Making Your World Our World:
La Roche reaches out to students from the region, the nation and the world.
As you read through this issue of La Roche Magazine, I think you will get a real sense of how we are becoming increasingly recognized for our successful efforts to promote global interaction and understanding while at the same time remaining true to our regional roots. That mix of international and local is certainly evident in the makeup of our student population, with students from 45 different countries sharing the campus with the 77 percent of our students who come from right here on our doorstep in western Pennsylvania. That diversity is also clearly reflected in our alumni; with the College now boasting graduates from the North Hills of Pittsburgh to the mountains of Rwanda.

Over the course of the past academic year, we have received a number of recognitions from national and local organizations that serve to indicate that our mission and our ability to successfully pursue it are being increasingly acknowledged on a variety of fronts. Recognition has ranged from being one of only three institutions nationally to receive a Senator Paul Simon Spotlight award for internationalization efforts from NAFSA: Association of International Educators to being the featured guests at a reception hosted by the local Chamber of Commerce honoring the College’s contributions to that organization.

But as you go through this magazine, you will see that it is the people of La Roche – faculty, staff, students and alumni – who are the driving force in making the College’s mission evident in so many ways. Whether it is a faculty member being appointed to a national panel; a staff member being recognized for community service; students winning scholarships from local groups and international universities; or alumni being cited for successful careers; the values and quality of a La Roche education are coming to the attention of the region and the world on a more frequent basis. The mix of the international and local can even be seen in our athletic programs, with the women’s soccer team playing in Spain, France and Portugal this past summer, while back in the US, the men’s basketball team received the 2010 Sportsmanship Award from the Collegiate Basketball Officials Association. This particular recognition is a good example of how the values we espouse here at La Roche are reflected in all of the endeavors of our students.

The inculcation of those values does not happen by accident. We are committed to giving our students the guidance and tools that will serve them throughout their lives and careers, because we truly believe that a La Roche education is the beginning of a life-long pursuit of knowledge and experience centered on making a difference in the world. To that end, as you will read in this issue, we have initiated a program called The La Roche Experience. This program is designed to help new students make the most of their years at La Roche and to help set them on the path to future success. The course prepares them to take full advantage of the diversity of people and experiences they will encounter at La Roche and to better appreciate how their knowledge and values can be used to the best advantage for themselves and others throughout their lives, thus reflecting the best tradition of La Roche alumni.

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

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INSIDE BACK COVER: Calendar of Events
La Roche Athletes Named to Soccer All-Conference Team

Three men on the La Roche College Men’s Soccer team were named to the All-Conference Team for the AMCC Conference (Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference) during the 2009-2010 season, according to Head Coach David Day.

Reuben Jolo received first team all-conference for the third consecutive year. Jolo is a senior forward from Pittsburgh who attended Baldwin High School. Kurt Raymond, who is a senior midfielder for the Redhawks, was awarded second team all-conference. His hometown is Kingston, Jamaica. Teammate Nick Russo from New Kensington, Pa., also received second team. He is a senior defender from Plum High School. An honorable mention went to Remone Blake who is also from Kingston, Jamaica. He is a senior forward.

Coach Day looks forward to another exciting season of Redhawks soccer. “Although we’re losing four great players in these star athletes, I have no doubt our younger team members will rise to the occasion in the coming season.”

La Roche Names Women’s Tennis Coach

La Roche College has announced the hiring of Women’s Tennis Head Coach Christine Vogelgesang. She will be building a varsity team for the college, which will begin its season on Sept. 3.

Vogelgesang, a resident of Greentree, Pa., is a native of Hartville, Ohio. She played four years of college tennis at Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio. Her goal at La Roche, she said, is to build a strong program that attracts local tennis talent and grows the team in both numbers and awareness.

“I want to have students, faculty and staff become active supporters of our women’s tennis team,” she said. “For the team itself, I’m really looking forward to working with young women who are excited to continue their love for tennis and to watch them become stronger individuals, teammates and people.”

Vogelgesang is employed full time at GAMMA Sports, a premiere tennis equipment company located on Herr’s Island, Pittsburgh. She welcomes interested people who would like to play on the La Roche team. They may contact her at christine.vogelgesang@laroche.edu for more details. Players also may visit the athletics page at www.laroche.edu and complete an inquiry form for submission.

Dylan Grazier Reaches 1,000-point Milestone

Recent La Roche College graduate and star basketball player Dylan Grazier achieved a college career milestone during the 2009-2010 Redhawks men’s basketball season. During the fourth game of the season, Grazier, a native of Plum, Pa., reached the 1,000-point mark for his collegiate career. Grazier told his local newspaper that “it was a nice experience, but it was good to get it over with. There was a lot of pressure.” He finished up the season and his collegiate basketball career scoring 1,384 points, making him the third all-time leading scorer in La Roche history, according to Head Coach Scott Lang.
Women’s Soccer Team Goes Global

V olcanic ash, speeding bullet trains, beautiful weather in the City of Lights. The La Roche women’s soccer team experienced each of these and more when they headed to Spain, France and Portugal in May for a 10-day excursion. In a trip designed to expose the women to “the old country,” head coach Miguel Lozano said the experience was positive for each of the 16 players and six chaperones on the trip.

The trip began May 10, but it quickly fizzled when volcanic ash from the long-dormant volcano in Iceland interrupted their flight overseas to Madrid, Lozano’s birthplace. After a brief layover in Miami, the group finally arrived in Madrid on May 12. The students were a bit jetlagged, Lozano said, but played in their first game May 13 against Spanish rivals who took the match. Then it was on to Toledo, also in Spain, via high-speed train and a day of sightseeing. When they played their second game in Seville, the now-fresh Redhawks came out on top, 1-0, and the Spanish rival team hosted dinner and a party in honor of the American visitors. It was just one highlight of the trip.

“After the game, the Guelves club surprised our team by hosting a fiesta with lots of local cuisine … fresh-cooked shrimp, Spanish ham, spiced olives, cheeses and bread. Both teams exchanged jerseys and everyone signed the backs of all the shirts,” said Jill Mattone, one of the chaperones who also happens to be mom to Redhawks player Marina Mattone. “We keep thinking that each day was the highlight of the trip, but the next day is always better!”

In all, the group would continue on to visit Granada, Lisbon and Paris before returning home to the United States. In the planning for three years, the 10-day trip is completely funded by players and chaperones through fund-raisers. The next excursion, scheduled for 2013, is already in the works; Lozano is booking Milan, Venice, Rome, Napoli and the Isle of Capri. Members of the La Roche College community, family and friends are welcome to go along, he said. Interested people may contact him for details on the trip’s itinerary at Miguel.lozano@laroche.edu.

Men’s Basketball Team and Coach Receive Sportsmanship Award

a Roche College Men’s Basketball Coach Scott Lang and his team are the recipients of the 2010 Schoenfeld Sportsmanship Award, voted on by the Collegiate Basketball Officials Association (CBOA) and announced in May. The CBOA gives this award annually to the school in the NCAA Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference that best exemplifies the traits exhibited by its namesake, Sam Schoenfeld.

Schoenfeld is a former basketball great and one of CBOA’s founding fathers who possessed a great deal of energy, impeccable honesty and a charismatic personality, according to Ron Tyburski, the CBOA area representative for Pittsburgh, who sent notification of the award to Lang. Tyburski noted that the award is the highest honor that CBOA annually bestows on any collegiate institution.

“Sam espoused integrity and strong character, which set him apart from most men,” Tyburski wrote. A brief illness took Schoenfeld’s life in early 1956 and, as a result, CBOA memorialized him through an award that would annually be presented to a person who exemplified the principles and characteristics he so prominently displayed. The award also recognizes the college or university, which in the judgment of the CBOA officials membership, best exemplifies “the highest degree of sportsmanship, character, and ethics” among its players, coaches and spectators.

This is the second time Lang and the La Roche men’s team have received the prestigious award; they accepted the honor after the 2002-03 season. This year’s award will be presented at CBOA’s annual fall clinic in late September or early October.

La Roche unveiled a new look for its athletic teams this summer. (See top of opposite page.) A new Redhawks presence will appear on all athletics team uniforms and materials related to athletics in fall 2010 when the new academic year begins. The updated look reflects a more “collegiate” typeface and a bolder Redhawk. It was designed by La Roche Art Director Greg Kemper (BA, ’99).
La Roche President Named to ACCU Board

La Roche College President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., was recently elected to the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) board during its 2010 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., this spring.

The ACCU is the collective voice of Catholic higher education in the United States. According to its website, through seminars, conferences, publications, research and consultation, the ACCU helps to foster a vibrant Catholic identity at member institutions and supports cooperation among them for the greater good of society and the Church.

Earlier this year, Sister Candace served as a panelist at The Pittsburgh Women in Leadership Symposium presented by the National Diversity Council. The symposium gave attendees the opportunity to observe, learn about, network with and hear different perspectives from some of the top female executives in the Greater Pittsburgh area. Sister Candace, who spoke on “Excellence,” joined five other panelists at the symposium.

Hilke Moves Into New Role as Director of Public Safety

Dave Hilke was recently promoted to the director of Public Safety at La Roche College. He joined La Roche in June 2007 after working at Point Park University for more than four years. In his role, Hilke said, he hopes to make students, faculty and staff play preventive roles against crime on campus.

“A goal of mine is to increase safety awareness throughout the campus community. This will be accomplished by communicating policies to the incoming freshman class during orientation and, beginning this summer, we will be inviting faculty and staff to join in the annual RA fire extinguisher training,” Hilke said.

Hilke’s goal to raise awareness about the College’s public safety helps to strengthen the La Roche’s overall safe campus environment. “We are fortunate to be located within close proximity to UPMC Passavant, Peebles Fire Company and the McCandless Police Department – all helping to enhance safety on campus,” he said.

La Roche Professor Appointed Judge of National Program

Sister Rita Yeasted, Ph.D., professor of English and department chair of English and Speech, was recently appointed to serve as a judge in the Achievement Awards Program for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

The Achievement Awards Program is an NCTE-sponsored competition designed to honor 11th-grade students in the United States, Canada and American schools abroad for excellence in writing. Judges evaluate papers submitted in their individual states and determine what nominees will be cited as excellent writers.

Since fall 1980, Sister Rita has been part of the La Roche community, where she is active in teaching, community service, advising students and supervising the La Roche College Literary Society.

La Roche Professor Receives Excellence Award

During the May Commencement program, La Roche College’s administration recognized one of its faculty members for her professional excellence.

Sheila Mueller, MBA, CPA, assistant professor of accounting and finance, and Bradford Woods, Pa., resident, received the Brother Gregory Nugent, F.S.C. Award for Teacher Excellence. Brother Gregory Nugent, F.S.C., was a member of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools team responsible for the initial accreditation of La Roche College. He wrote that the future of La Roche depended on “quality and dedication of the faculty.”

In keeping his vision, this award is given annually to a faculty member who, in the estimation of the students, is an outstanding teacher and dedicated mentor.
Dee Markus Receives Achiever Award

Dee Markus was honored by Talk Magazine this year as one of Pittsburgh’s Minority Achievement award winners for her contributions to La Roche College and her local community. Dee, a resident of Butler, Pa., is a 2007 graduate of La Roche, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology. She now works in as a career counselor at the college. Prior to her education and role at La Roche, Dee served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years.

She was nominated by La Roche’s Public Relations Department for the Talk Magazine award because of her active role in young people’s lives and her dedication to work, family and community. Dee is a certified counselor in the areas of substance abuse, family and career. She is a certified paralegal and court reporter. And, as if that weren’t enough, Dee is an active community volunteer.

She participates in a regular Bible study for women at the Butler Prison; she teaches basic computer skills to senior citizens at the Saxonburg, Pa., Library; she prepares meals for the infirm in her local community; and she is active at her church, Holy Sepulcher Parish, in Butler, where she lectors and serves as a children’s leader, among other things. In addition, Dee spends time relaxing with her husband, Joe, and son Leighton, and she keeps up-to-date with her older son, Joseph, who lives nearby. It’s a busy schedule that Dee thrives on, she said.

“My belief is that a sharer gives, then the receiver shares,” said Dee, a native of New Orleans, La. “This attitude can become contagious.”

That’s part of Dee’s personal philosophy, which she expanded upon this way: “Allow no one to tell you that you can’t do something. Nothing is impossible – everything is possible! Stay focused and reach your goals.”

La Roche Professor Wins Outstanding Educator Award

Mark Dawson, associate professor and chair of the accounting department, recently received the 2009-2010 Outstanding Educator Award from the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA). He was announced as the recipient at PICPA’s Accounting Education Idea Exchange conference in Hershey, Pa., in July.

Dawson, who resides in Cranberry Township, Pa., was nominated for the award by Bob Henkels, CPA, who was a colleague of Dawson’s when they both taught at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

“His students speak so highly of him,” Henkels said. “His teaching style is fluid and current.”

Dawson, who is also a certified public accountant, is constantly speaking with other CPAs to get the latest news on the accounting profession and to find out what his students should know to be successful in the working world. In addition, he donates extra time to students with special needs.

The Outstanding Educator Award recognizes a full-time Pennsylvania college or university accounting educator who is actively involved in the accounting profession. Educators from nearly 100 Pennsylvania colleges and universities are eligible to win the award. The winner is selected by a small panel of PICPA members.

The Outstanding Educator Award winner is automatically nominated for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award.
Eye-Opener: La Roche Student Plans Optometry Career

By Dalila Scott

Can you remember your first eye examination? Sam Flori, a recent La Roche graduate, can recall his experience vividly. In fact, his fifth grade eye examination is what inspired him to become an optometrist.

Flori, who graduated in May from La Roche with a 3.8 GPA and a bachelor’s degree in biology, has been accepted into the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) in the Elkins Park suburb of Philadelphia this fall. It is one of only 21 programs in the United States.

Flori, a Greensburg, Pa., native, will spend the next four years at PCO, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in vision and a Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree. Flori said he believes that La Roche has prepared him for a career in optometry.

“The science professors at La Roche College are some of the most intellectual educators I have ever learned from because they all have post-doctoral experience,” he said. His education went beyond the classroom; Flori noted that the wide range of students he met at La Roche has prepared him for moving on to PCO. “PCO has the most diverse student population, and La Roche has opened my eyes and prepared me for the diversity,” he said.

In addition to his classroom experience, Flori shadowed three Greensburg optometrists to help prepare him for entry into the program. While at La Roche, he also worked with a Pittsburgh area ophthalmologist. He shared his own knowledge, as well, tutoring for three years in the office of Academic Enrichment and helping students in math, physics, chemistry and biology. In his leisure time, he was the founder and president of the Ping-Pong Club at La Roche.

In the future, Flori wants to open a private practice in Greensburg. He is pleased with the educational foundation he built at La Roche, one that will ultimately help make that dream from fifth grade come true.

“La Roche has been a great environment for learning, and now I think I’m ready to fulfill my goals.”

Honors Presentation

The 2010 Honors Presentation program that recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in their chosen fields of academic endeavor took place on April 13 in the Palumbo Science Center.

The following students, who graduated in May, presented to family, friends and faculty at this year’s program: Tsvetan Chevganov, who presented “Simplifying Web Applications Using Continuations;” Adam Klickovich, who presented “Venezuela: Nuclear Partnership with Iran Increases U.S. Security Concerns;” Zinat Elizabeth Naderi, whose work was titled “Socio-Economic Status and School Performance: A Study of Selected Pittsburgh Communities and City Schools;” and Edgar Asiimwe, whose work was “The Influence of Genetics and Environmental Factors on the Distribution of Intestinal Bacteria in a Selected Group of Cats.”

The students are pictured with Barbara Herrington, Ph.D., center, chair of the Honors Committee.

Edgar Asiimwe received the Richard G. Kotarba Outstanding Honors Presentation Award for his work. The honor was bestowed at the annual Graduates’ Lunch and Awards Presentation on May 7. Board member emeritus Richard Kotarba presented the award to Asiimwe.
La Roche Student Earns Zonta Scholarship

The Zonta Three Rivers Pittsburgh North Chapter recently awarded La Roche College student Chiara Irakoze with the Jane M. Klausman Women In Business Scholarship. Irakoze, a native of Burundi, will begin her junior year at La Roche this fall; she is majoring in accounting. The scholarship is valued at $2,000 and will go towards Irakoze’s next academic year.

Zonta Three Rivers Pittsburgh North is the local chapter of Zonta International, a worldwide organization of executives in business and the professions that work together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Jane M. Klausman was a member of the Zonta Club of Syracuse, N.Y., and Zonta International Parliamentarian from 1990 to 1995. She knew first-hand the challenges faced by young women pursuing careers in business and understood the importance of helping women become business leaders. Klausman left a generous donation to the Zonta International Foundation. The scholarships are helping women pursuing undergraduate degrees in business management overcome gender barriers, from the classroom to the boardroom.

Graduates Honored at Commencement Program

Prior to the May 8 commencement at La Roche, the Human Resources Management Master’s Program honored its 26 graduates in a special program on Saturday, April 24, at the Zappala College Center on campus.

The 2010 graduating class presented its senior seminar work during a public poster session from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the College Center Square. Following that, class members moved to the Ryan Room, where they heard the top three presentations from their fellow graduates. Those presentations were selected by all class members’ votes and are as follows:

- “Enhancing Internal Communications at Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania,” by Anne Bowers and Ernestine Harris
- “Effective Recruitment, Feedback and Assessment for Hair Enhancements,” by Kevin Gyke
- “Global HR Measurement at MSA,” by Bethany Traugh

La Roche Alum Meets President Clinton

Update: In our fall 2009 issue, we reported that Dave Carey, a National Security Studies major who graduated in May 2010, received the William Jefferson Clinton Scholarship to study at the American University in Dubai last summer. David and five of his fellow scholars met former President Clinton in Washington, D.C., at a luncheon titled “Progress Matters” on Wednesday, March 3. Clinton talked about key issues such as the Haiti earthquake, the economy, health care and education. He later greeted David and the other scholarship winners at the legendary Willard Intercontinental Hotel.

Students who participated in this year’s Alternative Spring Break in early March didn’t have to travel too far to find those in need of some extra assistance. La Roche students, faculty and staff traveled to nearby Fayette County and offered their help packing boxes of food for the food bank, delivering food for Meals on Wheels, assisting in a Soup Kitchen, working at a resale shop for St. Vincent De Paul, and working at an after school program at Marian Village, among other ministries.
At some point in time, the world became a smaller place. It used to be that someone in Pittsburgh could go for days – even weeks – without hearing someone speak a different language, unless the national news was on the TV. Knowing someone from the other side of the globe was not the norm, unless you had developed a friendship with an AFS student in high school. But then, things began to happen that changed that insulation.

More and more interaction among businesses outside of the region and outside of the United States encouraged the formation of a global marketplace. Before long, it wasn’t just business colleagues who spent time outside their home countries looking for new opportunities. Indeed, young people who wanted to further their education began to look at colleges and universities outside of the Ivy league schools that traditionally garnered all the attention, and the opportunity to learn at schools like La Roche College was open to all who wanted to pursue it.

The roots of internationalization at La Roche College date back to 1993, when then President Monsignor William Kerr, acting on his strong belief in the power of education to transform individual lives and to bring peace to areas of the world experiencing conflict, founded the Pacem In Terris program at La Roche. He created the Pacem In Terris program to address the causes and consequences of instability and conflict by preparing young women and men, through formal baccalaureate education, to take leadership roles in building the more just and inclusive societies needed to foster sustained peace and development in their respective homelands.

“It was not only the students who were transformed by the program,” said La Roche President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D. “The College itself also underwent profound changes that resonate to this day in its mission and purpose.”
The program provided scholarships to students from conflict, post-conflict and developing regions of the world. Since the program’s inception, La Roche has graduated 451 Pacem scholars from a total of 21 different countries, including Rwanda, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Yemen, Kosovo, Ethiopia, Palestine, Namibia, Uganda, Jordan, Haiti, Colombia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Currently, scholarship recipients from Burundi and Kenya are attending La Roche as part of the Pacem program.

La Roche also welcomes international students who are not part of the Pacem program but who have chosen the college because of its international reputation. The Pacem program helped to spread the word about La Roche, and the global education community is well aware of the benefits of attending this small college in Pittsburgh’s North Hills. Students from nearly 45 different countries account for more than 10 percent of the La Roche College student population. (See sidebar on international recruitment, Page 10.)

Yet it isn’t just the international students who reap the benefits from the diverse learning and social environment that La Roche offers. Students who are born and raised in the United States – locally and from out of state – have said they enjoy attending La Roche because they are exposed to different cultures, and that will help them be part of an international work force in the future.

“Our students tell us that they chose La Roche, in part, because they liked the diverse student population,” said Thomas Schemer, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, who formerly led the admissions efforts at La Roche and currently heads the administration of the Study Abroad-Study USA program at the college. “They like sharing their own culture with the students who come from around the world, and they gain as much from the friendships as our international students do.”

The efforts to blend students through internationalization efforts recently earned La Roche an award through NAFAA: Association of International Educators. The college was one of three schools nationally that was recognized with the 2010 Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award for a specific international program or initiative on campus. La Roche shared the spotlight with the Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York and the College of the Atlantic in Maine.

Named for the late Senator Paul Simon, (D–Ill.), these awards recognize outstanding and innovative efforts in campus internationalization, according to NAFAA. Sen. Simon was well known as a strong supporter of international education and foreign language learning. His leadership in these areas was especially evident in his robust support for the creation of the National Security Education Program, which addresses critical national security deficiencies in language and cultural expertise, and in his vision of a national program to greatly expand Americans’ knowledge of the world, which was the inspiration behind the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act.

La Roche earned its nod for three specific programs: the Pacem In Terris program; Study Abroad-Study USA; and the Global Problems, Global Solutions program. Each one is helping to educate internal and external audiences about other cultures and how, together, people from different parts of the world are making a difference in managing the future’s successful and positive growth.

Global Problems, Global Solutions was created in 2004 by La Roche professor Paul Le Blanc, Ph.D., former dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at La Roche. Annually, the conference has focused on promoting awareness of important global issues. Each year, for instance, the conference would focus on one of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals which address the issue of health, human rights and social justice affecting people in the developing regions of the world.

“Our vision for a better world goes beyond global warming. We must continue to affect change in such areas as gender equality, human rights and poverty,” said Professor Le Blanc, who was one of the founders of the Global Problems, Global Solutions event. “We want the conference to encourage people of all ages to become involved and learn more.” Several organizations have been part of the program through the years, including Brothers’ Brother Foundation; Carlow University; Carnegie Mellon University; Chatham University; Citizens for Global Solutions; Duquesne University; Global Links; Rachel Carson Homestead Association; and the University of Pittsburgh.

This year’s conference, which focuses on issues facing women and children – “Women and Children in the UN Millenium Goals,” will take place on the La Roche campus on Friday, Nov. 12, and Saturday, Nov. 13. The two-day event will feature workshops on a variety of social issues and offers a special student track for middle school and high school students. Involving the “next generation” is key, Professor Le Blanc said.

“Our conference sponsors truly believe that we can affect change and combat the difficult challenges that exist now and threaten our future generations,” he said. “We are proud to host this coming together of social organizations, educational institutions and concerned citizens. Together, we must work to make more people aware of social injustices so they may be changed and, as a result, provide a brighter future for those who will be the leaders of tomorrow.”

La Roche’s emphasis on internationalization is supported by a full-time faculty that demonstrate, through their own travel and scholarship, a commitment to global issues and preparing students to be effective and ethical citizens of the world. Faculty members regularly travel to different countries throughout the world, and they also are active locally, helping to spread a message of international understanding among area institutions. One example is the Kerr Institute of African History, Culture
La Roche’s Qualities Draw Students from Around the World

Submitted by Nicole Myers

Students from about 45 different countries make up 12 percent of the La Roche College student population, leading to a diverse and interesting student body. At some point one may ask how international students learn about La Roche College and then finally choose La Roche from all other options. What processes do they encounter on their way to becoming full-time students here and how is that process different than for typical domestic (U.S.-based) students?

Much like domestic students, many international students hear about our college from their classmates, high school counselors who have worked with La Roche College in the past, our La Roche alumni, print and electronic materials, and the La Roche Admissions Office’s recruiting efforts. They usually apply using our online application or contact Nicole Myers, the coordinator of international recruitment, for more information. She directs the mailing of a “lack” letter to the student, indicating the list of documents that La Roche requires for admission.

Although domestic students complete their application file after turning in transcripts, a privacy rights waiver, and SAT scores, the average international student must turn in at least six documents, including an affidavit of support signed by his or her financial sponsor, a current bank statement from the sponsor, and a copy of his or her passport photo page.

Once La Roche has proof of financial support from a student, Admissions is able to issue a Form I-20. This document certifies academic and language students are eligible for non-immigrant student status. When international students go to the U.S. embassy in their own country, they present our acceptance letter and the I-20 as proof of admission to La Roche. If their interview at the embassy is successful, they are granted a student visa, which is required for international students to study in the United States.

International students choose La Roche for many of the same reasons that our domestic students do. They like our location, our small class sizes, and the personal attention, programs of study, and affordability. They also appreciate our international student services, such as help with immigration issues. Depending on the country from which an international student originates, that student does not always have easy access to standardized testing locations for the SAT/ACT or TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). La Roche does not require these scores for international students, who would be turned away by other colleges requiring such test results.

Many international students are also attracted to La Roche because of its strong English as a Second Language program, which allows these students to learn the English language before beginning their studies. In addition, some international students have limited post-secondary education opportunities in their countries, so they will look outside their own countries for educational opportunities.

For bright students eager to continue their education, La Roche offers a safe, inviting option for those students to study in the United States.

and Politics, which began as a faculty initiative and promotes the study and research of Africa at La Roche College. As part of its mission, the Institute links with other Pittsburgh colleges and universities focused on Africa-related events and scholarship.

The college’s focus on global education also extends to providing opportunities for students to study in other countries and regions through a traditional study abroad program. In fall 2009, La Roche took that concept a step further by introducing the new Study Abroad – Study USA program to give students the opportunity to experience cultural diversity here in the United States and outside of its borders upon completion of a specific number of credits – generally by the end of sophomore year. The best part, from the perspective of the students and their families, is that the new tuition structure will cover the cost of the short-term undergraduate study abroad or at-home experience.

This unique intercultural experience greatly distinguishes La Roche from other colleges and universities and allows students to gain a cultural learning experience that lasts a lifetime while pursuing their undergraduate degree at an excellent educational facility. Initially, out-of-country experiences will be available in Asia, Africa, Canada, Europe and Latin America. The United States experiences will range from programs in Washington, D.C., which focus on government and national security, to health and welfare issues in areas affected by natural disasters. Students experienced the latter during several years working through Alternative Spring Break in Louisiana, where they helped to rebuild areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

“..."In keeping with the College’s mission, La Roche is preparing students to become globally aware while promoting peace and justice in our world. Students who have these travel experiences learn the importance of giving back to the communities – large and small – around them. Studying abroad will give students the chance to understand other cultures and to begin to develop the ability to collaborate with different peoples, which will become increasingly important in today’s global marketplace,” Sister Candace said.

Today, La Roche College continues on the path to increasing its international focus, preparing its students to promote understanding among peoples and cultures and to succeed in today’s increasingly global society.”
Founders Gala

More than 300 supporters came out for the Fifth Annual La Roche College Founders Gala at the Westin Convention Center Hotel on March 27 to celebrate the life and legacy of the late Monsignor William A. Kerr, college president from 1992-2004.

A string quartet, Serenading Strings, entertained guests during the reception, while bidding took place on numerous silent auction items donated by generous businesses and friends of the college.

WTAE-TV’s Mike Clark served as master of ceremonies for the event. Dinner was followed by the Ad Lucem Award ceremony where, each year, an individual is recognized because his/her vision, leadership and determination turned dreams into reality, and the results made a positive and lasting contribution to the lives of others.

Monsignor Kerr posthumously received the award for his real contribution to promoting peace and understanding and to improving the lives of hundreds of young people around the world through his creation of the Pacem in Terris Institute at La Roche. The award was presented to Francis Kerr, Monsignor’s cousin, by La Roche College President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., on the Monsignor’s behalf.

Following dinner, La Roche student dancers from Rwanda performed a traditional dance dressed in native clothing from their homeland. Other entertainment included Pittsburgh Symphony Violinist Alison Peters Fujito accompanied by her husband and La Roche College Professor Don Fujito. The evening’s entertainment capped off with a vocal performance by La Roche alumnus Tom Octave, now assistant professor of fine arts and director of the Saint Vincent College Singers.

This year’s Founders Gala was hosted by Honorary Chairs Richard and Nancy Zappala. The gala netted nearly $93,000 in proceeds, all of which benefit the President’s Fund for Excellence, which funds scholarships for deserving students, academic programs and much more.

La Roche Remembers Longtime Friend Dolores Bold

La Roche and all of Pittsburgh lost a dear friend on Wednesday, April 28, when Dolores Bold died at Shadyside Hospital, Pittsburgh. She was 89 years old. Mrs. Bold and her husband, Walter, gave generously to La Roche during its years of growth and great need, particularly helping to build the Bold Hall I and II residence quarters for students, as well as the Magdalen Chapel.

“We are very honored to have had the support and friendship of Mr. and Mrs. Bold during their respective lifetimes,” said La Roche President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D. “The lasting impact of their personal legacies at the College is one of vision and opportunity – from the Magdalen Chapel, named after Mr. Bold’s mother, to the two Bold Residence Halls. Their generosity made a marked difference for La Roche College, and their legacy of giving will live on in perpetuity, continuing to benefit future generations of students.”

Mrs. Bold was an active volunteer in the Pittsburgh community and was often seen at the city’s premier events.

“We will miss her, not only because she faithfully attended La Roche events, but more importantly because she was a giving, thoughtful and kind woman who truly cared about the causes and organizations she supported,” Sister Candace said.
When she began her undergraduate career at La Roche College, Cindy (Altman) Page, Ph.D., (BA ’04) was a secondary math education major. She was a successful student, but as she approached the semester she was to student teach, she realized that becoming a math teacher was not what she envisioned for her future. Enter Janet Gates, Ph.D., Cindy’s psychology professor and one of her role models. Dr. Gates talked with Cindy about her options, and together they realized that Cindy’s interest in children and psychology might best be channeled into a career as a psychologist.

At that point, Cindy focused on earning her bachelor’s degree in psychology, which she earned from La Roche in 2004. The Penn Hills, Pa., native went on to earn her master’s degree in education with a focus in child psychology from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, and she continued on at Duquesne to earn her doctorate in school psychology. She defended her dissertation in August 2009 and is officially “Dr. Page,” a title that she says she’s proud to have but has taken some getting used to.

“It still feels odd to hear someone say it,” she said. “My husband likes to call me that now.”

It’s a title she worked hard to achieve. Following her challenging undergraduate and graduate work, Cindy was one of six interns from across the country to be selected by Boys Town, the well-known youth treatment community near Omaha, Neb. She completed her internship during the 2008-2009 academic year, working almost exclusively in family and individual therapy sessions with adolescent females (none was under the age of 13).

“I know a lot of people see that as a difficult age for girls, but I truly loved working with my clients,” she said. “I loved the children and really enjoyed working with the girls. The overall working environment was very positive. Everyone at Boys Town really cares about the children.”

Cindy’s supervisors asked her to stay on after she had earned her doctorate – an unusual move but one that indicated how well she clicked with her patients – and she remained there for several months, expanding her client base to include boys. She split her time with therapy sessions and consulting at a day school program that was a new initiative at Boys Town. As much as she loved her work, she found a different love that required her to move back east: Sergeant Jason Page, whom she married March 6. Shortly after joining him in their new home in Oak Grove, Ky., Cindy learned that Jason would be deployed overseas.

Now, she’s setting up their home and wishing for his safe return while working once again with children and families, providing assessments and therapy services. Her office is located in Tennessee – a location that’s actually very close to her Kentucky home – at the Family Wellness Center in Clarksville, Tenn. She is hoping to make application to the state of Tennessee to practice independently within the year.

She said she enjoyed her experience at La Roche. “I liked the small environment,” she said. “I felt like the faculty was invested in my education.”

Now, she has a chance to invest in her own students’ education. She taught Introduction to Psychology at La Roche as an adjunct professor while she was in graduate school, and she now teaches it online for La Roche.

She said it doesn’t seem possible that time has gone by so quickly and that she has had so many life changes already, but she’s happy to be where she is. “I’m busy at work and doing things at home, but I’ll wait to do the majority of work until Jason comes back. We’re both looking forward to that.”

From Classroom to Clinician
Psychologist finds common ground in students
By Pam Wigley
A Tale of Two Studies: 
Husband and Wife Earn Nursing Degrees Together

By Colleen Pelc

When trying to maintain a full-time job, keep up with home life and deal with the stresses of day-to-day life, sometimes it can be hard for a person to find time to breathe – let alone go back to school for a degree. For one person that might be a challenge. For Rebecca and Ron Rosiek of Pleasant Hills, Pa., it became a double challenge when they both decided to hit the books again.

“Last spring, we began looking into bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) programs as a stepping stone toward master’s (MSN) programs because we both want to become nurse practitioners eventually,” said Rebecca, who earned her bachelor’s degree in biology from California University of Pennsylvania in California, Pa., and attended Mercy Hospital’s School of Nursing in Pittsburgh before taking on her current position within UPMC’s Department of Neurology, where she works in the Infusion Center with patients who have multiple sclerosis.

Ron also attended California University of Pennsylvania and received his bachelor’s degree in history there. He also went to Mercy before taking his current position at U.S. Steel as an occupational health nurse.

“Originally, we favored the BSN-to-MSN program at another university, but there was one class that required a prerequisite we didn’t have. I contacted La Roche’s nurse recruiter Cathy Mall to inquire about taking this class at La Roche over the summer, and she told me that she could ‘do us one better,’” Rebecca explained.

“According to Ron, one professor went so far as to admit him into a ‘closed section’ so that he could still complete his degree on time.

“Working 40 hours a week and going to school at the same time can be challenging, but being a non-traditional, Internet-based student allowed me to take classes from home, which alleviated some of the stressors of being a commuting student,” Ron said.

“The education that I have received from La Roche has been quality, challenging and thorough,” Ron said.

“The instructors/professors are always a phone call away and willing to help even if it is not within the set parameters of their office hours.

“Despite the long hours and lack of spare time in the short term, the Rosieks said they wouldn’t have it any other way and they encourage others to follow in their footsteps.

“I was looking for a nursing baccalaureate program that offered both convenience and quality, and La Roche had that,” Ron said.

“We would not have been able to attend college classes in a classroom setting and finish as quickly as we did at La Roche,” Rebecca said.

Rebecca completed her BSN in May 2010; Ron will complete his in August.

The couple noted that everyone that they have dealt with at La Roche has been supportive and helpful every step of the way.

“I tend to be an endless question-asker, and the staff has answered me patiently and helpfully. The professors have been understanding and helpful, as well; they provide honest feedback and constructive criticism but are quick to congratulate on jobs well done,” Rebecca said.

According to Ron, one professor went so far as to admit him into a “closed section” so that he could still complete his degree on time.

“The education that I have received from La Roche has been quality, challenging and thorough,” Ron said.

“Although the classes are challenging and a lot of work, I feel like we have learned useful information that we can actually apply to real world settings, and this hasn’t been the case with some [other] college classes,” Rebecca said.

Although the road to their degrees hasn’t always been easy, Rebecca and Ron have said that with the support of each other and La Roche College’s online set up, they are reaching their goals.

“Just do it … don’t think twice and don’t give yourself time to reconsider and back out,” said Rebecca, who graduated with a 4.0 GPA. “But, when you are finished, you will feel such a sense of satisfaction and that makes it all worthwhile!”
Ruby Wilkosz of Allison Park, Pa., was named one of Pittsburgh’s Top 25 2010 Women in Business recently. She is a student in La Roche College’s LEAD Program, a bachelor’s degree completion program focusing on business, leadership and organization development. Wilkosz serves as the regional director of the Working Order Program of Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania following a 29-year career with National City Bank.

Making the leap from banking to non-profit business has been rewarding and, at the same time, challenging for Wilkosz, but she says she wouldn’t change anything about her path to success ... with one exception: She wishes she had earned her bachelor’s degree earlier. Now, she has made it a point to focus on completing the LEAD Program.

She received her associate’s degree in accounting from Butler County Community College and, like many working mothers, had little time left over to pursue her four-year degree. The fast-paced banking industry consumed much of her time, although she became an active community volunteer. During the last 10 years of her banking career, she served as a branch manager and small business banker, which provided her with exposure to people who yearned to be their own bosses and create a successful venture. A volunteer opportunity with the founder of Working Order, Susan Chase, led to Wilkosz’ current role.

“In 2006, Working Order became a program of Volunteers of America, and my experience in management, accounting, banking and non-profit board leadership was a good fit for moving into the role of regional director,” Wilkosz said.

Volunteers of America’s mission focuses on building “caring communities where Pennsylvanians support each other’s mental, physical, spiritual and social well-being.” Located in Sharpsburg, Pa., the Working Order program serves as an “incubator” for small business owners who are battling disadvantages and/or disabilities while trying to establish best-fit employment for themselves. The organization also helps members of the general public, although that population makes up only 10 percent of the current roster of entrepreneurs. Each client receives individualized coaching and services. Participants may need writing assistance, an opportunity to do a trial work contract, a comprehensive plan for branding and marketing, or assistance with establishing financial systems, Wilkosz noted.

“We do feasibility studies for our business owners, to see if their small business has a real chance of being successful,” Wilkosz said. “We also have community mentors speak on various business topics at our monthly Brown Bag Lunch or provide one-on-one coaching. Our entrepreneurs might not otherwise have a chance to hear this information or have these opportunities for social interaction.”

The program currently assists between 50 and 60 budding entrepreneurs, who Wilkosz describes as people who have a skill to offer or a business concept that’s a passion for them. She and others at Working Order help these people meet their goals or redirect them if their initial business plan looks as if it won’t result in a viable venture.

“We’re in the business of helping people – whether they are people with disabilities or people who just need some general advice. It’s a great feeling to come to work every day and love what I do.” - Ruby Wilkosz

“Her advice to many entrepreneurs stems from her own experience. "I wish I had finished my degree a long time ago, but I’m glad I enrolled in the LEAD program now. I really enjoy the teachers at La Roche, and I look forward to continuing on and earning my degree.”

College spans a time in most people’s lives that can arguably be called “the best years of your life.” You move on from high school, leave the comforts of home and set out on your own to build your life. It can also be a time filled with anxiety as each new student wonders how to adapt to a new place and a new lifestyle. What exactly is this thing called college?

La Roche created a program to help answer that question and ease the minds of students and parents alike. The La Roche Experience, LRX for short, is a mandatory program for freshmen and sophomores that was created to meet several goals:

- To help new students learn more about the college and its origins;
- To help students explore the college’s mission; and
- To make sure that this part of new students’ educational experience was something they could get excited about.

One of the core purposes of LRX is to help students understand how to use their college education to make a positive difference once they leave La Roche and head out into the “real world.” During the course of the program, students will hear instructors talk about the fact that, although some colleges and universities strive to be the best IN the world, La Roche focuses on “being the best FOR the world.”

“We want students to understand that how we affect others is what really matters, and we hope they understand that philosophy by taking part in the La Roche Experience,” said Ed Bobinchock, visiting professor, department chair of Religious Studies and Philosophy and coordinator of the La Roche Experience.

First, the program aims to let students know they’re part of a larger community, and they do that by introducing each student to a member of La Roche’s founding congregation – the Sisters of Divine Providence. These women have helped to propel La Roche College from a small local resource when it was founded in 1963 into a viable and respected educational institution. Students are matched with a member of the congregation through an e-mail exchange. Some students make this a one-time introduction; others have found it to be the start of a great friendship.

Through LRX, students also will learn about the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which focus on improvements in education, hunger, equality, child mortality, maternal health, disease prevention and environmental sustainability.

The core components of LRX are four one-credit courses that focus on: an introduction and orientation to La Roche College and the Sisters of Divine Providence; diversity/discrimination; the world’s regions of conflict; and global economic justice. Each course requires reading; watching a video or film and being prepared to discuss it; performing a service learning task; exploring spirituality; and becoming involved in course simulation exercises.

Students learn how to prepare for collegiate level course work because studying at college is different from studying in high school. Each student is assigned an academic adviser to help to develop a personal college plan and have a fuller college experience.

“We like to remind students that 75 percent of the time spent at college occurs outside the classroom,” Bobinchock said. “Advisers help students find things that interest them and will fulfill their personal college plan.”

Essentially, the La Roche Experience is preparing students for every step along the way in the journey toward the future.
The John J. Wright Library at La Roche College is undergoing a $1.6 million renovation this summer and will reopen for the fall 2010 semester with enhancements that make the facility a “21st century learning environment,” according to President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.

The renovation, which received its original impetus from interior and graphic design student projects, began in early May, just after the college’s commencement exercises. The Design Alliance, Pittsburgh, is the architectural firm for the project; Massaro Corporation of Pittsburgh is the general contractor. Funding was provided by generous donors and a challenge grant during a 2009 campaign. The project has a price tag of approximately $1.6 million and will provide updates to the entire first floor of the building. A summer 2008 renovation of the lower level created classroom and laboratory space for the college’s top two majors of interior and graphic design.

The library will be outfitted with features that make it an advanced learning environment for all who use it, including pod study areas, a portable language laboratory, information literacy and presentation room, media screening facilities, and wireless technology and software-enabling communications. These amenities make the library valuable to the students and community members who use the facility, according to Sister Candace.

“We exist in an age when the campus library must operate as a complete learning center – a hub of technology that, at the same time, offers comfortable surroundings conducive to learning. This renovation will allow us to restore the library to its former prominence as the intellectual focus of our learning community,” she said.

Furnishings within the library will get a facelift, too, thanks to interior design graduates from La Roche who are taking on the task of reupholstering the existing furniture, which dates back to the late 1960s. Anthony Allgeier and Erin Roberts will manage this job.

“This renovation will allow us to restore the library to its former prominence as the intellectual focus of our learning community.” - Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.

“Both Erin and myself have always appreciated the [style of the] library furniture,” said Allgeier, a May 2010 graduate of the La Roche Interior Design Program. “Not so much for its current condition, but for its overall classic/retro design. The furniture is beautiful, and we would hate to see it go to waste.” What isn’t used within the library itself, he noted, will find a home in several of the college’s residence hall lounges.

Renovations are slated for completion prior to the start of the fall semester on Aug. 30. A rededication ceremony will take place on Thursday, Sept. 16, at which the La Roche College community, donors and the general public will be able to tour the new facility.
Greetings to the La Roche College community! As president of the Alumni Association, I am very excited to welcome the Class of 2010 as the newest members of the Alumni Association. You’ve worked hard and devoted much of your time to earning your college degree, and you deserve all the best that comes your way. Congratulations, and good luck to you.

Allow me to start by saying that it’s a great time to be a La Roche College alum. Not only has the Office of Alumni Affairs and the Alumni Association Board been hard at work at building a stronger, more active organization than ever before, but we also have seen a fantastic increase in alumni participation at college and alumni events. As the Alumni Association continues to grow, I can hardly wait to see what the future holds!

I am happy to note that we have already seen a great deal of success with this year’s events. In late November, local alumni celebrated the holidays at Alumni Night at the Rockettes, with a pre-show reception at Bossa Nova in downtown Pittsburgh. The reception was packed with alumni—standing room only by the end of the reception! In both February and March, the Alumni Seminar Series sponsored two events: “How to Brand Yourself Towards Your Next Job” and “Managing Stress.” Both were well-attended, and very well-received.

In March, the annual Founders Gala had a great many alumni in attendance from all corners of the country—and the world—as the college honored the memory and accomplishments of its dear friend, Monsignor William A. Kerr, former president of La Roche College. With these events, there is a growing sense of camaraderie and commitment among alumni; trends that I hope will continue to flourish.

There are so many ways to get involved with the Association, and membership is free! Perhaps you want to take on an active role by becoming a part of the Alumni Association Board. Or maybe you want to become a mentor to a student, or an ambassador for the college. Maybe you just want to grab a group of friends and go to an alumni event. Whatever your level of interest is, I hope that you join me in becoming an active participant in the La Roche College community. You’ll be glad you did.

Since graduating, maintaining a connection with fellow alumni has been very important to me. Through the college website at www.laroche.edu, the Alumni Association’s official Facebook page, and various college publications, I have found it easy to stay informed about upcoming events, the latest news, and updates on what other alumni are doing.

But as quick and convenient as technology is, nothing beats good old-fashioned face-to-face interaction with friends, both old and new. Come to the annual Festival of Lights during the holidays, and bring the family. Meet for a reception at Bossa Nova before an alumni night at the Benedum Center. Hang out for hors d’oeuvres after the Alumni Seminar Series. The list goes on at www.laroche.edu/alum. We have many events planned, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Last, but certainly not least, we want to hear from you. If you have an idea for an activity or program that you believe would help to strengthen the alumni presence in the La Roche College community, please e-mail us at alumni@laroche.edu. Let us know how you’re doing—we love to hear about new and exciting alumni ventures. And please let us know how we can reach you. If you have an e-mail address, send it along. If you have moved and need to update your information, we would appreciate your forwarding that to us as well.

I hope that you will join me and the rest of the Alumni Association Board as we work to maintain this positive momentum by serving the alumni of today and continuing to build a strong organization to serve the alumni of tomorrow.

Keep in touch,

Natasha Polas Hazelwood, ’03
President, La Roche College Alumni Association
1960s

**Sister Kathleen Angel**, CDP, Ph.D., BS ’68, a biology professor at the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D., received the 2010 Outstanding Teacher of the Year for Post-Secondary Education awarded by the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce. She received the award at a ceremony held May 12 on the University of Mary campus. Sister Kathleen began teaching in 1962 and has been at the University of Mary since 1989.

**Sister Maria Fest**, CDP, DA, BS ’65, was named the 2010 La Roche College Woman of Providence. This award is presented annually at the spring commencement to a member of the Congregation of Divine Providence “whose life of service is a compelling example of God’s Providence made visible.” Sister Maria is currently a provincial councillor and canonical treasurer for the congregation.

**Sister Rita Yeasted**, Ph.D., BA ’68, recently was appointed to serve as a judge in the Achievement Award Program for the National Council of Teachers of English. This program honors 11th grade students from the United States, American schools abroad and Canada for excellence in writing. Sister Rita is the department chair and professor of English at La Roche. (See Page 4.)

1970s

**Linda Amprim**, BS ’77, owns and operates Yesterday’s Best, a consignment store located in Monessen, Pa. Four years ago, Linda purchased the store, which has been in business for the past 26 years.

**G. Thomas Catalucci**, ASID, BS ’75, celebrated the opening of his western Pennsylvania interior design office, with company headquarters in South Florida. After graduating from La Roche, he began his career with the former J.W. Stitt Co. in New Brighton, Pa. Thomas later relocated to South Florida to become a senior designer for Blums of Boca, Inc. In 1987 he established his own design firm in Boca Raton, Fla. – Thomas Catalucci, Inc. Interior Design. Today, Thomas’ work can be found in many distinctive homes from the suburbs of Boston, New York City and Chevy Chase, Md., to Fisher Island, Miami and the Palm Beaches of South Florida. Thomas is a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers, is licensed by the Board of Architecture and Interior Design and is proud to be Beaver Valley’s “premier interior designer.” His design firm’s website is www.cataluccinteriordesign.com where you can learn more.

**Victoria Berdnik**, a Roche alumna Victoria Berdnik, who graduated from La Roche with a bachelor’s degree in sociology in 1996 and a master’s degree in human resources management in 1998, was named as a candidate for the 2010 Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Woman of the Year. This charity event takes place in Pittsburgh to raise awareness for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Ms. Berdnik is currently a real estate coordinator with Lamar Advertising.

**Salvatore J. Mascari**, D. Min., BS ’71, published his first book, “Jesus Said, Love One Another,” which focuses on spiritual formation. He is employed by St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Pittsburgh and resides in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. For more information about the book, Dr. Mascari can be reached at the Retreat Center or by e-mail at smascari@cpprov.org

**Theresa Orlando**, BA ’78, was honored in March with the Power of One Award presented by the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF) for volunteering regularly at the PATF’s food pantry. She has been volunteering there since 2009 after retiring as director of Miryam’s Shelter, which recently merged with Bethlehem Haven. Theresa lives in Glenshaw, Pa., with her husband Harry. She has three sons and three grandchildren.

**Sister Audrey Quinn**, BA ’71, received the John E. McGrady Award along with Sister Sue Fazzini, at the 37th Annual Art Rooney Award Dinner in April at the Westin Convention Center, Pittsburgh. The annual dinner benefits the Catholic Youth Association of Pittsburgh.

**Ron Radwanski**, BS ’77, was voted “Best Visual Artist, 2009” by the Dallas Observer. His works are represented in fine galleries in the United States, and corporate and commissioned venues in Germany, England, Mexico and the Grand Cayman islands. Ron resides in Dallas.
Whitney Kerr

Many girls dream of becoming princesses, but for La Roche College alumna Whitney Kerr, she is making that dream become a reality. Kerr, a 2009 graduate with a bachelor’s degree in interior design, served as Miss Laurel Highlands on her way to competing in the Miss Pennsylvania Pageant this year.

“Being involved in the Miss America Organization has been a whirlwind of excitement from the very beginning,” Kerr said. “Serving as Miss Laurel Highlands has given me the opportunity to connect with my community, as well as others, on a different level.”

According to Kerr, all title holders work on behalf of Miss America’s national platform, The Children’s Miracle Network, and she was also able to work on her own platform, HEARTH: Strengthening Women, Eliminating Homeless Families.

HEARTH is a non-profit organization that provides transitional housing for homeless mothers and their children.

Kerr recently hosted a fund-raising event to benefit HEARTH and raised $700. She is also hosting fund-raisers in the near future to benefit the Children’s Miracle Network and the Community Human Service’s Operation Save-A-Life.

Kerr believes that her education at La Roche has helped her in many aspects of the pageant field.

“In the interior design program, you are constantly practicing public speaking skills when presenting projects and ideas to your class or panel of judges. Through my studies at La Roche, I also found where my passion within the design world lies - designing zoo exhibits - and I was able to work towards that with my senior project,” Kerr said.

Kerr was proud to represent La Roche College as an alumna, the Laurel Highlands and her family and friends at the Miss Pennsylvania Pageant. She competed against 36 contestants in interview, talent, on-stage question, swimsuit and evening wear categories. For her talent, she performed a contemporary rifle routine to ‘Reflections of Earth’ from Disney’s Epcot.

Although Kerr was not crowned Miss Pennsylvania in the mid-June contest, she hopes to continue to work with the public-at-large through speaking engagements and continue her involvement with various non-profits.

“I encourage all of La Roche – faculty, staff, students and alumni – to work toward your goals as if you have nothing to lose. If you have something you believe in, say so and smile while you do it,” she added.

1980s

Mark Bedel, BS ’80, was appointed manager, client services in the Business Development Department at QuestFore in February. QuestFore, located on Pittsburgh’s South Side, is a full-service marketing and creative services firm. Previously Mark worked at First Impression Printing Company. He is a resident of Gibsonia, Pa.

Anne Crawford, MS ’85, is the Medicare Parts C and D Compliance Officer at Highmark, Inc., which serves more than 330,000 members in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Anne has more than 30 years of health care experience in corporate compliance, human resources administration, public policy development, strategic planning, marketing research, product development and product management. Anne serves on the La Roche College Alumni Association Board.

Angela Longo, BS’89, was added to the development advisory committee to the board of the Three Rivers Center for Independent Living. She was formerly vice president, philanthropic programs at National City Bank of Pennsylvania.

Kelly Beltz

Kelly Beltz, who earned her master’s degree in science with a concentration in nurse anesthesia in 1996 from La Roche, recently moved from health professional to professional author when she wrote and published, “Beyond the Stars: Kataria,” a futuristic look at adventures in space. The book follows the story of heroine Samantha Gerris, who works for the Space Island Group and comes in contact with a number of adventures on Earth and in space. Author is just one title Beltz has had. She has also taught in the anesthesia program at La Roche and Allegheny Valley Hospital, she is an entrepreneur and holds one U.S. patent. She lives in Sarver, Pa., with her husband and two daughters.

1990s

Debra Burk, MS’91, vice president, human resources, customer channels group, Thermo Fisher Scientific, received the 2009 Human Resource Leadership Award presented by the Pittsburgh Business Times. This was the inaugural year for the award, which honors 12 HR professionals from companies with operations in the 10-county Pittsburgh region. Debra’s family includes her husband Regis Nesselrode, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Michele Denial, MSN ’96, is a nurse practitioner in the Family Medicine Department of Luther Midelfort Northland. Michele sees patients at the organization’s area clinics located in Barron, Cameron, Chetek, Prairie Farm and Rice Lake, WI.
Phyllis Hartman, MS ’90, co-authored, “Never Get Lost Again: Navigating Your HR Career.” The book was published in 2009 by the Society for Human Resource Management. She is the founder and president of PGHR Consulting, a human resource consulting service firm. Phyllis resides in McCandless Township, a northern suburb of Pittsburgh, with her husband Chuck and son Matthew.

Marcie Patton, MS ’96, was named director of human resources at Jameson Health System in April. She previously held the position of benefits manager. Marcie resides in New Castle, Pa., with her daughter, Elena.

Beverly Silvis, MS ’94, was named assistant director of Excela Health School of Anesthesia in March of this year. Prior to this appointment, she served as chief nurse anesthetist at Excela Health Frick Hospital in Mt. Pleasant, Pa. Beverly is pursuing a doctorate in nursing practice at Chatham University.

Sokhom Pin, Ph.D., BS ’92, after graduating from La Roche, earned his doctorate in pharmacology and toxicology. He currently is a research scientist at the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research. His areas of research include oncology, drug discovery, neuroscience and ophthalmology with a subspecialty in G-protein coupled receptors. His work has been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Sokhom lives in the Boston area with his wife and three children.

2000s

Victoria Acerni, BSID ’08, was appointed to the La Roche College interior design advisory board for a two year term as the secretary/treasurer. Vicky has been working as an interior designer at Workscape Inc., since 2008.

Lori Bible, MS ’02, has been named human resources director at Chicora Medical Center. She lives in Cranberry Township, Pa., with her husband David.

Susan Cadwallader, BA ’03, received a master’s degree in pastoral theology from St. Joseph College in Standish, Maine, in 2008.

Michelle Chinko, BA ’04, earned her graduate degree in counseling psychology in spring 2009. While earning her graduate degree, she met Jason Johnson, who proposed during summer 2008. They are planning a 2010 wedding.

Lee Anne Davison, MS ’08, and her husband Tim announce the birth of their son, Jack Gordon Davison on Nov. 2, 2009.

Becky Fry, BSN ’00, received the 2010 Cameo of Caring Award at the 12th annual UPMC Horizon, Excellence in Nursing Practice Awards Banquet in May. Becky and her husband Timothy have three children and reside in Jamestown, Pa.

Jessica Grayburn, BA ’05, shared her jewelry designs at a multi-artist exhibition hosted by The Mary Hulton Phillips Art Gallery at Butler County Community College in March 2010. The exhibition titled, “Fibers & Metals: Recent Work by Five Artists” displayed Jessica’s jewelry comprised of natural materials such as beads, cords, stones and wires. She plans to take her art to the next level through art therapy and professional counseling.

Robert Janeda, MS’06, vice president, human resources, PLS Logistics Services, received the 2009 Human Resource Leadership Award presented by the Pittsburgh Business Times. This was the inaugural year for the annual award which honors 12 HR professionals from companies with operations in the10-county Pittsburgh region. Bob and his wife Dawn have two children – Brock, age 5, and Reese, age 3.

Andrea Peck, BA ’00, has been the assistant principal of Seneca Valley Middle School since October 2007. Previously, she was a 6th grade science teacher at Pine-Richland Middle School since October 2007. Andrea

Dana Brandi, a Roche marketing alumna Dana Brandi ’07 was recently selected as one of “Pittsburgh’s 50 Finest” for 2010 through the local chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF). The 50 Finest, now in its 15th year, honors Pittsburgh’s most eligible men and women for their activity in the community and success in their careers. Ms. Brandi and the other nominees will host fund-raising events throughout the year to benefit CFF, concluding with a huge event in August.
was engaged in 2008 in Maui, Hawaii, to a teacher in the North Allegheny School District. She resides in Mars, Pa., with her 5-year-old triplet cats, MoJo, Hot Sauce and Vegas.

Stephanie Pencak, BA’01, is a team captain for “Team Unity,” a Relay for Life team with the American Cancer Society. Her team hosts fund-raising events throughout the year for this charity.

Terri Emory

Terri Emory, a May 2010 La Roche graduate who earned her bachelor’s degree in human services, recently learned that a proposal she researched and wrote while in a grant writing class at La Roche earned $5,000 for Community Auto of North Hills Community Outreach. The money will be used to buy child car seats. Ms. Emory said that she chose North Hills Community Outreach because, after volunteering at the organizations’ Millvale location, she decided to major in human services. Ms. Emory was recognized for her efforts on April 18 at the Dedication to Service open house, which celebrated the merger of North Hills Community Outreach and Community Auto. Ms. Emory is the mother of three children and resides in the North Hills of Pittsburgh.

Jennie Roth, BA ’06, as of February 2010, is the marketing communications manager for Wellspring Worldwide, a software company in the South Side of Pittsburgh. Jennie serves on the La Roche College Alumni Association Board.

Dalila Scott, BS ’10, is a Washington, D.C., native who is interning at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the External Affairs Division. She is working as a communications intern there.

Stephanie Gasior Sheets, BS ’05, has accepted a position in the Financial Aid Office at La Roche College. Previously she served in a position in the Department of Security & Transportation at High Point University in High Point, N.C. Stephanie was married in October 2009.

Deaths

Sister Edna Herbst, CDP, founder of the Fine Arts Department at La Roche College, on Saturday, July 10.

Lucille B. Hunter, BS ’77, on May 26, 2008, at age 92.

Sister Jan Pritchard, CDP, BA’74, on Nov. 18, 2009.

Nancy Purvis, BA ’03, on Feb. 19. Nancy was the owner and publisher of the Cranberry/Point North Magazine and designer of Visionease.

Charmian Webb, BSN ’08, on May 19. Charmian was the unit director of surgical services at UPMC Shadyside for 29 years.

Ashley J. Woods, BS ’94, on March 17, 2009.

Do You Work for a Matchmaker?
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Some companies double or even triple employee contributions to La Roche College.

Your employer might be one of them. Many companies also match gifts of retirees, spouses, surviving spouses and outside directors. Your gift may now go twice as far!

Keep in Touch
Alumni who send us their updated information will receive a La Roche College luggage tag. It’s our way of saying thank you for keeping in touch.

Send your information along to:
Rose M. Woolley - Director of Alumni Affairs
La Roche College • 9000 Babcock Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Alumni News Form
You can also e-mail your latest news or updated information to alumni@laroche.edu. Please print or type:

Name ________________________________
Name of Spouse (if applicable) ________________________________
Degree(s) ________________________________
Class Year(s) ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City ________________________________ State __________ Zip __________
Home Phone ________________________________
Preferred E-mail address ________________________________
Employer ________________________________
Business Address ________________________________
City ________________________________
State __________ Zip __________
Business Phone ________________________________
Names of children (age): ________________________________

News: ________________________________

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May Commencement

This spring, 211 students graduated and were honored at this year’s commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 8, in the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center.

The commencement address was given by Luke L. Hingson, president of Brother’s Brother Foundation (BBF), an international humanitarian aid organization dedicated to “Connecting People’s Resources with People’s Needs.” BBF helps people in more than 140 countries by working through partnerships with local agencies, government institutions, hospitals, universities, faith-based groups and social clubs.

Baccalaureate Mass kicked off Commencement Weekend on Friday, May 7, at the Sisters of Divine Providence, Mother of Divine Providence Chapel. Graduates were also honored at a special awards lunch following the mass. The lunch was a chance for the college’s administration and faculty to pay tribute to and celebrate the achievements of the May graduates.

Dance Performances Cap Successful Season

The La Roche College Dance Theatre (LRCDT) was busy this winter and early spring with three great performances. Their 2010 season kicked off with the group’s annual Winter Rep 2010 that took place at the beautiful new Father Ryan Center for the Performing Arts in McKees Rocks, Pa. Winter Rep 2010 featured artistic director Gerard Holt’s original “Scarlet Women of the Bible: EVE” and the perennial favorite “Paquita.”

The LRCDT was also asked to perform in New York City for the third time this past March at The Ailey Citigroup Theater, The Joan Weill Center for Dance. The group presented “A Celebration of the Spirit of Dance – An Evening of Dance Destined to Lift the Spirits.”

Closer to home, the LRCDT graced the stage of the Byham Theater in Pittsburgh’s Cultural District for the fifth consecutive year. The dancers presented “The Classics & The Contemporary: A Mixed Evening of Classical and Contemporary Dance.” This year’s production featured a variety of music from Diana Ross and Mahalia Jackson to George Gershwin and Beethoven.

New Dance Director

With more than a decade of directorship leading Bodiography Contemporary Ballet to prominence in the Pittsburgh arts community, Forest Hills native Maria Caruso will take on a new role as the Director of Dance at La Roche College. She will begin her role this summer and will welcome students for the 2010-2011 academic year.

By Colleen Pelc
The Pursuit of App-iness  
(The President’s May 2010 Commencement Address)

I don’t live my life totally surrounded by electronic gadgetry, but I must admit that I am a bit of a technophile. You might even say that I exhibit a few of the characteristics of that breed known as “early adopters.” Don’t get me wrong, though. I have a laptop computer, but I don’t blog and my Blackberry is strictly for phone calls and email; I just can’t imagine me tweeting. And while I do have a Facebook account, I think I only have six friends! I have owned an iPod for years and I have an iTunes account where I download music that many might find surprising for a Catholic nun...what can I say, I like Beyonce and the Black Eyed Peas.

In any case, a few weeks ago, I came across a new piece of technology while participating in an open house for prospective students on the La Roche campus. One of the faculty members had the new Apple iPad and I was excited to have him show me all its features. Once I saw what it could do, I was hooked. Immediately after my open house encounter with the iPad, I rushed out and bought one. The iPad is not the first time that I have dallied in devices, but I have been using it every day and much to the dismay of my friends and fellow workers, talking incessantly about all it can do.

I wasted no time in downloading a lot of free apps: NPR, USA Today, Bloomberg (even I watch the market, which can be kind of a scary thing to do recently), AccuWeather, and The Weather Channel (I get a bit obsessed about the weather when Commencement approaches). I have a fair share of books I have now bought from the Apple bookstore. And unlike my experience on my Blackberry, I can finally read email attachments without taking off my glasses and holding the Blackberry screen up to my nose. And though I did download the Loyola Press three-minute spiritual retreat, it does not replace my time each week with my worshipping community.

You are part of a generation that has always been comfortable with technology, so what I am telling you about my experience with the iPad you most certainly understand. But, my caution to you (and to me as well) is that we must never forget that there is no app that can ever replace human interaction. There is no application for your iPhone or your iPad that can be downloaded that will provide you with the assurances that come from the smile of a good friend or the shared laughter over a moment with someone you love. You can’t download a pat on the back or an arm around the shoulder. And you most certainly won’t find an application that will provide you the grace and consolation that comes from the unconditional love of a provident God made present in your life through an ongoing prayerful relationship.

And so, as you move on from your days at La Roche, I hope that you will remember often to put down your cell phones, stop your texting, and take the time to smile at the person who passes you on the street. I hope that you will remember to thank the many people, either in person or with an old fashioned handwritten note, who have made this day possible. And I wish you a lifetime of human encounters that will wow any application you may ever download to any device.

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

Positive Space

This year marked the 17th Annual Positive Space Art Show in which students entered more than 190 original pieces of work. An outside panel of judges chose the 54 pieces that made it into the final exhibit. The judges also chose winners in each of the nine categories, including the Best of Show award that was given to May 2010 graduate Tony Allgeier for his "Sick Building Syndrome" piece. The exhibit was on display throughout the entire month of March in the Cantellops Art Gallery on the La Roche Campus.

Portfolio Show

In April, the Graphic & Communication Design and Interior Design departments hosted the annual Senior Portfolio Show at USX Tower in Pittsburgh to showcase students’ talents to business professionals, alumni, faculty, prospective students and the general public. The students who received awards at the show were: Anne Bemis, who received the Graphic & Communication Design Leadership Award, and Anthony Allgeier, Andrea Heinbaugh and Michelle Yurkovac who received Interior Design Educational Achievement awards.
Students Receive President’s Award at Commencement

During this year’s May 8 Commencement ceremony, two graduates were honored for their academic excellence and personal values with the 2010 President’s Award for Leadership and Scholarship.

The award, which is the most prestigious offered to a traditional and non-traditional undergraduate student, was presented to each recipient by La Roche College President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D. The annual award goes to students who have exemplary academic records (minimum 3.0 QPA), who exemplify the values and characteristics of the College’s mission statement, and who are effective leaders either on campus, in the workplace, or in the community.

Dalila Scott, who earned her bachelor’s degree in communication, media & technology with a minor in history, received the 2010 President’s Award for Leadership and Scholarship in the traditional student category. Scott, a native of Southeast Washington, D.C., is the daughter of Lee and Joanne Scott, also of Southeast Washington, D.C.

Angela Wells, who earned her bachelor’s degree in English Education, received the 2010 President’s Award for Leadership and Scholarship in the non-traditional student category. Wells, a native of Seven Fields, Pa., is the daughter of Timothy and Vonnie Wells of Weirton, W.Va.

CSI Day

More than 30 students from North Allegheny, Seton La Salle and Deer Lakes high schools visited La Roche to attend CSI Day, a day-long event for students interested in various aspects of the crime scene investigations field. Students participated in a drunk-driving simulation, talked with a City of Pittsburgh detective about gathering evidence and witnessed a K-9 unit demonstration.

PCHE Members Receive Award

The Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education [PCHE] is the 2010 recipient of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania’s [AICUP] Benjamin Franklin Medal for Distinguished Achievement on Behalf of Higher Education. The award was presented on March 22 in Hershey during the Association’s Annual Meeting of its 87-member college and university presidents. Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., attended on behalf of La Roche.

The Benjamin Franklin medal, named for one of our nation’s most recognized leaders, is reserved for individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution to the ongoing vitality and effectiveness of Pennsylvania’s colleges and universities.

The AICUP Board of Directors this year broke with the tradition of presenting the award to an elected official, instead recognizing the critical work of a group of college and university leaders who resolved a potentially explosive proposal from Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl to impose a 1 percent tuition tax on students. The PCHE presidents were united and worked closely together to find an appropriate resolution to this proposal.

After weeks of public hearings, student rallies and negotiations, the PCHE presidents, Mayor Ravenstahl and members of City Council managed to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion that did not impose a first-in-the-nation tuition tax on students.

PCHE is comprised of the following institutions [all located in Allegheny County]: Carlow University, Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham University, Community College of Allegheny County, Duquesne University, La Roche College, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Point Park University, Robert Morris University, and the University of Pittsburgh.

“The ability of the presidents in the Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education to resolve successfully the tuition tax proposal was as important as any accomplishment in Pennsylvania higher education in the last decade,” said AICUP President Don Francis.
La Roche College Calendar of Events
Please join us for these upcoming events. All are open to the public, unless otherwise noted. Phone numbers also are provided for your reference. For more information and to learn about other timely events added after press time, please visit our website at www.laroche.edu and click on Upcoming Events on the homepage.

19th Annual La Roche College Golf Outing
Monday, Sept. 27
Wildwood Golf Club, Allison Park, Pa.
Details: 412-536-1085

Design Dialogue Series 2010: Cameron Sinclair
Thursday, Oct. 28
IBEW, 5 Hot Metal Street
South Side, Pittsburgh
Details: 412-536-1024

Visit LRC
Sunday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Our annual fall event provides an opportunity for students to meet with faculty, admissions counselors and financial aid representatives, tour the campus and take a look at the all-suite residence halls. All attendees are treated to a complimentary lunch. Call to register or for more information at 412-536-1272 or toll free 1-800-838-4LRC.

Global Problems, Global Solutions Conference
Focus: Women and Children in the U.N. Millennium Goals
Friday, Nov. 12, and Saturday, Nov. 13
The conference returns to La Roche College, where it was initiated in 1993.
Details: 412-536-1097

Especially for our Alumni!
Contact us for more details on any of the following items of special interest for our alumni. You may call Rose Woolley at 412-536-1085 or send an e-mail to rose.woolley@laroche.edu

Kennywood Tickets
Discounted tickets on sale until Tuesday, Aug. 31
FunDay Pass $22, Senior FunDay Pass $18
Order tickets online at www.laroche.edu/alum

La Roche College 19th Annual Golf Outing
Monday, Sept. 27
Wildwood Golf Club
Allison Park, Pa.

Alumni Night at “The Phantom of the Opera”
Saturday, Sept. 11, 8 p.m.
Benedum Center, Seventh Street and Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh
Pre-show reception at Bossa Nova, 123 Seventh Street

Alumni Wine Tasting
Saturday, Nov. 6, 7-10 p.m.
Location: TBD

Alumni Reception at the Festival of Lights
Friday, Dec. 3, 5-8 p.m.
Cantellops Art Gallery, Zappala College Center
Call 412-536-1024 for more information.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2010
IBEW Lecture Hall
5 Hot Metal Street, South Side

5:30 - 6:30 pm
Registration and Reception with Tapas Menu
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Presentation

La Roche College
Interior Design Advisory Board presents

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