



## CELEBRATE LA ROCHE!



### **Kessete Teweldebrhan '91**

*Anesthesia Educator*

College of Nursing and Health Technologies

Prior to the establishment of La Roche's Pacem in Terris Institute, Kessete Teweldebrhan attended the College through a World Health Organization scholarship.

After graduating from La Roche with a nursing degree in 1991, he returned to Ethiopia, his residence country, to educate nurse anesthetists and help decrease mortality and morbidity rates, especially among women and children. A professional nurse, a Midwife and Nurse Anesthetist, Mr. Teweldebrhan was one of few health professionals who returned to Ethiopia after earning American professional licenses.

Mr. Teweldebrhan continued to work in Ethiopia until he was deported to Eritrea, because of his Eritrean Ethnic Origin in 1998. He and his son and daughter became refugees and were separated from his wife and his other son. His family reunited in Eritrea five months later.

Despite continued hardship in his own country due to the war and other co-existing factors, Mr. Teweldebrhan founded the School of Anesthesia for Nurses at the College of Nursing and Health Technology in Asmara, Eritrea. He developed the program's anesthesia curriculum, acted as an Educator, supervisor and coordinator of the nurse anesthesia training program, and served as co-educator for Pediatric and Adult Advanced Life Support in Eritrea.

During his 31 years of professional service in Ethiopia in general and as a Founder and Director of the School of Anesthesia in Ethiopia, in particular, he has helped to produce 186 Nurse Anesthetists, who covered approximately 96 percent of all anesthesia services throughout Ethiopia until the time of his deportation in Fall 1998.

He was mentioned in the 1997-1998 edition of Who's Who in the World, in Medicine and Healthcare and has been profiled in World Anesthesia News and was nominated for an honorary M.D. from Bern University in Switzerland.

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