Some graduates of La Roche become professors, researchers or mentors. La Roche alumna Jennifer Bennett decided to become all of these.

As an assistant professor of biology at Otterbein University, Bennett teaches courses in microbiology, cell biology and other subjects supporting the department of biology and earth science and the biochemistry and molecular biology program.

Bennett also mentors undergraduate students in independent research. She runs a microbial genetics research laboratory, which addresses questions in bacterial signaling and development. Her undergraduate students have won regional, national and international awards for their work conducted in her lab.

Bennett currently collaborates with two Otterbein University colleagues in a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning project. The American Society for Microbiology recently selected her to serve as a mentor and webinar leader.

“I attribute my successes to many mentors and experiences throughout my life,” Bennett said. “But I am who I am today, in large part, because of my experiences at La Roche College.”