, Community College of Beaver County, Butler County Community College, and Westmoreland County Community College. La Roche has a similar agreement with Geneva College in Erie, PA and the University of Laval in Quebec, Canada.
- **Challenge Program:** This is an educational program for gifted students from 14 Pittsburgh area Catholic elementary schools.
- **Duquesne University:** La Roche students who enroll in degree programs such as Respiratory Therapy, Physical Therapy, Athletic Training, and Physicians Assistant complete part of their course work at La Roche and part of it at Duquesne University.
- **Newport Business Institute:** The College offers its LEAD (Leadership and Administrative Development) undergraduate degree completion program at this facility in Westmoreland County and maintains an articulation agreement with the institute, meaning its students can transfer credits to La Roche.
- **Ohio Valley General Hospital:** La Roche students that are pursuing degrees in Radiography or Nursing obtain practical experience through a partnership with this Pittsburgh area health care provider.
- **Palinet:** This consortium of regional colleges allows member institutions in greater Pittsburgh to share library resources.
- **Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education (PCHE):** La Roche is a longstanding member of this organization. That membership allows La Roche students to cross-register with other member institutions in the region.
- **Pittsburgh Filmmakers:** This past fall, La Roche College became the principle four-year institutional partner with this organization. Students who enroll in Film, Video and Media can tap into the resources of Pittsburgh Filmmakers (*see article on page 9*).
- **Pittsburgh Public Schools:** This past summer, students from the city school district attended the inaugural edition of "CSI: La Roche," a forensic science camp (*see companion article on page 3*). The College is also offering science scholarships to students in the district. In addition, the College is a member of the Student Teacher Network.
- **Regional Learning Alliance at Cranberry Woods:** This learning consortium and conference center opened its doors in the summer of 2004 and represents the collaboration of 12 Pittsburgh area colleges, universities and other proprietary schools.
- **REALTORS® Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh (RAMP):** This is the local branch of a national professional organization for realtors. The College has formed an exclusive relationship with RAMP, which supports La Roche's real estate degree program. Members of the organization serve as mentors for students. In addition, RAMP has helped La Roche secure a \$50,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Realtors Education Association to support the La Roche degree program.
- **Scholar Program:** Through this program, teachers in 17 western Pennsylvania high schools (both Catholic and public) are also adjunct professors at La Roche. They teach courses approved by La Roche in their districts. Students who complete these courses at their own high schools receive college credit.
- **Scholar Credit Initiative Program:** High school students in the Pittsburgh area can enroll in La Roche classes and earn up to 15 credits toward their college education while they are still in high school. They may transfer the credits to La Roche or to another college or university.
- **Sewickley Valley Hospital:** Students in the College's Radiography and Nursing programs gain practical experience at this hospital through this partnership.
- **St. Clair Hospital:** This Pittsburgh area health care provider also serves as a place for nursing students at La Roche to get on-the-job training.
- **University of Pittsburgh:** Through this partnership, students who enroll in La Roche's Chemical Engineering or Material Sciences Engineering spend the first three years at La Roche and complete their studies at Pitt.
- **UPMC Passavant:** This hospital serves as more than La Roche's neighbor on Babcock Boulevard in Pittsburgh's North Hills. UPMC Passavant has given La Roche a \$50,000 grant to support the Associate of Science in Nursing Lab, located in Providence Hall on the West Campus. In addition, the College is holding ongoing discussions with the hospital to expand La Roche's health-related course offerings and degree programs.
- **Westmoreland Hospital:** La Roche students enrolled in the Master of Science in Health Sciences (Nurse Anesthesia) program get their practical training at this hospital.

“The adult market is too important from a reputation and revenue perspective,” remarked Ishiyama. “If we offer an educational service that is first class and we have adults in this region that experience it, then we have emissaries that stretch across the region of Pittsburgh who are constantly championing the La Roche mission.”

These factors contribute to making the RLA a linchpin in the College’s plans to recapture that adult student market in the region.

## The La Roche Approach

In January 2005, La Roche College will begin offering courses in two adult-oriented academic programs at the Regional Learning Alliance. For those seeking an advanced degree, the Master of Science in Human Resources Management (HRM) is one of the most comprehensive programs of its kind in the area. The program is tailored to the needs of the HR professional and offers a solid managerial base to others who take on the challenge of managing a workforce. The College will also offer LEAD (Leadership and Administrative Development), an undergraduate degree completion program for students seeking careers in business and management.

Ishiyama says his office is also considering the possibility of offering a Certificate in Gerontology at the RLA.

“Western Pennsylvania has the second oldest average age population of any area in the United States, second only to a region of Florida,” noted Ishiyama. “We have particular needs in this area. The Gerontology Certificate is focused on training and educating people who are interested in understanding the special needs of older persons. It’s a growing field.”

**“The need for specialized training in a corporate setting is growing in the greater Pittsburgh area. The region is home to many multinational corporations, which means people employed in our area travel the world.”**

- Thomas Schaefer

The College plans on operating a Writers’ Center at the RLA similar to the one on La Roche’s main campus. Experienced professional writers and English professors can offer advice and counsel to students tackling a term paper or other writing project. They can review drafts, help interpret suggestions from a professor or provide direction on the project’s next logical step. The services would be available to any student taking classes at the facility.

In cooperation with another area college, La Roche is exploring the possibility of offering language training to children who become clients in the RLA’s child care center. Other areas of potential growth are in the area of corporate language training.



From left: Cookie Roberson, Sister Candace Introcaso and Ralph Gilbert.

## Regents Visit RLA

In September, members of the La Roche College Board of Regents witnessed the College’s newest expansion efforts by holding their fall meeting at the Regional Learning Alliance at Cranberry Woods.

It is the College’s newest satellite campus and the product of a partnership between 10 other local proprietary schools, colleges and universities.

“Tonight’s event and the College’s academic presence here in this beautiful facility provide tangible proof that we are on the leading edge of a progressive approach to education,” said Sister Candace Introcaso, La Roche president. Introcaso went on to congratulate the newly appointed officers of the Board of Regents: Ralph Gilbert, senior vice president with HDR Engineering, Inc., Pittsburgh, who is serving as chair; and Cookie Roberson, longtime development professional in the Pittsburgh area, who is serving as vice chair.

The Board of Regents also learned more about La Roche’s academic offerings at Cranberry Woods from three members of the College’s academic community: Howard J. Ishiyama, vice president for academic affairs; Jean Forti, professor and chair of Human Resources Management; and Lance Schaeffer, assistant dean of academic affairs. In January, La Roche faculty will offer two programs at Cranberry Woods tailored to the adult learner: the Master of Science in Human Resources Management (HRM) and various HRM certificate programs; and LEAD (Leadership and Administrative Development), an undergraduate degree completion program for those seeking careers in business and management.

## In The Picture

**A**s the electronic media grows in both size and influence, the number of young people pursuing careers in the profession also continues to rise.

In response to this demand, La Roche College has formed a partnership with Pittsburgh Filmmakers to launch a new program called Film, Video and Media. Students began enrolling in the program this fall.



“This new initiative will greatly benefit our students,” said Howard Ishiyama, vice president for academic affairs. “It’s the perfect combination of sound theory and practical application.”

Students take various liberal arts courses about electronic media and its impact on society, and they work to develop critical thinking and writing skills in that context. They then have access to state-of-the-art equipment at Pittsburgh Filmmakers used to produce television programs and films. This fall, the College attained accreditation for the program through the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

“The need for specialized training in a corporate setting is growing in the greater Pittsburgh area. The region is home to many multinational corporations, which means people employed in our area travel the world,” noted Thomas Schaefer, Ph.D., assistant vice president for academic affairs and dean of enrollment services. “Perhaps a company is sending a team to the Far East or the Middle East to view the progress of a new venture. We can arrange for workshops that will give that team crucial language skills before they book their trip. They’ll be better prepared to conduct business when they are overseas.”

**“We are offering maximum flexibility. What we can do in Cranberry that others cannot is offer the collaboration across several universities and colleges, multiple perspectives on programs and classes, even on educational approaches.”**

- Howard Ishiyama

## The “Education Mall” Concept

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

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

Ishiyama has already formulated potential answers to such a question. For example, students who enroll in the LEAD degree completion program through La Roche might be able to take some of their electives at partner institutions who also offer courses at the RLA.

“We are offering maximum flexibility,” said Ishiyama. “What we can do in Cranberry that others cannot is offer the collaboration across several universities and colleges, multiple perspectives on programs and classes, even on educational approaches.”

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

“I can imagine this going across the nation in some limited fashion,” noted Ishiyama, who stresses that discussions on that front are only in their preliminary stages.

Perhaps La Roche College will have to wait a few years before it can open a satellite campus in cities such as Baltimore or Philadelphia. For now, Ishiyama is content that the College was instrumental in formulating a prototype, a new model for adult higher education in the United States.

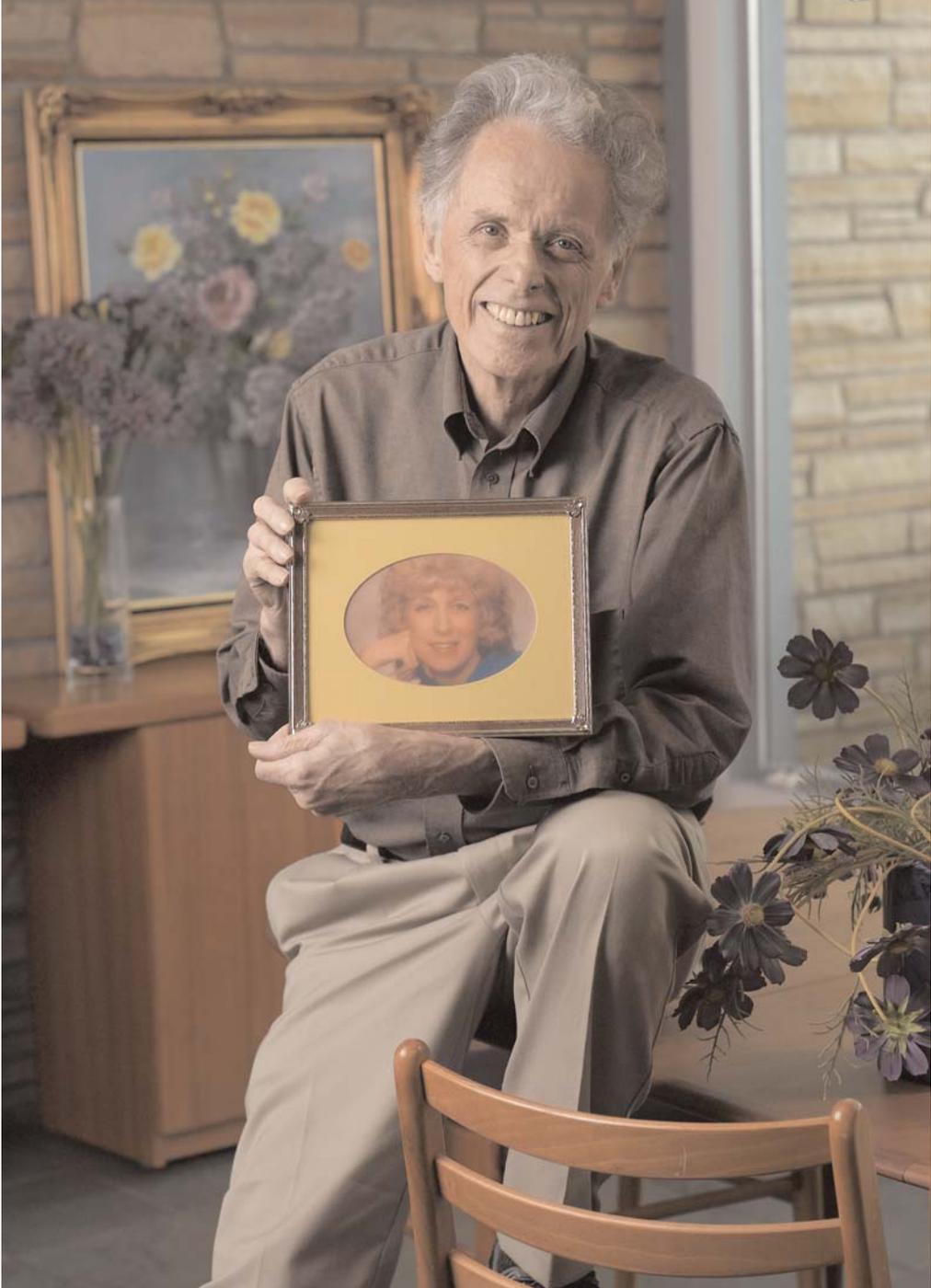


PHOTO: RIC EVANS

# FINAL GIFT

BY DARRAH PRICE

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

**A**s a teacher, mentor, author, and psychotherapist, Kris Rosenberg touched many lives, including her students at La Roche College, where she was an adjunct instructor of psychology for more than 20 years. Rosenberg raised four daughters and then returned to school at the age of 35 to finish her degree. She always supported La Roche women who were returning students.

To pay tribute to his wife's legacy, Harry Rosenberg recently established the Kris Rosenberg Memorial Scholarship Fund for Returning Women at La Roche College. Rosenberg's choice of La Roche for the scholarship was easy because of his wife's deep connections with the College.

"She felt at home there. Everyone was like family," reflected Rosenberg. "La Roche always made her day."

Kris Rosenberg's life is a testament to a life lived with enthusiasm and determination. She lived by a specific mantra: "Do you want a paint-by-number life or are you working on an original?" She spent her early years in Alabama, and although she began college, she left school after her first semester to marry her first husband. Soon, she had two daughters. Then, at the age of 27, Rosenberg caught polio and lost the use of nearly all of her trunk muscles except one in her back. Although this condition presented physical limitations, Rosenberg went on to give birth to two more daughters.

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

- Harry Rosenberg

After her first marriage ended in divorce, Kris Rosenberg met and married Harry Rosenberg when the two were living in Las Vegas. With Harry's encouragement, Kris went back to college full time at the University of Las Vegas – Nevada, earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology. She worked as a school psychologist in Las Vegas and also began her own psychotherapy practice while teaching part time at a community college. She loved teaching so much that she chose it as her lifelong profession.

"Kris really understood her students from the inside out," said Rosenberg. "She was a natural, instinctive psychologist who made the subject come alive for students. They knew that they could use what they were learning."

In the late 1970s, the Rosenbergs moved to Pittsburgh and Kris became an adjunct professor of psychology at La Roche College. While she was teaching, she maintained a private psychotherapy practice out of her home. At one point, she was

teaching as an adjunct faculty member at five local schools (including La Roche) and seeing patients.

During her time at La Roche, Kris spent time helping her students gain skills they would need to secure their first job. She conducted mock interviews with students and held workshops on resume writing.

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

In addition to her teaching and counseling duties, Rosenberg found time to write a book. *Talk to Me: A Therapist's Guide to Breaking Through the Male Silence* has gone through five translations. To recognize the success of her book and her contributions to La Roche, Rosenberg received the Mary C. Stuart Award from the College in 1994. Rosenberg was also very active at Kearns Spirituality Center. She donated funds to install the Center's Labyrinth, led a women's study group and also gave presentations there. She retired from teaching in 2000.

The Kris Rosenberg Memorial Scholarship Fund for Returning Women will assist women who return to school after taking time off to work or to raise a family. Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, the fund will award a minimum of two \$1,000 scholarships to women who are either returning to higher education after a period of absence or are beginning their

pursuit of an undergraduate or graduate degree after postponing that degree due to extenuating circumstances, such as raising children or health difficulties.

To be eligible, applicants must be at least 25 years of age, have attained a grade point average of 3.25, and have demonstrated a financial need. Applicants must also submit a 500-word essay describing their academic and professional goals.

"The scholarship will support one or two women in its first year and continue to do the same in the coming years," said Rosenberg. "We're hoping to get half a dozen or so scholarships awarded by the end of the decade. Our hope is that the women will then give back to the fund and help enable the program to continue."

Harry Rosenberg remembers that his late wife, Kris, reached out to everyone she encountered. He believes her legacy will enable women to reach for possibilities in their own lives. To him, that is a fitting tribute.



# SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BY RON CICHOWICZ

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PHOTO: RIC EVANS

Sister Candace Introcaso holds her weekly meeting with the Executive Council in her office chambers.

## A WARM WELCOME

**T**he seventh president of La Roche College officially assumed the duties of her office on July 1. Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., received a warm welcome from faculty and staff during an open house in the president's suite, held on July 7.

"The entire campus community has truly made me feel at home - from administrators and staff members to faculty, students, trustees, alumni and others," said Introcaso. "I am excited about the challenges ahead."

Introcaso outlined some of those challenges during her first campus-wide presentation at opening day ceremonies on August 17, 2004. Faculty, administrators and staff gathered in the Cantellos Dining Hall for the event.

"I believe that we are well positioned to meet any challenge we face because of the commitment of this community and the strength of La Roche's institutional culture," noted Introcaso.

In her presentation, Introcaso reminded those in attendance that the College has faced its share of challenges in its four decades of existence. In the late 1960s, the Sisters of Divine Providence voted to close La Roche College because of a fiscal deficit. State officials and others encouraged the founding congregation to remain steadfast, and the College community persevered.

"Can we bring to bear on the future the lessons of determination from the past?" challenged Introcaso. "Can we be innovative and entrepreneurial and still function within our means?"

- Sister Candace Introcaso

Introcaso noted that the College's master plan calls for growth in both enrollment and facilities. She also called on those assembled to continue advancing the College's mission of maintaining a global community of learners.

A member of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Introcaso served as a member of the La Roche College Board of Trustees for three years prior to her election as president.

## Opening Prayer

**T**he Most Reverend Donald W. Wuerl, Bishop of Pittsburgh, served as celebrant for the annual Mass of the Holy Spirit on Tuesday, August 24, in the Magdalen Chapel. Held annually at the beginning of the school year, the mass calls on the Holy Spirit to guide students in their studies.

"In life, we face important questions. What values will direct my life?" said Wuerl. "A Catholic college provides a forum for the search for those truths. This is a wondrous opportunity to grow in the knowledge that helps us to be enlightened."

Joining Wuerl as co-celebrants for the mass were: Rev. Thomas Schaefer, assistant vice president for academic affairs; Rev. Peter Horton, campus minister and Rev. Patrick O'Brien, professor of religious studies.

On Wednesday, August 25, new students and parents joined faculty and staff for the Convocation, which marks the official beginning of the academic year.

Janet Gates, associate professor of psychology, offered the event's keynote address. At La Roche's May 2004 commencement, graduates honored her by naming her the recipient of the Brother Gregory Nugent Award for Faculty Excellence. The award is given annually to a member of the faculty who - in the estimation of the graduating students - is an outstanding teacher and dedicated mentor.

**"Seeing the students return at the start of a new term is always a happy occasion. You are an essential party of our campus community. The vitality and energy that you bring is infectious."**

- Sister Candace Introcaso

"You are at the beginning of an incredible adventure," Gates told the new students. "What is most exciting is your introduction to the life of the mind. You will be learning to think critically and develop a world view that is way beyond your current perspective."

Students recited the La Roche College Honor Code and then were invited to join faculty and staff at a picnic held behind the extension to Bold Hall.

# A Higher Calling

People who dedicate themselves to religious life often do so after a calling from a higher power. This year, three members of the La Roche community celebrated important jubilees, and their individual milestones provide an inspiration to others.



From left: Sr. Carolyn Winschel, CDP, Ph.D., Rev. W. Peter Horton, M. Div., M.A. and Sr. Zita Kessler, CDP.

## Sr. Carolyn Winschel, CDP, Ph.D.

When Sister Carolyn Winschel marked her 50th jubilee as a member of the Congregation of Divine Providence this past summer, her family prepared a special memento to mark the occasion. Her sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews and friends all wrote personal letters to her and then compiled the letters in a commemorative book.

“There’s so much love in those letters that I’m overwhelmed,” remarked Winschel, who serves as special assistant to the president for mission and planning at La Roche. “I felt proud and at the same time humbled. I am very grateful for the experiences I’ve had.”

A native of Glenshaw, PA, Winschel holds a BS in education from Duquesne University, an MS in biology education from The Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Pittsburgh. She attended high school at Divine Providence Academy, where she was taught by members of the congregation that she ultimately joined. Winschel remembers seeing them as role models.

“Our spirit is the charism of providence, which means making God’s providence more visible,” said Winschel of her congregation. “I think that’s the lifeblood. That’s what keeps us going – the mission.”

Winschel says she works to keep that charism alive in her daily life – in how she approaches people and in how she approaches her work. For the past 30 years, she has served the La Roche community as both a senior administrator and member of the Board of Trustees.

As she looks back on how much the College has grown and changed, Winschel is most pleased with its international

dimension, produced in part by the Pacem In Terris program that provides scholarship assistance to students from developing and post-conflict nations.

"I think it really changed the face of the campus – not just in terms of color and nationality but in terms of looking at the world differently," noted Winschel. She believes it is vital that the College maintain a commitment to diversity as it prepares students for global citizenship.

### **Rev W. Peter Horton, M. Div., M.A.**

**A**t one time, Rev. Peter Horton considered careers in medicine and law. Ultimately, he chose the priesthood, in part because of his parents' unconditional love for each other and their dedication to their faith.

"It was never an obligation to my parents. I never heard from them, 'We have to go to church.' We just did," said Horton, campus minister at La Roche who marked his 25th jubilee this year. "We never heard that faith was a burden. It was always a joy and a privilege that we had, a blessing. They celebrated it that way."

Horton was ordained on September 29, 1979 at Saint Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh's Oakland section. He attended Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, and holds a BA in Classical Languages and Philosophy from Duquesne University, an M.Div. from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary and an MA in Pastoral Ministry from Duquesne University.

Following his graduation from seminary, Horton served in various parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He became La Roche's campus minister in 1994 following a difficult period in his last parish, which had gone through a consolidation.

"I had never seen that kind of hostility before, and I was really disillusioned," recalled Horton, who credits his La Roche experience with restoring his sense of hope. "The people here are remarkable. We always work together to do our best for the students."

Horton recognizes the immense responsibility placed upon him as a priest. He is called upon to share pivotal moments in people's lives – from baptism, to marriage, to death. In his role as campus minister, he has learned to appreciate the zeal and energy of today's generation.

"It is so refreshing to be with young men and women who, though they may approach it differently, are really on fire for their faith. They offer you challenges in the classroom and spiritually," said Horton of today's La Roche students. "We've labeled this generation in so many ways, yet they still care about their faith and what's essential. They still care about building a better world."

### **Sr. Zita Kessler, CDP**

**S**he greets students, staff, faculty and visitors with a smile and a kind word as she occupies the receptionist's chair in Providence Hall on the College's West Campus. Sr. Zita Kessler, CDP, likes that her current job exposes her to today's generation.

"I love meeting the students and talking to them," said Kessler, who celebrated her 50th jubilee this past year. "It makes me feel young interacting with them."

A native of Glenshaw, PA, Kessler is one of eight children. The Sisters of Divine Providence were her teachers from the time she was in elementary school. She attended St. Mary's Catholic High School in Sharpsburg and entered the convent in her junior year.

"I always loved the Sisters," said Kessler. "Any time when my mother and father couldn't find me, I was at the convent. I stayed after school. I had such love for religious life, and I wanted to be a nun. When I went to my mother and father, they were absolutely thrilled."

In 1959, Kessler accepted an assignment at the Bishop's residence in Oakland. She served as housekeeper and cook for Bishops Wright and Leonard. After 14 years, she returned to Providence Heights and worked with the retired sisters in the assisted living unit.

"We took them to doctors, we bathed them, we took care of the kitchen," said Kessler, who noted that she felt privileged to help others in her congregation who needed it.

In 1986, Kessler became co-manager of St. Ambrose Manor in Pittsburgh, a federally subsidized high-rise apartment complex for the elderly and handicapped operated by the Sisters of Divine Providence. She oversaw the operation of the entire facility, and the job often required her to respond to three emergencies a night. She came to the College as a receptionist in 1999.

Retirement has never entered Sister Zita's mind. Her morning begins at 4:30 a.m. She is often charged with opening the switchboard at Providence Heights in the morning. She still works in the assisted living section of the motherhouse. She also acts as a valet, taking a sister to work and dropping off or picking up prescriptions for her colleagues.

"In every phase of my life, I have found only blessings," said Kessler. "I find the presence of God in word and sacrament as well as in the people I deal with daily."

To Kessler, a day well spent is one where she can look back and know that she made one person smile by her good deeds.

# CLASS NOTES

-  **Carmella Manges** '82, owner of Manges Marketing Services, Inc., in Pittsburgh, PA, was recently presented with an Award of Distinction from The Communicator Awards, Arlington TX. The Award honored a poster designed and written by Manges' firm for Citizens National Bank.
-  **Richard Kranias** '84 married Susan M. Garman on Saturday, May 3, 2003 at Christ Chapel, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA.
-  **Mark Brennan** '86, president and CEO of Clearview Federal Credit Union in suburban Pittsburgh, PA, was recently named to the *Pittsburgh Business Times*' 2004 "40 under 40" list.
-  **Rev. Cathy Newport** '87 has been appointed senior pastor at Stone United Methodist Church in Meadville, PA.
-  **Dory Adams** '88 is fiction editor and co-founder of *Paper Streets*, a new national literary journal launched in March 2004 at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP) in Chicago. The third edition of the publication is set for distribution this spring.
-  **Kathleen Sankovich** '91 is now the chief nursing officer at Clarion Hospital in Clarion, PA.
-  **Andrew Baloga** '95 was recently hired by Turner Construction in Pittsburgh, PA as a graphic designer.
-  **Chad Coblitz** '97 has been promoted to controller for Fidelity Bank in Perrysville, PA.
-  **Tom Interval** '97 is employed by Ansoft Corporation in Pittsburgh, PA as a public relations/marketing writer.
-  **Denise Scharding** '98 married Dale Allen Grdnic on February 1, 2002 in Conway, PA, where the couple now resides.
-  **Timothy Burns** '99 has been promoted to senior art director at Jampole Communications, Inc.
-  **Christina Hoffman** '00 is interim director for Child Evangelism Fellowship Greater Pittsburgh Ministries and lives in Pittsburgh's North Hills with husband John and sons Michael and Ethan.
-  **Amanda Titus** '00 is a graphic designer at SAI Consulting Engineers in Pittsburgh, PA. Her husband, Jim Titus '00, is employed by Brabender Cox. They live in Pittsburgh's North Hills.
-  **Keri Allison** '01 was recently hired as a graphic designer by Giant Ideas, a graphic design firm in Pittsburgh, PA.
-  **Darrah Price** '01 joins the La Roche College Office of Public Relations as a part-time public relations specialist. Price was an employee in the Office of Public Relations immediately following graduation before she went on to complete her graduate degree in English at Duquesne University. Most recently, she was a public relations specialist at McMahon & Cardillo in Robinson Township, PA. She is engaged to Justin Muchoney. The two have planned an April 2005 wedding.
-  **Mark Kuglar** '02 is now a fourth grade teacher in the South Fayette School District in suburban Pittsburgh, PA.
-  **Mike Willy** '03 has joined the La Roche College Office of Public Relations as a graphic designer. He was previously employed by Alphagraphics in Pittsburgh, PA.
-  **Jodie Steegman Tabano** M'03 married Steve Tabano on 10/2/04 in Bellevue, PA. Steegman is currently Manager of Special Events at the American Lung Association of Pittsburgh.
-  **Nicole Bianchi** '04 and **Amy Jackson** '04 are employed by Klauscher Architects, an interior design firm in Pittsburgh, PA.
-  **Brian M. Moore** '94 was named creative director for Ripple Effects Interactive, an interactive marketing agency in Pittsburgh, PA. Moore manages the firm's design teams in both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.
-  **Marilyn Slagel Novak** '79 was recently appointed to the Board of Directors for Providence Connections Inc., the parent organization of Providence Family Support Center in Pittsburgh, PA.
-  **Lisa Fox** '91, principal of Fox's Worth Consulting of Greensburg, PA, was named 2004-05 Westmoreland Human Resources Association Human Resources Professional of the Year.

# LA ROCHE CAMPUS CLIPS

## HALLOWEEN TREATS FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

Members of the La Roche community extended a helping hand to those impacted by heavy flooding in the Pittsburgh region in September. On Saturday, October 30, more than 450 people from the communities of Millvale and Etna attended a Halloween party at Millvale Riverfront Park, organized by La Roche faculty, staff and students. Children were able to participate in nearly 20 games and gather traditional treats. They could also have their picture taken with the Great Pumpkin.



*Diane Dowker, assistant registrar, served as the Great Pumpkin at the Halloween Party in Millvale.*

“This was really a community effort,” said Sr. Marilyn Bergt, CDP, coordinator of community service and one of the organizers of the effort. “It was great to see La Roche reach out to those in need.” Organizers of the party solicited donations from local businesses and organizations to support the effort. They also purchased school supplies for many of the children who attended the party.

## ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMED

This past summer, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted to reaffirm the accreditation of La Roche College. This announcement by Middle States represents the final step in a process that began nearly three years ago with the preparation of the College’s self-study report.

“This decision on the part of the Middle States Commission is an event that all of us at La Roche can applaud,” said Sister Candace Introcaso, La Roche president. “The reaffirmation of our accreditation reflects the dedication and commitment of everyone at the College to serving our students and furthering our mission.” Along with the notification of the reaffirmation of accreditation, the Middle States Commission indicated that the next self-study evaluation and site visit would not take place until 2013 - 2014.



## FALL ETHICS FORUM

Can Western and Eastern philosophy and culture collaborate to achieve more effective international relations? The La Roche College Institute for Cross-Cultural Ethics addressed this subject in its fall ethics forum. “From Empire to Community” was held on Wednesday, October 20, at Kearns Spirituality Center.

Keynote speaker was Amitai Etzioni, Ph.D., author of *From Empire to Community: A New Approach to International Relations*. The book deals with U.S. efforts at nation-building and argues that a “clash of civilizations” can be avoided and that the new world order need not look like America. Etzioni argues that Eastern values such as spirituality and moderate Islam have a legitimate place in the evolving global public philosophy. Etzioni is the founder and director of the Communitarian Network and professor of sociology at The George Washington University. Respondent for the event was Stewart Sutin, Ph.D., president of Community College of Allegheny County.

## UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

On Tuesday, September 14, members of La Roche College’s administrative staff participated in the 14th annual United Way Day of Caring, sponsored in Pittsburgh by the United Way of Allegheny County. Staff members volunteered their time by painting two rooms and a rooftop section at the YWCA in downtown Pittsburgh. The La Roche volunteers joined nearly 4,000 other volunteers from more than 100 area companies who spent the day tackling various tasks at nonprofit agencies and other organizations.



PHOTO: GLENN GARFOLD

*Drew Keys does some painting for the YWCA in Pittsburgh during United Way Day of Caring.*

# LA ROCHE CAMPUS CLIPS



## PROFESSOR HONORED

**S**ister Rita Yeasted, professor of English, was recently recognized by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* as one of the top educators in the region. Titled “The Top 48: Making A Difference in Education,” the special supplement appeared in the October 20th edition of the newspaper.

The *Post-Gazette* contacted educators in both secondary and post-secondary education in the area earlier this fall and asked them to identify outstanding individuals who had contributed significantly to improving the quality of education in Pittsburgh. A total of 421 educators received nominations for this special section of the newspaper.

A native of Tarentum, PA, Yeasted joined the faculty at La Roche in 1980 and has served as chair of the English Department since that time. She has received numerous awards during her tenure as a professor at La Roche, including the 2003 Dedication to Achievement Award, which is given annually to a longtime faculty member, and the 1995 Brother Gregory Nugent Award, presented to faculty members at the end of the school year by the graduating class. Yeasted is co-chair of the conference for the National Council of Teachers of English, which will be held in Pittsburgh next November.

## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

**T**he La Roche campus put on its holiday best for the annual “Festival of Lights” event, held on Friday, December 3. Sponsored jointly by the College, the Sisters of Divine Providence and UPMC Passavant, the event represents the kickoff to the holiday season for residents of the North Hills. Festivities spanned all three campuses and included holiday music, food and entertainment. The event concluded with a fireworks display at 8:00 p.m.

The Office of Alumni Relations extended a special invitation to Pittsburgh area alumni. More than 100 alumni and their families visited a hospitality tent in front of Wright Library, complete with refreshments, live music from a brass quintet and activities for young children.

The College also hosted other events for young children in the Zappala College Center, including crafts, games and the opportunity to have family photos taken.



## NEW TRUSTEES

**T**he Board of Trustees of La Roche College is pleased to announce the appointment of five new members:

- **Robert O. Agbede**, president, founder and CEO of ATS-Chester Engineers, Inc., in Pittsburgh. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Agbede is also former chairman of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania.
- **James Douglas Austin, Esq.**, vice president of the James Austin Company in Mars, PA. A graduate of Davidson College and Samford University, Austin is also vice president of the Board of Governors for the Amen Corner, also in Pittsburgh.
- **Arlene McGannon**, associate general secretary/chancellor of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The former director of the Office of Ministry for Aging in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, McGannon is also an accomplished author.
- **Steven Massaro**, vice president of business development with Massaro Company in Pittsburgh. A graduate of Catholic University in Washington, DC, Massaro is also the founder of Pittsburgh's Next, an organization dedicated to retaining young professionals in the region.
- **Thomas H. Murray**, vice president of marketing and product management at Haley Systems, Inc. in Sewickley. A graduate of Notre Dame University and the University of Pittsburgh, Murray also serves on the Pittsburgh Product Strategy Network Advisory Board.

## DESIGN DIALOGUE SERIES

**A**nationally recognized designer headlined the second annual Design Dialogue Series, sponsored by the La Roche College Interior Design Advisory Board. Shashi Caan, *Contract Magazine's* 2004 Designer of the Year, offered a presentation titled “Imagination: Design for the Future” on Wednesday, October 27 in the Kearns Spirituality Center. Caan's presentation focused on how to remain imaginative and creative with any project while juggling deadlines and budgets. On Thursday, October 28, Caan spent time with current students in the College's Interior Design program.

Caan owns the Shashi Caan Collective, a firm in New York, NY. In addition, she is director of the Interior Design Program at Parsons School of Design in New York. She is also vice president of professional development on the international board of directors with the International Interior Design Association (IIDA).



*The Board of Trustees of La Roche College  
announces the*

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*of*

**SISTER CANDACE INTROCASO, CDP, PH.D.**

*President*

*To Light  
Through Love*

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This spring, we'll be calling to enlist your support. For more information, call the Annual Fund Office at 412-536-1085 or e-mail [annualfund@laroche.edu](mailto:annualfund@laroche.edu).

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