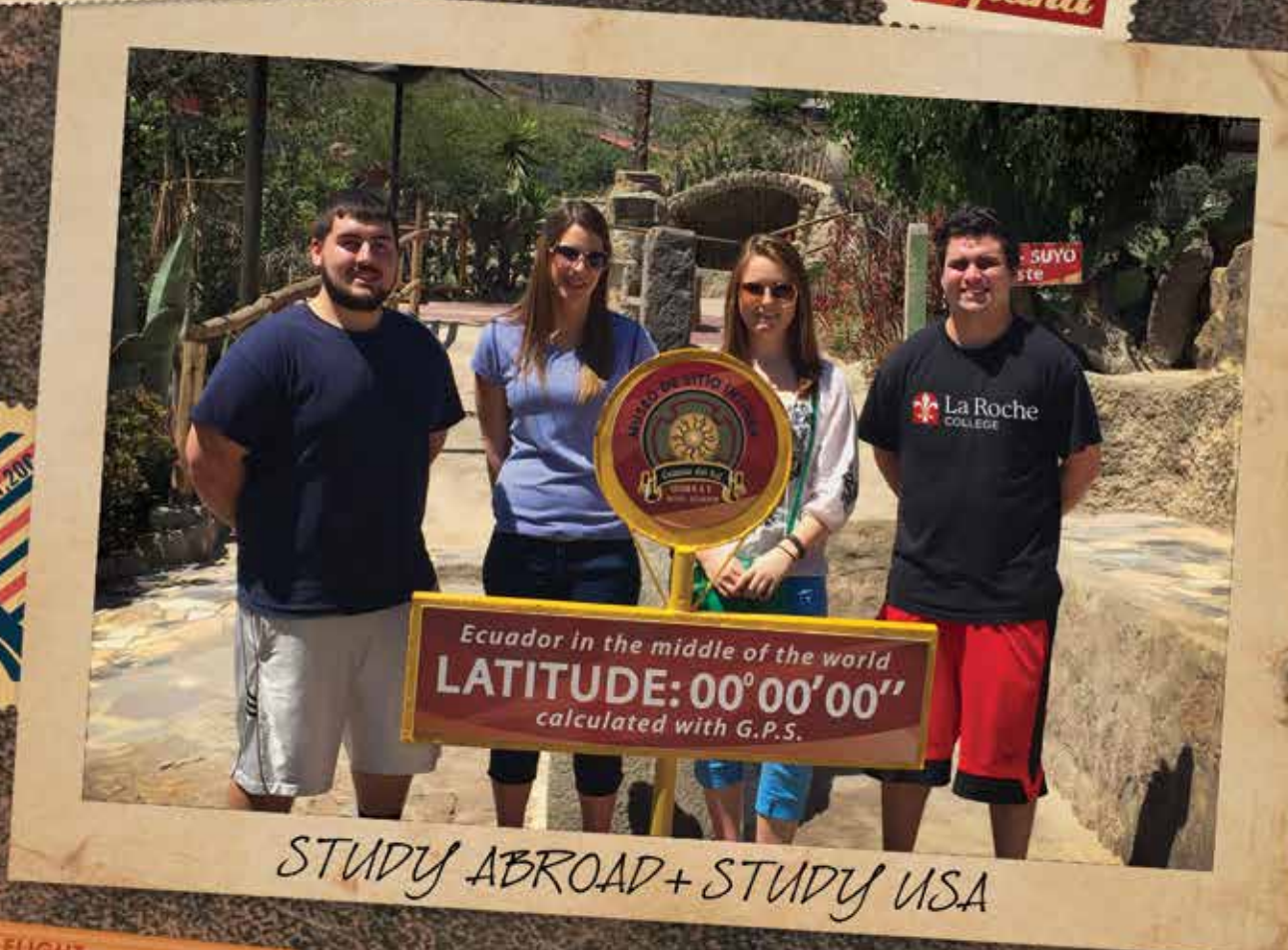


# CONNECTED

the LA ROCHE COLLEGE Magazine | FALL/WINTER 2016



LEARNING  
BEYOND  
THE CLASSROOM





IN THE MOMENT ...







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## HISTORIC FIRST

As champions of the NCAA Mideast Region, the La Roche baseball team advanced to the College World Series for the first time in school history.

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PHOTO: BECKY THURNER BRADDOCK

**N**early every time you see or hear something about La Roche College, it is followed by the phrase: *Engaging Minds. Embracing the World.*

Three years ago, every segment of the College community offered input on what La Roche stands for — and what we hope our more than 1,500 students and 13,000 alumni personify. Again and again, three strengths were mentioned:

- The quality and rigor of our career-focused academic programs.
- Our vibrant campus experience, resulting from a diverse student population — this year from 24 states, two U.S. territories and 35 nations.
- And our unwavering commitment to service, first envisioned by our founding sisters 53 years ago, and still a key component of the College's mission and core values.

The stories and photos in this issue of *Connected* prove that *Engaging Minds. Embracing the World.* is much more than a marketing tagline. It is the driving force behind La Roche College. It defines the commitment of our faculty and staff. It guides our students through their years on campus. And, we hope, it inspires our alumni to be forces for positive change in their careers and in their communities.

Study Abroad+Study USA is a signature program at La Roche. Its trips are designed to broaden students' understanding of different lifestyles and beliefs, whether here or abroad. The program prepares students to embrace — rather than be threatened by — diversity and multiculturalism. So far, our students have visited 19 countries and two U.S. cities.

A well-balanced college experience also includes time away from the classroom. La Roche athletes (and their coaches) continue to draw praise for their contributions both on and off the field and court. We are proud of our baseball team, which won its way to the NCAA College World Series last summer; and of our women's basketball team, which has won six straight AMCC Conference Championships and played in six straight NCAA tournaments. An especially proud moment occurred in October, when our athletic complex was officially named the Baierl Athletic Complex, thanks to the support and extraordinary generosity of Baierl Automotive and La Roche Trustee Lee Baierl. We look forward to many more winning seasons at that complex, and we are happy to offer those facilities to the broader community whenever our athletic schedules allow.

In this season of thanks and celebration, our thoughts naturally turn to our donors, whose loyalty and support allow us to live the mission of La Roche. We are happy to acknowledge those donors in this issue, and we assure them of our gratitude, good wishes and continued prayers. Because of them, we look forward to the new year, and enthusiastically re-affirm our pledge of *Engaging Minds. Embracing the World.*

Blessings,

*Sister Candace Introcaso*

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





# CONNECTED

the LA ROCHE COLLEGE Magazine

FALL | WINTER 2016

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The La Roche College magazine, *Connected*, is published twice a year by the Office of Marketing & Media Relations and provided free to alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the College. The contents are selected to demonstrate the interests and pursuits of the La Roche College community and to provide news about the College.

La Roche College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or religion in its programs and activities.

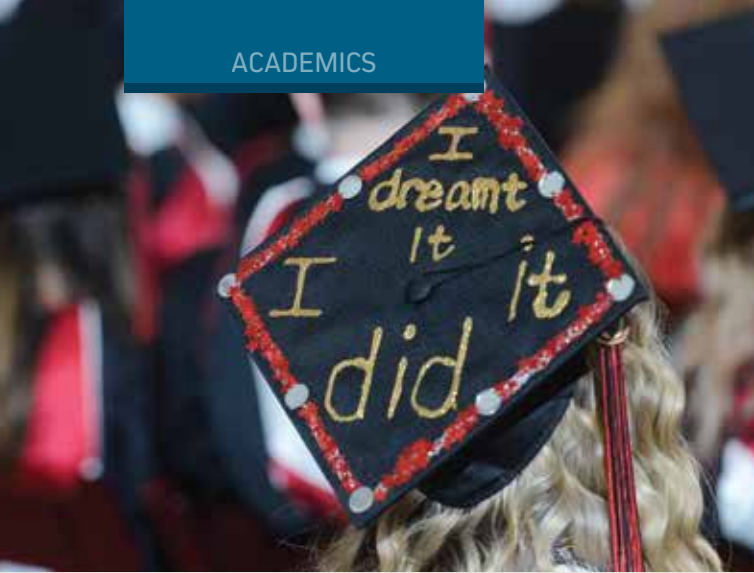
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# La Roche College Honors 51st Graduating Class

PHOTOS: PHIL PAVELY

**L**a Roche College conferred 44 master's degrees and 313 undergraduate degrees at its annual commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 7.

"Don't ever lose faith in your ability to make a difference," President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., told the graduates. "It is all too easy in today's technologically oriented world to lose sight of the human factor — how we relate to each other, what we mean to each other, and the gifts that we can be to each other. Make a point to ask yourself every day, 'What have I given to others?'"

Mark K. Shriver, president of Save the Children Action Network, relayed a

similar message in his commencement address.

"Over and over again, you will be face-to-face with circumstances in which freedom and opportunity for others are being denied or compromised," said Mr. Shriver. "Individualism and consumerism will invite you to look away, to focus exclusively on your needs and desires. Will you accept that invitation? Or will you accept the vision that La Roche College has presented to you to have a deep, personal relationship with God — to have faith — and to put that faith into action serving others?"

During the ceremony, the La Roche College Woman of Providence Award was presented to Sister Joan Marie Harper,

CDP, whose life of service, as part of the mission of the Congregation of Divine Providence, is a compelling example of God's Providence made visible. Sister Joan is a former member of the College Board of Trustees. Mr. Shriver was presented with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the College in recognition of his life of service fighting for social justice in advocacy and service organizations, as well as elected office.

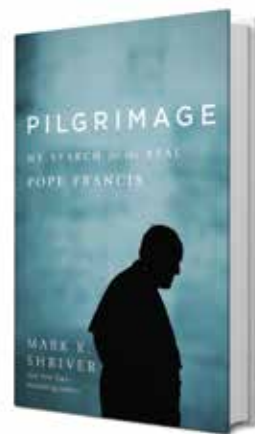
Two undergraduate students received the President's Awards for Leadership and Scholarship, given to those who exemplify the values and characteristics of the College's mission, who have exemplary academic records, and who are effective leaders on campus, in the workplace or in the community.





Top center: President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., and Chair of the Board of Trustees Kathryn Jolley '81, confer an honorary degree upon Mark Shriver. Top right: Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer Howard Ishiyama, Ph.D. addresses the graduating class.

## Shriver Pays Tribute to Pope Francis in New Book



**E**arly in the evening of March 13, 2013, the newly elected Pope Francis stepped out on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and did something remarkable: Before he imparted his blessing to the crowd, he asked the crowd to bless him, then bowed low to receive this grace.

In the days that followed, Mark Shriver, nephew of President John F. Kennedy and *New York Times* bestselling author of "A Good Man: Rediscovering My Father, Sargent Shriver" — along with the rest of the world — was astonished to see a pope who paid his own hotel bill, eschewed limos, and made his home in a suite of austere rooms in a Vatican guesthouse, rather than the grand papal apartment in the Apostolic Palace. By setting an example of humility and accessibility, Francis breathed new life into the Catholic Church, attracting the admiration of Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

In "PILGRIMAGE: My Search for the Real Pope Francis," Mr. Shriver

explores how that commitment has struck a chord in the hearts of millions who long to make faith, hope, love and mercy a part of their lives as they go out into the world to serve and learn from the most marginalized. Called funny, wise, insightful and skillfully penned, the book retraces Francis's personal journey. It starts in his native Argentina, and includes visits to the confessional where the former Cardinal Bergoglio first felt called to a faith-based life, and the humble parish where the future pontiff's pastoral career began: a church created from a converted vegetable shed in an area just outside the city of Buenos Aires.

Published by Random House, "PILGRIMAGE: My Search for the Real Pope Francis" went on sale in hardcover at the end of November.

### 2016 Traditional Recipient

**Ana Paula De Marco Teixeira**  
Belo Horizonte, Brazil  
Bachelor of Arts  
International Affairs

### 2016 Nontraditional Recipient

**Greer Reed**  
Verona, Pennsylvania  
Bachelor of Arts  
Performing Arts | Dance Performance

## ACBSP Reaffirms Accreditation of Business Programs

**T**he Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Board of Commissioners has reaffirmed accreditation of the business programs at La Roche College.

"As a College that highly values continuous improvement and academic quality, we are pleased to be continuing the tradition of excellence that ACBSP reaccreditation affirms,"

Lynn Archer, Ed.D., co-chair of the Management Division, said.

Established in 1988, ACBSP is the only organization offering specialized business accreditation for all degree levels. La Roche was first accredited by ACBSP in 1995 and is required to complete a reaffirmation process every 10 years. The Business Group of La Roche's Management Division includes programs in management, finance, international management, accounting, marketing and management information systems.



## AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Program Encourages Girls to Become Tech Savvy

PHOTOS: ANGELA MOSQUEDA, E.G. PHOTOGRAPHY

**A**lthough women hold close to half of all jobs in the U.S. economy, they hold less than 25 percent of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) jobs. American Association of University Women (AAUW) North Hills Pittsburgh Branch is one of 23 AAUW National Tech Savvy sites working to improve those numbers.

In May the AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch hosted a Tech Savvy program at La Roche College to show girls firsthand how STEM fields can lead to exciting careers. The event, part of the AAUW National Tech Savvy Pilot Program and funded in part by Alcoa Foundation, was attended by 91 sixth- through ninth-grade girls from 25 school districts and their families.

“Middle school is a critical time when girls start to make decisions about their future, and Tech Savvy shows the girls how to prepare for amazing STEM careers right here in Pittsburgh,” said La Roche’s Assistant Director of Admissions Peggy Schmiedecke, AAUW representative and grant co-writer, event co-curriculum chair, and marketing and media chair.

The students participated in workshops where they performed hands-on STEM activities, and also learned about “savvy skills” such as college planning, STEM career paths and financial literacy. A complementary program for adults showcased research regarding why there are so few women in STEM fields, and how girls benefit from spending time with women STEM role models. The students and their parents also broke into groups to complete a design and engineering challenge.



“We know that girls want to make a difference, so we give them hands-on, real-world problem-solving activities to show them that STEM is relevant and fun,” said Dr. Susan Banerjee, president of the AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh branch and event chair. “Another very important piece of our programming is exposing the girls to outstanding women mentors, so they, in turn, will mentor other girls.”

Four La Roche professors provided workshops during the event. Computer Science Department Chair Jane Arnold and Associate Professor of Computer Science Jeff Perdue presented Hour of Code, which focused on how technology works. Chemistry Department Chair

Dr. Don Fujito’s session, “Exploring the Uses and Properties of (Not Necessarily) Dry Ice,” taught girls how to construct a simple device to use crushed dry ice to extract limonene from orange rinds. Current and former students Victoria Danko ’16, Rachael Dufalla ’16, Maria Setchenska and Nonhlanhla (Lucky) Kies demonstrated an app they designed and engineered under the direction of Management Department Chair Michaela Noakes.

Created in 2006 by Tamara Brown, former president of the AAUW Buffalo, N.Y. branch, Tech Savvy has reached more than 5,000 girls. La Roche is one of more than 800 college and university partners that collaborate with the nonpartisan, nonprofit organization.



Students participate in faculty-led workshops in computer science and chemistry.



# English Professor Releases Second Young Adult Novel

BY MEGAN POLAND | PHOTO: MEL LATAL

**J**oshua David Bellin, Ph.D., professor of English at La Roche College, has released his second young adult novel, “Scavenger of Souls.”

“Scavenger of Souls,” the sequel to “Survival Colony 9,” is a science fiction novel set in a future post-apocalyptic Earth. Querry Genn and his colony have defeated the Skaldi, creatures who can mimic humans, but many lives were lost and supplies are low during the battle. After discovering another compound of humans, Querry soon realizes that nothing around him is as it seems. Querry, guilt-ridden from past actions, struggles to regain his forgotten memories and discover what happened in the past in order to save the future. Only then will he discover who he really is.

“A lot of people in this book have done a lot of bad things, including Querry—some things he’s not even aware that he’s done. People are carrying the things that they did wrong with them. Some of the villains are that way; some of the heroes

are that way. Probably everybody is a little that way,” Dr. Bellin said. “The question for the book is if people can be redeemed from the things they’ve done wrong.”

Although it is a sequel, Dr. Bellin said the novel could be read as a standalone. “Scavenger of Souls” is the final installment in the series, but there is a possibility for a prequel if there is a high enough demand.

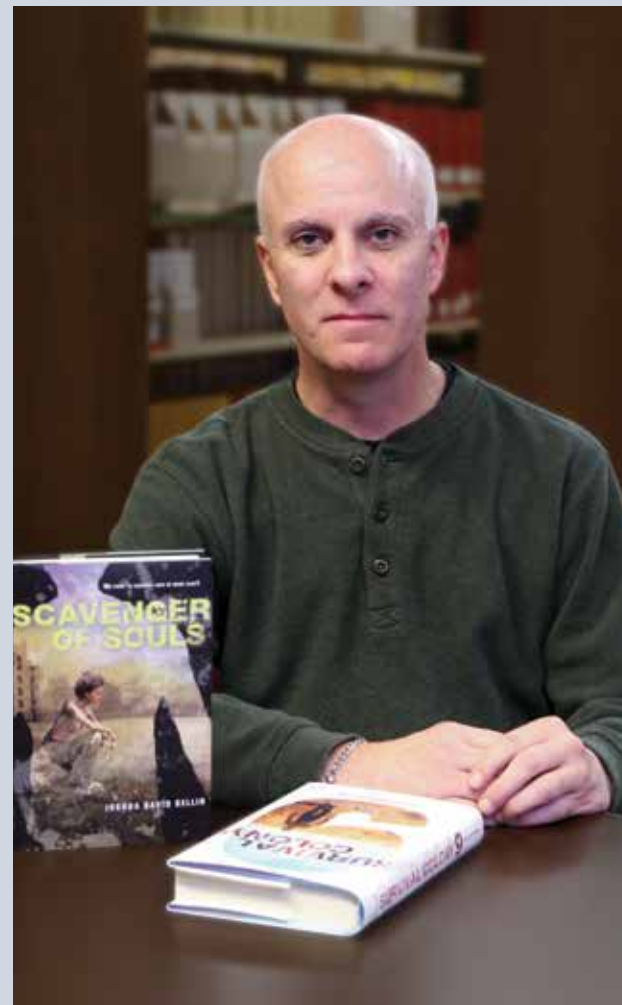
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*“The question for the book is if people can be redeemed from the things they’ve done wrong.”*

— Joshua David Bellin, Ph.D.

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“Scavenger of Souls” can be purchased through Amazon, Barnes and Noble and local, independent booksellers. The novel is available as a hardcover book and an e-book.



## Students Inspired by Mission Behind Design Dialogue Presentation

**T**he Interior Design Advisory Board (IDAB) at La Roche College presented “Inspiring Lives with Design: Influencing Interiors through Purpose,” at the Pittsburgh Opera House in October.

Speaker Lisa Robison, founder of the nonprofit Dwell with Dignity, discussed the value of interior design and proposed that when interior designers designed with purpose, the results were life-changing.

“Lisa spoke about how she created Dwell with Dignity to help families escape poverty and homelessness through the power of design,” said Nicole Kreidler,

Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Interior Design Department at La Roche College. “Students told me that they found her presentation inspiring and empowering — especially when she told them to discover what they were most passionate about so that they could communicate the meaning of who they are through their designs.

“Using visuals from James Mollison’s book, ‘Where Children Sleep,’ to illustrate her points, Lisa really captured the emotional experience of working with these clients,” added Dr. Kreidler.

Ms. Robison founded Dwell with Dignity in 2009. The nonprofit organization creates inspiring home interiors with

the labor of dedicated volunteers and through the generosity of donors, including designers and showrooms, and has helped more than 70 families since its inception. Last summer Ms. Robison received the Design for Humanity Award from the American Society of Interior Designers.

The Design Dialogue Speakers Series is now in its 14th year. The annual event, sponsored by the La Roche College IDAB, brings an internationally known designer to Pittsburgh every October to speak to the professional design community and students. Featured designers also visit the La Roche campus for an informal discussion with interior design and graphic design students.



## Charleroi Elementary Center Redesigned by Interior Design Students



**S**tudents from La Roche College's Interior Design program partnered with Charleroi School District to transform the main entrance of the Charleroi Elementary Center.

Mikayla Ambler of Elizabeth, Pa.; Brittany Craig of Mill Run, Pa.; Clara Grandy of Lewisburg, Pa.; Kelsey Lewis of Coraopolis, Pa.; Andrea Luciano

*"It's important for our students to have a real-world client... they receive valuable feedback on how their design ideas can be carried out."*

— Maria Ripepi Diven, MFA  
Associate Professor of Interior Design

of Altoona, Pa.; and Jennifer Velette of Tarentum, Pa., participated in the project as part of the College's Interior Design II (B) course. The course is an investigation of the design process, basic programming tools, concept development and the relationship between form, function and place-making.

"The goal of this project was to make the space at Charleroi Elementary

Center inviting and interesting for visitors, faculty, staff and students," La Roche Associate Professor of Interior Design Maria Ripepi Diven, MFA, said. "It's important for our students to have a real-world client; they need to meet the client's needs, budget, timeline, etc., and they receive valuable feedback on how their design ideas can be carried out."

The group developed renderings incorporating custom-designed furniture, new color palettes and materials, interactive spaces for students, a reception area for the school's security officer and receptionist, and a lounge area for parents. The redesign was completed during the summer.

"La Roche interior design students exemplified the endless possibilities that a passion for design and student success can achieve," said Charleroi Superintendent Edward Zelich.

La Roche is one of only two colleges in the Pittsburgh area to be fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art & Design, and has the distinction of achieving and holding CIDA accreditation longer than any other Pittsburgh interior design program.

## Associate of Science in Nursing Program Earns 92% NCLEX Pass Rate

**T**he 2015-2016 pass rate for the Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) program is 92.31 percent on the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX).

Department Chair of Nursing Terri Liberto, Ph.D., RN, said, "The Nursing Department at La Roche is thrilled with this report and so proud of our ASN graduates. Dedicated faculty, small classes, determined students and excellent clinical settings are responsible for this outstanding pass rate."

The NCLEX is a nationwide examination for registered nurses. After graduating from nursing school, potential registered nurses take the NCLEX to receive their nursing licenses from the state in which they plan to practice nursing.

In addition to the ASN program, La Roche offers an online RN to BSN with an RN to MSN option, an online MSN program with specializations in Nursing Administration and Nursing Education, and a School Nurse certification program. La Roche has articulation agreements with several area community colleges and diploma programs for the RN to BSN degree completion program.



Nicole Hart '16, RN, receives her nursing pin from Department Chair of Nursing Terri Liberto, Ph.D., RN.



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Chemistry Major

# Making Waves

with models of RMS Titanic

**I**t is not surprising that as a chemistry major, La Roche College senior Michael Koehler excels in math and science. What he does with those skills when not hitting the books, however, has attracted attention outside the classroom.

Mr. Koehler is a gifted model builder who has used these talents, as well as a passion for research, to create a historically accurate 1:152 scale radio-controlled RMS Titanic model that he sails on North Park Lake in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. The craft, which

is almost six feet long, was built from scratch in Mr. Koehler's basement from blueprints for the real ship.

"I drafted my own plans for this model using those blueprints, then built the model from insulation foam board and paper," Mr. Koehler said of the ship that was finished in May 2015. "When I take it to North Park, it gets a lot of attention; people are fascinated by it. It really draws a crowd."

Mr. Koehler, who lives in Hampton Township, isn't exactly sure when his own fascination with the Titanic began; he worked on a couple of middle school

projects about the ship, and thought that it would "be cool" to have a radio-controlled model of the vessel. "I've been interested in the Titanic for as long as I can remember, and my ongoing interest finally accumulated to the point where I wanted to build a large scale model of the ship," he explained.

But his obsession didn't stop there. Mr. Koehler is currently in the process of building a much larger, museum-quality RMS Titanic, which he expects to complete in about four years.

"I learned a lot and refined my model-building skills on the first ship, so I





is approximately 3,000 feet, which is basically as far as you can see it.”

Mr. Koehler is building the model from scratch using the traditional plank-on-frame construction method. He will build a wood structural framework first, followed by the addition of thin, lateral wooden planks glued around the frame to flesh-out the hull shape. The hull will then be sealed, sanded and covered with fiberglass cloth.

“After glassing the hull, a layer of scale hull plates made of polystyrene plastic will be glued on to simulate the real ship’s iron plating,” Mr. Koehler said. “I’m using the dimensions of the real ship to build the model, but the internal structure is my own design.”

Mr. Koehler has been teaching himself to build the ship with the aid of online tutorials, and has spent hours poring over details — and new revelations — about the ship’s construction. “About eight years ago, new evidence revealed that the Titanic’s center propeller actually had three blades rather than the commonly depicted four blades,” he said, adding that all known photographs supposedly showing the Titanic’s center propeller are actually of the Olympic, which did have a four-blade propeller. “I analyzed the evidence, and most likely the reality is that there were only three, so that’s how I’m building my model.”

In addition to building model ships, Mr. Koehler enjoys model aviation and model railroading, and is a member

of the Western Pennsylvania Model Railroad Museum. “My mom used to take me to the railroad museum when I was young, and I spent hours looking at the 4,000 square foot, 1:87 scale railroad display,” he said, adding that the railroad is the same scale as his Titanic model. “I think that spiked my interest in building models.”

Mr. Koehler also is a member of the Allegheny Parkflyers Club and has been building and flying radio controlled airplanes since 2007.

In addition to finishing his last year at La Roche, Mr. Koehler is employed through Lab Support at Kop-Coat, a wood protection products company, and has a side business restoring antique gramophones and phonographs.

“I’ve always liked old music from the early 1900s, and listening to the music made me want to seek out the original equipment on which it was played,” he said. “I built up a collection of antique phonographs and had to learn to repair them myself. I started helping out antique stores that buy old phonographs and need to get them in working condition, and it turned into a small business.”

Because he is so busy with school, work and other projects, Mr. Koehler only works on his Titanic model a couple of hours each weekend. “I’m still in the early stages of this build, but expect to have it finished and sailing by 2020,” he said.

decided to build one that’s twice the size and has a much higher level of detail,” he said. “This model will be much more impressive than my first one.”

Mr. Koehler’s 1:87 scale RMS Titanic model, which he started this past May, will be slightly over 10 feet (121.64 inches) long, more than a foot (12.68 inches) across, and have a displacement weight of 173 pounds.

“The model will be radio-controlled, and have working smoke, a horn and lights, as well as a speaker that softly plays Edwardian-era music,” he said. “The operational range of the model

BY VANESSA ORR | PHOTOS: JULIE KOEHLER





# LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM





# Study Abroad+Study USA Program Provides Students with Global Experiences

BY VANESSA ORR & MEGAN POLAND

**I**magine using a camera to capture the essence of life in Cuba; studying sustainability while removing invasive plants in the Galápagos Islands; rehabbing a home for female students in Guatemala; meeting with digital media experts in Los Angeles or studying how democratic socialism works in Denmark. For La Roche College students, these are just a few of the opportunities that come from participating in the Study Abroad+Study USA program, which is designed to expose them to different global experiences.

“The whole idea behind Study Abroad+Study USA is to allow students to immerse themselves in another culture, either overseas or in the U.S.,” explained program founder Father Tom Schaefer, Ph.D., associate vice president for academic affairs. “Being a global college means more than just bringing international students here to study; it also means giving students the opportunity to have an academic experience outside of our walls.”

Study Abroad+Study USA trips are short-term, faculty-led trips designed to broaden students’ understanding of different lifestyles and beliefs, and to prepare them to embrace diversity and multiculturalism. To date students have traveled to 19 countries and two U.S. states, and this year’s trips include journeys to Russia, Germany, Greece, Peru, Japan, the Netherlands and South Dakota.

“My goal is to make these trips as accessible as possible to students, and to include as many activities as possible,” said Nicole Gable, assistant director of the Study Abroad+Study USA program. “In many cases, this is a student’s first trip abroad or out of the area, and even if they never travel again, we want to give

them the opportunity to do something that they’ve never been able to do.”

La Roche College makes these trips accessible by including the program’s cost in the cost of tuition, which means that the only things students need to pay for are passports, if necessary, and some meals while on their trips. “We’ll even help a student apply for a passport if they’ve never done it before,” Ms. Gable said. “Our number one goal is to get as many students traveling as possible.”

Approximately 54 percent of the 2015 graduating class took advantage of this program, traveling to Morocco, Trinidad/Tobago, China and Italy, among other destinations. Students earn academic credit for the trips and many involve a service-learning component in which they give of themselves while gaining insight into other cultures.

What is most unique, however, is what students bring back from their travels. “What we’ve found is that students come back more confident and with a sense of determination that they didn’t have when they left,” Ms. Gable said. “It doesn’t seem possible that they can

change that much in nine days, but it happens.”

“I went with the students to Cuba this past year, and it was amazing to watch them grow and to become more involved in the world around them—to increase their level of engagement,” Father Tom added. “They are transformed by their experiences.”

In fact, in a follow-up survey a year after the 2014-15 trips, 95.4 percent of the students said that they were better able to adapt to new and different environments, and the same percentage said that they were more confident in new or unfamiliar situations. Upwards of 95 percent said that they were now more aware of cultural differences, and 72.7 percent said that they now felt more interconnected with the international community.

“This program will have an impact on students’ lives for a long time to come,” Father Tom said. “It not only makes our students more globally aware and appreciative of other cultures, but it makes them look at themselves differently.”





# GUATEMALA

While students often read about the difficulties that people face in developing countries, there's nothing quite like experiencing it firsthand. As part of the College's signature La Roche Experience program, students took a service-learning trip to Guatemala to help out at an orphanage, school and clinic. The students assisted teachers in the classroom and rehabbed a home where female students stayed at night.

Led by Associate Professor and Computer Science Department Chair Jane Arnold, M.S., and Adjunct Professor Philip Miller, the experience took students far beyond their comfort zones.

"It was a real eye-opener for students to see people in a developing country living in immense poverty with such a lack of amenities," explained Sister Elena Almendarez, CDP, director of mission and ministry for La Roche, who participated in the trip. "To see children in the orphanage who had no one to care for them but the Franciscan Sisters was a pretty sobering experience."

The fact that the nights were far colder than anyone expected also was a shock, as was the half-mile walk back and forth up a steep hill for meals. "It was a little challenging," Sister Elena said, adding that the female students pushed all of their beds together to share blankets during the night.

"Some of the students had never been outside the U.S., and it was an incredible experience for them to see another culture and a place beyond the three rivers," Ms. Arnold said. "Seeing the different level of prosperity, they came to realize that just because you aren't wealthy doesn't mean that you're not happy."

Ms. Arnold said one of the most poignant memories from the trip was helping a young boy with cerebral palsy and his mother, who were hoping to get a larger wheelchair for the boy. "Every day, his mother pushed him miles across cobblestone roads up the hill to school in this wheelchair that he'd outgrown," she explained. "It was incredible what she did for her son."

While Ms. Arnold, an engineer, took measurements of the boy, senior Eric Miller, a photographer, took pictures to send to the company making the wheelchair, and Sister Elena talked with the mother about how the wheelchair would be used. "He couldn't go to get fitted for the chair, so we did the best we could do to provide all of the information they would need," Sister Elena said. "It was an unplanned, special ministry, and we really felt like we had made a difference."

The mission didn't end with the trip, however. Students who traveled to Guatemala went back to La Roche and formed One Youth, a club still in existence today, which raises money to help the orphanage and to provide scholarships for schoolchildren.

"The trip had a long-lasting, transformative effect on the students," Ms. Arnold said. "Even though the students and the children they met didn't share the same language, it didn't matter."







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# GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

In 2016 biology professor Gail Rowe, Ph.D., took students to the Galápagos Islands to understand the importance of natural communities.

“Communities are not just about people; natural communities include all of the living organisms — plants, animals, microbes — and their natural non-living environments,” Dr. Rowe said, adding that the Galápagos Islands are fascinating because there are plants and animals there, such as marine iguanas and flightless cormorants, that exist nowhere else on earth.

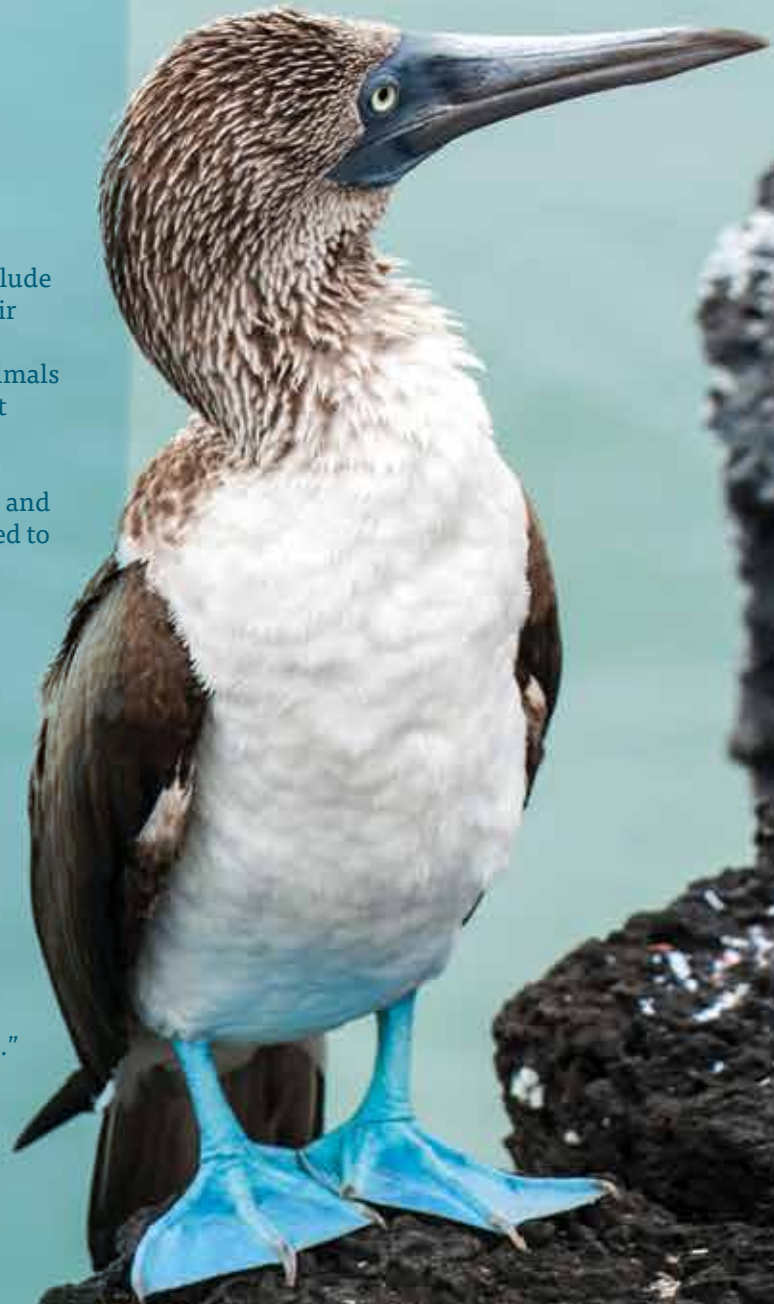
The citizens of the Galápagos Islands are mindful of sustainability and have respect for the island, which is a concept that Dr. Rowe worked to instill in her students.

“Besides seeing these precious animals and plants, the students had a service project that involved replacing introduced species, like blackberries that don’t belong there but are taking over and choking other plants, with a native species,” Dr. Rowe said. “They got to see the value of preservation.”

For Jess Seng, a biology major with a concentration in forensics, going to the Galápagos Islands was her first experience going abroad.

“My favorite aspect of the trip was all of the different animals we saw. To see amazing creatures out and about every day like we see squirrels or robins was too cool,” she said. “There were literally lizards and sea lions just lazing about on benches and in pathways.”

“I think it enchanted the students to see nature in this way, and to see the preservation efforts that the people on the island are making,” Dr. Rowe said. “They still need to make a living, but they’re trying to balance that with something sustainable that doesn’t destroy the beauty and uniqueness of the island.”





# Cuba

Assistant Professor Andy Schwanbeck took graphic design students to Cuba to create a photo-narrative, less than one year after the United States restored diplomatic relations with the Caribbean country.

"We have quite a unique connection and history with Cuba, and many of us were interested in exploring that relationship firsthand," Mr. Schwanbeck said. "The real Cuba is found within the people we encountered — warm smiles, open invitations, long tableside discussions about life. I've never felt more welcome and at home in such a short amount of time."

The students made unique connections of their own as well. "I was watching one of the students taking pictures of everything she ate, and I asked her about it," said Father Tom Schaefer, Ph.D., associate vice president for academic affairs. "She said that she was sending pictures back to her mom of things she'd never eaten at home — even things like pork chops! Being in a different place made her more willing to try, and enjoy, different things."







# DENMARK

**A**zlan Tajuddin, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Sociology Department, took students to Denmark in May 2016 to study the country's culture, education and health care. With a population of more than 5 million people, the country is a strong proponent of equality and provides free health care, college education, and daycare services to every citizen. Approximately 90 percent of the country is powered by wind and solar power.

"This trip was very appropriate because this was at a time when Bernie Sanders was coming out with his proposal of democratic socialism, and Denmark was a model that he upheld as a perfect society," explained Dr. Tajuddin, who designed a multidisciplinary theme for the trip since it involved students in a variety of majors, including criminal justice, education, health science, interior design and political science.

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# LOS ANGELES



Administration and management adjunct faculty member Rosemary Martinelli took a group of students to Los Angeles to study media, politics and entertainment.

“One of the things I always try to explain to students is to meet people, talk to them, and be able to communicate and start a network so that they can learn from others outside of their own spheres of influence and understanding,” said Ms. Martinelli. “Having strong communication skills is important no matter what field you are in.”

Students majoring in communication, graphic design, health and social services, human resources, and psychology participated in the trip.

Charleigh Smith, a graphic design major, was impressed by the caliber of the people they

met, including top-level executives. “We were introduced to some very well-respected people in the entertainment and media industry whom I never thought I would meet, including a member of the BuzzFeed team, which is a website and brand that I see every day,” she said.

In addition to meetings, the students got to see the Jimmy Kimmel Show live, visit Hollywood Boulevard, and hike to the famous Hollywood sign. They kept journals during the trip, which Ms. Martinelli said detailed some thought-provoking, enlightening and enriching experiences.

“This trip taught me a lot about outreach and presentation, and as a designer, I need to know how to reach audiences both large and small,” Ms. Smith said. “Having taken this trip and having seen some really amazing presenters has helped me to become a better presenter.”



Photo ©iStock





## La Roche Receives Three National Accolades

**L**a Roche College has received national recognition from not one, but three different organizations.



The Princeton Review, a nationally renowned education services company, lists La Roche in the Best in the Northeast section of its 2017 Best Colleges: Region by Region website feature. Earlier this year La Roche earned recognition among the nation's Colleges of Distinction for the fifth consecutive year, being named a Pennsylvania College of Distinction and Catholic College of Distinction.

Additionally, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked La Roche 23rd on its list of Best Regional Colleges in the North and second on its 2017 list of Regional Colleges in the North with the Most International Students.

For 13 consecutive years, The Princeton Review has ranked La Roche as one of the region's best colleges for students to earn undergraduate degrees. Editors base their selections on data collected from its survey of administrators at several hundred colleges in each region, as well as staff visits to schools and the perspectives of college counselors and advisors. The ranking also is based on what La Roche students reported about their campus experience in an 80-question student survey.

Colleges of Distinction is a website and corresponding e-guidebook dedicated to honoring schools nationwide for their excellence in undergraduate-focused higher education. Schools

must demonstrate results across four distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community and successful outcomes. High school counselors and educators make nominations, and each school is evaluated on key indicators including student engagement, student empowerment and curricular innovation.

Schools listed as Best Regional Colleges in *U.S. News & World Report* focus almost entirely on the undergraduate experience and offer a wide range of liberal arts programs and the fields of business, nursing and education. This year's list of Best Regional Colleges includes 334 colleges and features institutional data for categories such as peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, class sizes, student-faculty ratio, student selectivity, acceptance rates and alumni giving.

## Enhancements Made Across Campus

PHOTOS: JIM JUDKIS

**L**a Roche has continued to enhance its facilities to meet the growing student demand.

This past summer the College made renovations to the Zappala College Center, Ryan Room and Cantellops Art Gallery, with a focus of creating social space for the campus community.

These improvements followed the renovation of the Zappala College Center Square in summer 2015; the renovation of the outdoor athletic complex in 2014; and the modernization of a lecture hall in the Palumbo Science Center in 2015.

Additional upgrades are planned for the Science Center, including new laboratories and office space.





# Baierl Athletic Complex Named at October Ceremony

PHOTO: PHIL PAVELY

**O**n Tuesday, Oct. 11, La Roche President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., named the Baierl Athletic Complex and thanked Lee Baierl and Baierl Automotive for all of their encouragement and assistance.

“The support and extraordinary generosity of Baierl Automotive and La Roche College Trustee Mr. Lee Baierl played a significant role in making our ‘Field of Dreams’ a reality for our student athletes, coaches and loyal La Roche Redhawk fans,” Sister Candace said.

The ceremony, held at Varischetti Pavilion, was attended by students, faculty and staff, members of the College’s Board of Trustees, representatives from Baierl Automotive, and public officials, including U.S. Congressman Keith Rothfus, Pennsylvania State Representative and Speaker of the House Mike Turzai, and State Senator Randy Vulakovich. Several council members from McCandless



President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., and La Roche Trustee Lee Baierl.

Township also attended, including President Gerard Aufman Jr. of Ward 2; Vice President William McKim of Ward 7 and Kim Zachary of Ward 1.

“We’re proud to have the Baierl name associated with an organization that places as much value on our neighborhoods as it does its students,” Baierl Automotive President and CEO and La Roche Trustee Lee Baierl said. He added that the College’s investment in the athletic complex will provide tremendous benefits to student athletes,

coaches and the College as a whole, as well as serving as a resource for local organizations.

Sister Candace also thanked the College’s Board of Trustees for its leadership and expertise, along with Chair of the Board Kathryn Jolley ’81 and Greg Madej of DRS Architects, La Roche Trustee Steven Massaro of Massaro Corporation, and other major donors S&T Bank, La Roche Trustee Nicholas Varischetti and the Massaro Family.

# La Roche Joins Initiative to Increase Awareness, Implement Prevention of Campus Sexual Assault

**L**a Roche College has received a national grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women’s Health (OWH) that enables it to join an initiative to increase awareness of sexual assault on college campuses and implement successful prevention policies.

The College Sexual Assault Policy and Prevention Initiative provides three years of funding and supports the recommendations of the White House

Task Force on Campus Sexual Assault campaigns, Not Alone and It’s On Us. The College is one of nine grantees.

“La Roche College is honored to join with partner organizations to increase awareness of sexual assault on college campuses,” said Title IX Coordinator and Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Colleen Ruefle. “This program will help us in our efforts to prevent violence against women, and it will provide the resources for us to implement successful prevention strategies.”

La Roche will work with national and school partners to implement a targeted policy and practice change strategy. School partners include the University of Pittsburgh; Tufts University; University of California, Berkeley; University of San Francisco; Kirkwood Community College; Point Park University and the University of Mary Washington. National partners include NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors, Futures Without Violence, Green Dot and the National Campus Leadership Council.



# Home Run

## La Roche and the Pirates Continue Successful Partnership

BY KURT HACKIMER '12 | PHOTOS: BRADY BUTLER & PHIL PAVELY

Over the past several years, the Pittsburgh Pirates have offered plenty of excitement to their loyal supporters at PNC Park. But baseball, in its essence, is a leisurely sport. There is no time limit, no play clock and, as a result, no shortage of downtime.

For decades Major League Baseball teams have contrived different ways to keep fans entertained while the game is paused. During inning breaks, fans at PNC Park can attempt to catch balled-up t-shirts that are launched from a cannon, listen to Pirates catcher Francisco Cervelli give dating advice, and cheer on a group of costumed pierogies as they race along the outfield warning track.

While these segments are frequently changed so that the content stays fresh, La Roche College has remained a constant supporter of the Pittsburgh Pirates since 2002. That partnership has manifested in many different ways, from radio ads to television spots to logos on the backs of t-shirts. Former Pirates pitcher Kris Benson even served on La Roche's Board of Trustees for three years.

La Roche's agreement with the Pirates has evolved throughout Sister Candace Introcaso's tenure as College president, which began in 2004.

"Smaller schools have to take a risk and be more creative," Sister Candace said. "We don't take anything for granted and we have to plan to use our advertising

dollars so that they will have the greatest impact."

PNC Park has sponsors' logos plastered onto nearly every imaginable surface, but Aaron Cohn, the Pirates' vice president of corporate sponsorships, said that the team considers its involvement with La Roche to be a partnership.

"From our end, we love the partnership because it's a local institution," Mr. Cohn said. "It's very easy for a company to purchase a sign and some tickets, but

*Left: Department Chair of Performing Arts Maria Caruso, M.S., films downtown for La Roche's in-game feature, "Know the Burgh." Right: President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., watches video playback for "Know the Burgh" at Station Square.*







we're really encouraging our partners to do something more meaningful to help as many people as possible within the community."

The Pirates have sent multiple members of their organization to speak to La Roche students on campus, have invited students to their social media suite, and have offered opportunities for real-life experience with their internship program. La Roche also has partnered with Pirates Charities, the club's philanthropic arm that was developed in 2006 to further solidify relationships with Pittsburgh's many nonprofit organizations, in their annual Pirates Care-A-Van food drive.

"We want to partner with organizations that are mission driven," Sister Candace said. "The Pirates, with their emphasis on charity work, is a family-oriented organization that we are proud to be involved with."

This past season, La Roche embarked upon its most ambitious advertising endeavor to date: "Know the Burgh," an in-game quiz show hosted by Pirates

emcee Joe Klimchak that allows a member of the audience to answer a multiple choice question for prizes. Once the contestant has answered the question, he or she is able to choose between two treasure chests: one featuring an extravagant prize – usually autographed memorabilia – and one featuring a comically unimpressive prize such as a slinky or a copy of Terry Bradshaw's country music record.

Brady Butler, La Roche's associate vice president for marketing and media relations, said that while similar quiz shows are a staple at PNC Park, both the College and the Pirates wanted to shake things up and offer something a little more innovative.

"We didn't want to just attach our name to a t-shirt that's being shot from a cannon," Mr. Butler said. "We easily could have sponsored 'Know the Burgh' with only our logo on the screen, but we took it to another level."

Mr. Butler brainstormed with Pirates executives to determine how to uniquely present a segment that was

*Left: Olivia Gerace, Carly Wilson and Ryan Norkus earned their way into the social media suite at PNC Park through a Twitter contest for La Roche students. Before the game, students had a meet-and-greet with representatives from the Pirates' marketing office. Right: Alumni enjoy the game during La Roche College Night at PNC Park.*

simultaneously entertaining and educational, all while showcasing La Roche as well as the city. The result of the brainstorming was to jettison a collection of faculty, staff and students dressed in throwback La Roche Redhawks baseball jerseys, to notable locations around the city and film them reading the multiple choice questions that the contestants would have to answer.

"The average fan comes to three or four games a year, and we want to make sure that they're not going to get bored with what they're seeing," Mr. Cohn said. "We wanted to come out with something new and Pittsburgh centric. La Roche wanted to find ways to engage its community, so it worked out well."

## Enrollment Numbers Highest Since 2005

**T**otal enrollment at La Roche College has increased two percent this academic year, resulting in the College's largest overall enrollment since 2005.

Total enrollment for 2016-17 peaked at 1,555 students — an increase of 32 students over last year's final enrollment number of 1,523. This year 397 first-year full-time students enrolled at La Roche,

and an additional 82 part-time adult undergraduate and 60 graduate students also began their studies during the fall semester.

"The number of new students is a great accomplishment for a college the size of La Roche," said Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer Howard Ishiyama, Ph.D., who credited the increase to a number of new creative initiatives, and the dedication

and hard work of the staff and faculty college-wide.

Internal strategies that contributed to this year's enrollment increase include the College's efforts to expand its footprint across multiple types of students; creating more transfer-friendly policies; and assertively recruiting international students in countries that value a U.S. education.



## Five Alumnae Elected to Leadership Positions for the Sisters of Divine Providence

BY MADELYN DINNERSTEIN  
PHOTO: JIM JUDKIS

**L**a Roche College alumnae serve in prominent roles on the new leadership teams elected this summer by the Sisters of Divine Providence, the College's founding and sponsoring community.

Sister Maria Fest, CDP, B.S. '65, D.A., a member of the College's first graduating class, will serve as Congregational Leader for the Sisters' international congregation. Joining her on the Congregational Team is Sister Eun Soon (Rosa) Kim, CDP, B.S. '04 of the St. Joseph Province in South Korea.

Sister Michele Bisbey, CDP, B.A. '71, Ph.D., was elected Provincial Director for the Marie de La Roche Province, which covers the United States and the Caribbean. Joining her on the Provincial Leadership Team are two additional La Roche graduates elected as Provincial Councillors, Sister Mary Traupman, CDP, B.S. '69, MBA, J.D., and Sister Donna Marie Gribshaw, CDP, B.S. '74, M.A.

Sister Maria, 73, said attending La Roche in its early years "was kind of an entrepreneurial experience" because seven students in her graduating class were creating something new. "It was a brand new college," she said. "We were part of charting a new path, in a sense."

While the Congregation now has about 400 members, compared to a high of 1,600 in the 1960s, Sister Maria said her priority will be to deepen the connections among sisters around the world.

"I think the call at this time is to really deepen our internationality ... while still



Left to right: Sister Michele Bisbey, CDP, B.A. '71, Ph.D., Sister Maria Fest, CDP, B.S. '65, D.A. (seated), Sister Mary Traupman, CDP, B.S. '69, MBA, J.D., and Sister Donna Marie Gribshaw, CDP, B.S. '74, M.A.

respecting the individuality of various cultures," she said.

Sister Michele said she and others of the Provincial Leadership Team will work to promote the sisters' priority of "right relationships" within their community and with the rest of the world and the church.

"We've always been a group interested in social-justice issues," she said, adding that "life" issues don't stop at birth. "If we're supportive of new life, we have to make sure we have the resources to support new life."

She said sisters in the Province will continue their work on issues related to operating schools, supporting single mothers and families, fighting human

trafficking and assisting documented refugees.

Sister Michele, 67, has served as professor of religious studies at La Roche and has held the Ketteler Endowed Chair of Theology. She said that her 50 years as a Sister of Divine Providence will help her serve the Province, along with her listening,

critical thinking and relationship skills.

She also has been a foster parent 25 years, caring for 28 children.

"I think that has given me a unique insight into real-life situations and the importance of having balance. Foster parenting brings issues of the street to your living room," she said.

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***"I think the call at this time is to really deepen our internationality ... while still respecting the individuality of various cultures.***

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— Sister Maria Fest, CDP, B.S. '65, D.A.



# Q&A

## SISTER ELLA JANE BRUEN, CDP

BY NATASHA GARRETT '96, PH.D.  
PHOTO: JAMES KNOX

**S**ister Ella Jane Bruen, CDP, serves as residence hall director for Bold Hall. She joined La Roche College in 2007, when she arrived in Pittsburgh from the Sisters of Divine Providence Motherhouse in Kingston, Mass.

Though she may deny that she would ever become a true Pittsburgher, she has developed close relationships with the students and has become an integral part of the La Roche community. This year Sister Ella Jane is celebrating her 50th jubilee as a Sister.

### What brought you to La Roche College?

The Sisters invited me to come to Pittsburgh. At first I didn't think I wanted to move, and I certainly never thought I would be here this long. I thought I would only last for a few weeks. But once I joined La Roche, I fell in love with the community here. Boston will always be my home, but I definitely feel at home here, too.

### What did you do prior to joining La Roche?

I was a junior high and high school teacher in Boston. For years, I also ran an international summer camp for girls. I have worked with prisoners affected with AIDS. I am a member of the Plymouth Historical Society and serve on several education boards.

### What do you miss most?

I miss the ocean — I think it's my Celtic soul. I miss the Sisters back



in Boston, but I have made many good friends here at La Roche.

### You just celebrated your 50th jubilee as a Sister of Divine Providence. How did you decide to become a Sister?

It wasn't an overnight decision. It was on my mind for a long time. I decided to spend a weekend at the convent and see if this quiet push I had carried in me for a long time was genuine. Fifty years later, I am still with the Sisters, so it looks like I made the right decision. God won!

Being a Sister and being a teacher have been the greatest experiences in my life and have brought me the greatest joy.

### What do you enjoy most about La Roche?

I love the closeness of the community here. The students are so full of life, and I enjoy their senses of humor. I am happy to be a part of their support system, along with all the faculty and staff. It is very gratifying to see them grow during their years at La Roche, and it is especially touching to see them graduate.

### You are a great storyteller. Tell us about some memorable moments from your teaching career.

Where do I start? I have so many stories, I could go for days. One story that comes to mind is from when I was teaching sixth grade. I did a whole unit on cranberries, and I got crates of dried cranberries that the classroom then used to make cranberry bread, cranberry sauce, cranberry jelly, chocolate covered

cranberries...you get the idea. At the end of the day, I asked the boys to wash the big pots in the sink. The next day, Tony the custodian told me that the boys used the toilet brushes to scrub the pots and pans. Thankfully, Tony thought it was funny. But I felt bad, so I got him a carton of Lucky Strikes the next day.

I have great memories of running the summer camp for girls. They were funny. If one of them had a stomach ache, all of them would say they had stomach aches. I would empty a box of tic tacs in my hand and solemnly administer two per girl. After they took "the medicine," they all miraculously felt better.

Once, I ended up inadvertently driving a bus full of school children in the International Shriners Parade in Boston. I drove right past the grandstand with the Mayor, the Cardinal and the Governor. The only reason why I didn't get arrested was because the police saw the Sisters of Divine Providence Sacred Heart School sign on the side of the bus. Of course, there were cameras everywhere. When we got back home, the Provincial, a Sister with a very dry sense of humor, told me she saw me on TV.

### You are an editor of a book on the Civil War, "Through Ordinary Eyes." What do you like to read?

As you may guess, I read mostly history or historical fiction. I throw in a mystery here and there. I really enjoy historical biographies. At the moment, I am reading "Elephant Company," a book about elephants during the war in Burma. I also am reading "A Gentleman in Moscow."

### What are your favorite activities, besides reading?

Traveling. I have taken groups of students to several fascinating places: South Africa, Russia, Japan... I enjoyed all of them, but I just love Paris. Who doesn't?







## La Roche Soccer Team Rallies Around Superstar Fan

# Leo Zambori

BY VANESSA ORR | PHOTOS: PHIL PAVELY

Every day for three weeks, Leo Zambori, 5, asked his mom how many more days it would be until he could attend the La Roche College soccer game where he would serve as honorary captain and get to sit beside his friends on the bench. Instead of being exasperated by his endless questioning, his mother, Natalie Zambori, was thrilled that Leo was so excited.

“When you have a child who is sick, they don’t have a lot to look forward to,” said Ms. Zambori of her son’s battle with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), and all of the tests and treatments that come with it. “For weeks, he kept asking when he’d get to see Conner and the rest of the players — he was so excited! At a time when all of our lives have been turned upside down, this brought some normalcy to a rough situation, and the support that we’ve received from La Roche and the team has simply been amazing.”

Conner Hagins, a La Roche sophomore and soccer player, met Leo in April when Mr. Hagins visited the oncology ward at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC during the Cuddles for Kids second Kicking It with the Kids event. Since then Leo and Mr. Hagins have bonded, and the men’s soccer team has made a special effort to include their biggest fan in everything they do. Mr. Hagins started the Cuddles for Kids charity in 2006 when he was just 10 years old.

The team named Leo honorary captain



at a recent soccer match against Bethany College, where Leo proudly sat in the stands watching his favorite players, who wore “I Wear Gold for Leo” T-shirts during warm-ups. “Captain Aaron Lagnese gave him his captain’s arm band, and he walked out with Leo on the field,” said Ms. Zambori. “Leo was so excited!”

At the game at La Roche College against Penn State Behrend on Saturday, Oct. 22, Leo again got special attention, getting to meet up with the players before the game and having his name announced along with the other players on the roster.

“He sat on the bench with the team the whole game — I didn’t think that would happen; I mean, he’s 5!” Ms. Zambori said, laughing. “The fact that it was chilly and rainy didn’t faze him at all; he was just so excited to see everyone and to get to sit beside Conner. It was so cute to see his little blue shoes dangling off the bench — he was just one big smile all day long!”

Both the men’s and women’s teams are supporting Leo in his fight, and are finding ways to help the family, too. Before October’s game, both teams sold game day shirts with the proceeds going to help Leo’s family, and sold tickets for a Pittsburgh Steelers’ merchandise basket as another fundraiser. They also donated the proceeds from a 50/50 raffle toward Leo’s care, raising \$690 that they presented to the Zambori family during a half-time ceremony.

“It was a really wonderful surprise, but what they’re doing to make him happy is worth more than anything,” said Ms. Zambori, adding that the team also





The Zambori family is presented with gifts and a monetary donation from the soccer teams' fundraising efforts. Left to right: Chad Zambori, Natalie Zambori, Nolan Zambori, Conner Hagins, Honorary Soccer Captain Leo Zambori and Téa Miksch.

presented Leo's brother, 8-year-old Nolan, with a gift bag and sweatshirt. "It's so sweet that they recognized Nolan, too, because this has been just as hard on him — he's a great big brother.

"They are really special guys," she added of the team. "They treat both boys so well, and I'm glad that my boys have those young men to look up to."

According to men's soccer coach David Day, helping Leo is benefitting the team as well. "Students who play sports in college have it tough — it's hard to find a balance between doing well academically and understanding your role as a leader and an athlete in the community, so supporting Leo and his

family is really right up our alley," said Coach Day, who has consulted with the opposing teams as well as the NCAA to make sure that everyone knows about the team's commitment to Leo.

"This is really good for the guys on the team because many of them may not have thought about how they are going to make an impact on the community when they are finished going to school," he added. "When Leo's mom talked to us after the game and shared what it meant to him, and what it feels like to have a child who is sick, our guys understood how really special it was to be able to put a smile on his face."

According to Mr. Hagins, Leo does his best to return the favor. "Leo sends us a

lot of videos for motivation before every game, in between, and after the games — he's got a lot of energy," he said, laughing. "It's really sweet of him to do, and it's really nice to see when you're feeling stressed out trying to do everything between sports and school. He's not just our biggest fan; he's a member of our team at this point. He's really a little superstar to us."

Leo also is a big supporter when he's not in the stands, wearing La Roche sweatshirts everywhere he goes. "We live in Ohio, so people aren't as familiar with the College, but Leo's more than happy to tell them all about it," Ms. Zambori said. "He's a walking billboard for La Roche — he tells people, 'My friends are on the soccer team.'"



# Cuddles for Kids Making a Difference in Children's Lives

**A**t the age of 10, Conner Hagins decided that he wanted to help children in the hospital after his father, who was having double bypass surgery, received a stuffed animal and Conner realized that not every patient received that kind of comfort.

He founded Cuddles for Kids in Johnstown, Pa., in 2006 with the goal of delivering stuffed animals to children to help ease their minds during hospital stays. Since then, the charity has grown to include crayons, coloring books, toys and more, and has donated more than 100,000 items, or roughly \$430,000 worth of goods, to children's agencies in Pennsylvania and around the world. The charity also has issued more than \$16,000 in grants to agencies to be used for programs benefitting children.

"Every year the charity has grown bigger," Mr. Hagins said. "I never dreamed that it would grow this large, but the idea just sparked so quickly."

Mr. Hagins' mom, Robin, helps to run the charity, and was just as surprised at its success. "It started as something so small and innocent, and now it's grown into something we do year-round. It's really humbling for Charlie, Conner's dad, and me to see how many people support Conner's vision. We're so proud of the difference that he's making in other people's lives."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PITTSBURGH OF UPMC.

Leo Zambori and Conner Hagins meet for the first time at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC during the Kicking It with the Kids event on April 8, 2016.

Ms. Hagins is especially touched by her son's relationship with Leo and the fact that the whole La Roche soccer team has rallied behind the little boy's recovery. "We love that Conner is at a college that cares as much about the things he does out of school as what he does while he's in school," she said. "We know that he's in the right place."

Both Mr. Hagins and his mother were in the right place when they met Leo, who had been diagnosed with leukemia just two days before they visited the oncology floor at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC as part of the Kicking It with the Kids event.

"I think the family was still in shock, and Leo was having a really bad day; it wasn't until Conner handed him a soccer ball that his eyes lit up, and they started talking about being goalies," said Ms. Hagins. "His mom Natalie just broke down and hugged me — we were complete strangers at the time. Since then, our families have become great friends."

"Leo still has the photo that was taken that day by his bed at home," added Ms. Zambori. "While I don't believe that there's any good reason why any child gets cancer, I do believe that they were there for us that day because we needed it to happen; at our darkest time, they were there to make it better."

Cuddles for Kids is continuing to make it better for children all over the world, and has sent toys to children affected by hurricanes in Haiti and to those living in a Mexican orphanage. They've had local soldiers transport toys to children in Afghanistan, and they sponsor a toy drive every year before Christmas to help those living locally.

In November Cuddles for Kids held its third annual Kicking It with the Kids event at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, and they have a 5K run/walk planned for this coming May. For more information or to donate, visit [www.cuddlesforkids.net](http://www.cuddlesforkids.net).



PHOTO: TRACY GIBSON

The La Roche soccer teams partner with Cuddles for Kids for the third annual Kicking It with the Kids event at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC on Nov. 18, 2016.







# Deuces Are Wild in Women's Sports

BY JIMMY DUNN | PHOTO: JIM JUDKIS

**T**here's a unique situation taking place in women's sports at La Roche College. Doubles are quite evident with two sets of twins on the women's volleyball team, plus one set of twins and two scoring sisters on the women's soccer team.

Carley Knobloch, an outside hitter and her twin sister, Courtney, a setter, fresh out of North Allegheny High School, took a short trip down the road to begin their college careers at La Roche.

"We've played volleyball together for seven years," Courtney said. "Our older sister played for Carlow University against La Roche and AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) ball for Coach Nicole Bajuszak."

The Knobloch twins said their sister admired the sense of family and community she witnessed when competing against La Roche and playing for Coach Bajuszak. "That gave us a couple of reasons to stay close to home while continuing our education," Courtney said.

"We are working out the kinks," said twin sister Carley, one of a dozen freshmen on the roster.

Courtney pointed out the almost instinctive play between the twins when she noted, "I trust Carley 100 percent to get me the sets," and continued by saying, "I think I can help this team."

The Knobloch twins are supported by the other set of twins on the team, Christina and Janet Aland, who were members of the WPIAL and State

Volleyball Championship team from Bishop Canevin High School in 2015.

"Our older sister graduated from La Roche. It's a Catholic school and playing volleyball is a bonus," Christina said.

Janet said she appreciates the welcoming feeling she gets from the team. "Our five upperclassmen are fantastic. Hopefully we can add to the team's chemistry."

Coach Bajuszak enters her 10th year at La Roche coaching volleyball (five years as

long, we almost always know where the other one is on the field."

A hint of sibling competitiveness surfaced when Mara said, "I'm one minute older than Kacey, and I let her know it." The remark ignited a spontaneous burst of laughter from the two look-a-likes from DuBois, where they were members of a graduating class of 30 students in June.

Amanda and Vanessa Ceravolo are not twins, but they are sharp-shooting sisters.

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***"We have a great group of girls, both returnees and new players on the team. We focus on developing versatility, with consistent and mentally strong, young women."***

— Nicole Bajuszak '06  
La Roche Head Volleyball Coach

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head coach and five years as assistant). She is a 2006 graduate of the College.

"We have a great group of girls, both returnees and new players on the team. We focus on developing versatility, with consistent and mentally strong, young women," Coach Bajuszak said.

Coach Miguel Lozano begins his 18th year as head coach of the women's soccer team. He welcomes the addition of the Baronick twins, Kasey and Mara, to the team. "They will give us depth. We are picked to place fourth in the conference. I think we can do better," Coach Lozano said.

Kasey Baronick said, "We can add to the team's success." Her twin sister Mara agreed, saying, "Playing together for so

Vanessa, a junior, led the team in scoring last season with 15 goals. She was named AMCC Player of the Week twice this season. She is a two-time AMCC All-Conference performer and the 2014 AMCC Newcomer of the Year. She currently ranks fifth all-time in goals at La Roche and last year led the country in shots-on-goal per game.

Amanda, a freshman, has been a valuable part of the Redhawks' attack. She is one of the top forwards in the AMCC and was the La Roche Athlete of the Week earlier this season.

While the 2016 season ended on a frustrating note for both teams, a glimmer of hope surfaces in the old adage: Wait 'til next year!

*Clockwise from top: Amanda and Vanessa Ceravolo, Christine and Janet Aland, Mara and Kasey Baronick, and Courtney and Carley Knobloch.*



## Women's Basketball Coach Named AAE Coach of The Year

PHOTO: JIM JUDKIS

**K**amela Gissendanner, head coach of La Roche College women's basketball team, has been named the Advocates for Athletic Equity (AAE) Div. III Coach of the Year.

"It is such an honor and a humble moment in my young career," Coach Gissendanner said. "The award says Coach of the Year, but I truly believe this is a staff and team award. Without great people surrounding me this would not be possible. I want to send a big thank you to the AAE for recognizing all of our hard efforts and for all they do for our game."

Monica Maxwell, AAE's manager of events and membership, was equally thrilled with

the selection. "We were honored and excited to present Coach Gissendanner and La Roche College the award," she said. "Her team had an outstanding year, capped by the winning of this award."

The AAE's (originally Black Coaches Association) mission is to advocate for and promote ethnic minority coaches.

Coach Gissendanner has been La Roche's head coach since the 2012-13 season. Under Coach Gissendanner, La Roche has won four straight AMCC Conference Championships and played in four straight NCAA Tournaments. She has coached two AMCC Players of the Year, four AMCC Defensive Players of the Year, three All-Region performers and seven AMCC All-Conference performers. She also was the 2012-13 AMCC Coach of the Year.

In August Coach Gissendanner took on the role of student athlete success coordinator for the College. In this position she ensures that all student athletes are afforded every opportunity to achieve academic success.



Left to right: Darrian Johnson, Coach Kamela Gissendanner and Mackenzie O'Donnell.



# La Roche Baseball Team Makes it to College World Series

BY JIMMY FINLEY

**T**he La Roche College baseball team had just one goal heading into the 2016 season: to play in the College World Series.

The Redhawks were just one win shy of that dream in 2015, but in 2016, they made it a reality. La Roche won the NCAA Mideast Regional Championship and advanced to Appleton, Wis., for the right to hoist the national championship trophy. La Roche went 2-2 in the eight-team field and made it all the way to the national semifinals before falling to Keystone College.

“The 2016 squad was a group of extremely hardworking, passionate La Roche student athletes who were proud to represent the College at the highest level of NCAA athletics,” said Coach Chase Rowe, who was named Regional Coach of the Year. “We’re excited about what this national run can do for our program and for the La Roche community in the future. We are looking forward to continuing to add student athletes who are exceptional on and off the field.”

La Roche ran through its competition in the regular season, racking up a 15-1 record against Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) competition, and winning its fifth AMCC regular season title. The Redhawks opened the AMCC tournament with a heartbreaking extra-inning loss to Mt. Aloysius College, but they fought their way through the double elimination tournament and defeated Penn State Behrend in a snowy AMCC championship game. It was their third straight AMCC title and their fourth in the past five years.

La Roche’s reputation as a burgeoning power earned them the top seed in the NCAA Mideast Regional in Washington, Pa. The team opened with victories over Widener University and the College of New Jersey before falling to second-ranked Randolph-Macon with a score of 19-6.



La Roche responded with a 13-0 victory over Wooster College and then staved off elimination in a 12-inning thriller against Randolph-Macon that saw the Redhawks twice down to their last out. La Roche then overcame a 3-1 hole to defeat Randolph-Macon 4-3 in the winner-take-all NCAA Mideast Regional Championship.

The Redhawks drew national power Wisconsin-Whitewater in its opening game of the World Series, where Luis Navedo belted a two-run homer and Tanner Wilt tossed a complete game to earn La Roche the milestone win.

La Roche dropped a 6-1 game to Keystone but rebounded with a 9-6 win over St. John Fisher to advance to the semifinals. An Ian Velez home run and

three RBIs from Tyler Craig helped carry the Redhawks through to the semifinals.

The national semifinal was a back-and-forth game. Ben Herstine and David Lemley each hit home runs and Nick Tunstall pitched a gem. La Roche held a one-run lead in the ninth inning but was unable to hold on as Keystone advanced.

La Roche’s offense was the driving force behind a successful 2016 campaign. The Redhawks set a school record and ranked second nationally, with 59 home runs. Luis Navedo and Tanner Wilt were named All-Americans while Ben Herstine, Corey Lazor, Regis Sauer and David Lemley were All-Region. Trey Claar, Ian Velez and Joe Professori were All-Conference performers. Tyler Craig was named to the College World Series All-Tournament Team.





## Cross Country Concludes Season at AMCC Championships

The men's and women's cross country teams capped their 2016 season at the AMCC Championships in Johnstown, Pa. The men's team placed fifth and the women's team placed eighth.

It was a homecoming for men's cross country coach Jeff Dailey '13 and freshman runner Patrick Dailey who grew up in the Johnstown area. Both helped the Redhawks to their best conference finish in 14 years. Brandon Hartz led La Roche with a 27th place finish and helped pace Hemang Sharma and Patrick Dailey, who finished in the next two spots.

The women's cross country team remained in the hunt throughout the race but ultimately dropped into eighth place. Despite the finish, every returning Redhawk had their best placing finish at an AMCC race. Andrea Luciano crossed the finish line in 24th place to lead the Redhawks.

## Women's Tennis Has One of Best Seasons in School History

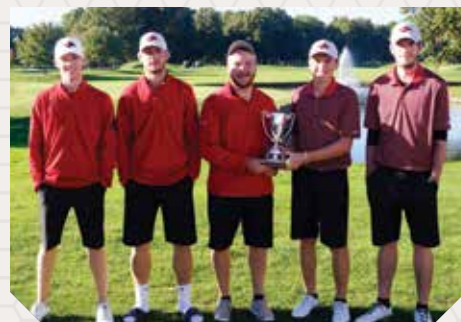
This year the La Roche women's tennis team combined a senior-laden squad with a rookie coach, and it resulted in the team enjoying one of their best seasons in school history. Just a week before the season, La Roche welcomed Head Coach Kevin Girard and things gelled quickly. The team earned a spot in the AMCC Conference playoffs for just the third time, and the Redhawks defeated Mt. Aloysius in the



AMCC quarterfinals before bowing out in the AMCC semifinals against Penn State Behrend. Chardai Guthrie and Monique Cooper were named to the AMCC All-Conference Second Team while Emily Huwe was an AMCC Player of the Week.

## Softball Team Falls to Familiar Foe

For the third season in a row, the La Roche softball team met a familiar foe in the AMCC Tournament quarterfinal when they faced Mt. Aloysius in an elimination game. The Mounties ended La Roche's run in the AMCC semifinals two years ago, and last year the Redhawks ended Mt. Aloysius' in the quarterfinal round. Unfortunately, Mt. Aloysius came away with a 6-4 win in the rubber match to advance to the semifinals and end the Redhawks' season. Four Redhawks received AMCC All-Conference recognition including outfielder Andie Lippman and first baseman Aubrie Martin who made the First Team, and third baseman Kara Sainato and outfielder/pitcher Hayley Lashinsky, who made the Third Team.



## Men's Golf Takes Second at AMCC Championships

The La Roche men's golf team capped a successful 2016 campaign with a second place finish at the AMCC Championships in Warren, Ohio. Ben Mullins led the Redhawks with a third place finish at the Championships while Drake Hoberek tied for fourth. The second place finish followed three straight matches that saw La Roche bringing home a runner-up trophy. Mr. Mullins' win at the Penn State Altoona Invitational and David Wilson's win at the Westminster Invitational highlighted La Roche's individual performances. Mr. Mullins and Mr. Wilson also were named AMCC Players of the Week.

## Lacrosse Team Victorious in Season Finale

The men's lacrosse team overcame a five goal, third-quarter deficit to come back and defeat Westminster 13-12 in its season finale. The Redhawks capped their 3-11 season by sending seniors Isaiah Wilson, Jim McKee and Dom Deltondo off with a remarkable victory. La Roche also hosted its first-ever alumni game, welcoming back more than 20 Redhawks who attended the College between 2010 and 2015.





~2017~  
La Roche College

## SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS



# **BASKETBALL**

**JUNE 13 - 16 | 9 - 11:30 A.M.**

*For information, email [herman.carmichael@laroche.edu](mailto:herman.carmichael@laroche.edu)*

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# **SOCCER**

**JUNE 26 - 30 | JULY 10 - 14 | JULY 24 - 28  
OR AUGUST 7 - 11**

**9 A.M. - 3 P.M. (with lunch included)**

**BOYS & GIRLS AGES 4 - 16**

*For information, email [miguel.lozano@laroche.edu](mailto:miguel.lozano@laroche.edu)*

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# **VOLLEYBALL**

**JULY 5 - 7 (position specific camp, all ages)**

**JULY 10 - 12 (middle school only)**

**JULY 24 - 26 (high school only)**

*For information, email [nicole.bajuszik@laroche.edu](mailto:nicole.bajuszik@laroche.edu)*



# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI 2016



Established during La Roche College's 50th anniversary year, the Distinguished Alumni Circle honors La Roche graduates for their outstanding professional contributions and service to others. In April 2016, La Roche inducted 11 additional alumni who exemplify the College's mission of faith and service.



## Riley B. Folds '97

*Diversity & Inclusion Manager  
Disney Consumer Products*

After graduating from La Roche College with a bachelor's degree in international business management, Riley B. Folds continued his education, established a career and became a leading figure in the LGBTQ community.

Currently Mr. Folds works as the Diversity and Inclusion Manager for Disney Consumer Products. In this position, he ensures that diversity and inclusion are integrated into strategies around the workforce, workplace and marketplace for Disney's Consumer Products/Interactive Segments.

"My La Roche experience provided me with the education, tools, resources and relationships that prepared me for success in my career," he stated.

Mr. Folds, who earned his master's degree in career counseling at Capella University in 2014, founded OUT for Work, a nonprofit organization that focuses on preparing LGBTQ college students for the transition from academia to the workplace. In 2013 he received the American College Personnel Association's Standing Committee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Public Service Award.

In June 2013, Mr. Folds released his first book, "Your Queer Career: The Ultimate Career Guide for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Job Seekers." Published by Riverdale Avenue, the book capsulated his decade of work in the area of LGBTQ workplace equality.

"Giving back in a meaningful way has always been a component of my life," said Mr. Folds, who also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador from January 1999 to June 2001.



## Dione L. (Alsing) Graswick '93

*Assurance Leader - Pittsburgh Office  
Assurance Partner  
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP*

Dione L. Graswick is the Assurance Leader for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) practice in Pittsburgh. She is responsible for leading

the overall strategy and operations of the audit practice in Pittsburgh, ensuring that the practice is providing quality services to its clients, marketplace and the community, while also serving as the lead partner on both public and private companies.



In addition, Ms. Graswick serves as the Assurance Diversity Leader for the Lake Erie Market where she helps foster an environment of inclusion. In this role, she champions diversity initiatives and mentors business professionals to use their unique backgrounds and experience to enhance the knowledge and culture of PwC's engagement teams throughout Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Buffalo and Rochester.

Ms. Graswick, who started her career as an associate with the former Coopers & Lybrand in 1993, said, "Leading a group of talented and diverse individuals to work as a team with the common goal of bringing the best quality services to our clients, the marketplace and the community is a rewarding experience. Every day is a different day with new challenges and experiences that provide growth and opportunity for a rewarding future."

In 2006, she received the Chairman's Award, PwC's highest honor that recognizes employees making important contributions in their communities and in the marketplace. Ms. Graswick serves as a board member of the Pittsburgh Technology Council, a finance council member of All Saints Church and a member of both the Pennsylvania and American Institutes of Certified Public Accountants.

Ms. Graswick graduated summa cum laude from La Roche with a bachelor's degree in accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant. She lives in Glenshaw, Pa., with her husband, Russ and their two children, Jake and Jena.



### Ernestine Harris '03, M.S. '10

*Human Resource Director  
Research & Development UK/U.S.  
and Employee Relations Center U.S.  
GlaxoSmithKline*

Throughout her career, Ernestine Harris has had the opportunity to work for a variety of businesses such as: PPG Industries, Carnegie Mellon University, Digital

Equipment Corporation and PNC.

As Human Resource Director for GlaxoSmithKline, Mrs. Harris leads the delivery of HR interventions for research and development, both in the UK and U.S. She also leads the delivery of employee relations across all business segments in the U.S. and contributes to the attainment of business goals.

"I was able to immediately apply the skills and education I received as a business and human resources professional in both my career and in support of nonprofits," said Mrs. Harris, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in human resources management from La Roche College.

Currently Mrs. Harris serves on the National Adoption Center Board of Directors and is chair of the Trustee Board at St. Paul's Baptist Church. Previously she was board president of Pennsylvania Organization of Women in Early Recovery (POWER); vice chair of Goodwill Industries Board of Directors; and board member of the African American Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

In 2008 Mrs. Harris was named Health Care Business Women's Rising Star and a Woman of Excellence by the *Pittsburgh Courier*. She has received four Multicultural Marketing Diversity Awards throughout her tenure at GlaxoSmithKline.



### David J. Kasievich '98

*Head of School  
St. James School*

As a community leader and an advocate for equal access to education, David Kasievich has devoted his life and career to serving others.

Mr. Kasievich and his spouse, Rev. Andrew Kellner, were invited by Dr. Audrey Evans, founder of the country's first Ronald McDonald House, and Rev. Sean Mullen, Rector of Saint Mark's Church, to cofound St. James School, a tuition-free school for children living in an under-resourced neighborhood of North Philadelphia.

As head of the Episcopal middle school, Mr. Kasievich's responsibilities include: serving as the academic community leader; managing the administrative team; developing and retaining first-rate faculty and staff; serving as the chief advancement officer; and overseeing the annual \$1.8 million fundraising effort.

"Equal access to education is the civil rights issue of today, and it's something that needs more attention in our country," Mr. Kasievich said. "I believe that education is the equalizer."

Previously Mr. Kasievich worked as the director of development for Community Partnership School; director of development and strategic planning for Young Scholars Charter School; director of Lasallian volunteers; and as a teacher of La Salle College High School and West Philadelphia Catholic High School.

Mr. Kasievich received his bachelor's degree in human services from La Roche College in 1998, and a master's degree in theological and pastoral studies from La Salle University in 2001. He began a Doctor of Ministry program in educational leadership at Virginia Seminary this past summer.

"La Roche's robust student-life program provided me with the



social capital needed to prepare me for my career as a teacher, fundraiser, nonprofit leader and person of faith," he said. "La Roche and its people remain an important part of my life."

In addition to his responsibilities at St. James, Mr. Kasievich is the founding board member of the Nativity Miguel Coalition of Schools; an active member of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church; former board member of the Catholic Network of Volunteer Services; a delegate of Lasaillian International Assembly; and former board member of Tree House Books.



**Kristen Kruszewski '08, Ph.D.**

*Senior Research Chemist*  
Automotive OEM Coatings | PPG Industries Inc.

Kristen Kruszewski is an award-winning scientist, innovator and leader within the Pittsburgh community.

Currently Dr. Kruszewski works for PPG Industries as a Senior Research Chemist, where she identifies new growth opportunities that align with the Automotive Coatings business and designs experiments to show proof of concept capabilities.

"The best part is collaboration," Dr. Kruszewski said of her role at PPG. "I get to connect with many different people, both in the company and outside, about a number of different research areas. I'm always learning about new technology or figuring out how existing technology in one area could solve challenges in a different area."

Dr. Kruszewski's career in industry began when she served as an intern in the Polymer Physics Lab at Bayer Material Science. Her experience there set the stage for continuing her education; she later obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry from Duquesne University.

In addition to her professional responsibilities at PPG, Dr. Kruszewski leads the Research and Development Diversity Council (RDDC), which focuses on helping associates find opportunities for career development, facilitates networking across the organization and provides resources for achieving work-life balance.

"My experience at La Roche taught me to value diversity of thought and seek to be a mentor to others," she said. "It also showed me that if you put your heart into something and are patient, people will notice your work."



**Mary E. Michalek '82**

*Retired – Staff Nurse,  
Infectious Diseases*  
Allegheny County Health Department

In retirement Mary E. Michalek continues to care for others after more than 40 years as a registered nurse.

After graduating from Independence and Sanitarium School of Nursing in 1956, Ms. Michalek worked as a nurse in pediatric, medical surgery, geriatric, trial medicine and infectious disease settings.

In 1982, she achieved her lifelong goal of obtaining a college degree and received her bachelor's degree in psychology from La Roche College. "My special memory of La Roche would be that the young students accepted me as an equal," she stated.

From 1989 to 1998, Ms. Michalek worked as a staff nurse for infectious diseases for the Allegheny County Health Department, providing both children and adults with flu and vaccine shots for infectious diseases, collecting specimens, and visiting the homes of individuals who had food-borne illnesses.

Ms. Michalek's volunteer experience, which spans five decades, includes service to the Girl Scouts; Mt. Oliver School District; Orchestra Parents of North Allegheny; and Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors, currently known as Global Pittsburgh. Today she is a volunteer for UPMC Passavant, where she has accumulated more than 5,500 volunteer hours transporting patients to x-ray imaging, working as a patient greeter and delivering mail to patient rooms.



**Tara Kay Race '98**

*Advanced Educator*  
UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing

For more than 20 years, the desire to learn helped Tara Kay Race launch and expand a successful nursing career. As a staff nurse in the critical care unit of Heritage Valley Sewickley, Ms. Race obtained a

bachelor's degree in nursing from La Roche College in 1998. She later pursued a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and became a clinical nurse specialist for Allegheny General Hospital's medical intensive care unit.



"I essentially 'grew up' in nursing as a critical care nurse," she explained. "My hospital family helped me acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to be a competent nurse, and they afforded the opportunity to learn valuable lessons regarding relationships, life, death, ethics, faith and spirituality."

After completing her graduate degree, she returned to Heritage Valley as a nurse educator and pursued a doctor of nursing practice degree from Waynesburg University.

"I can honestly say I have never stopped learning and have always had somewhat of an addiction when it comes to pursuing higher education," she said.

Ms. Race's doctoral education eventually led to a faculty position with UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing, where she currently works as an advanced nurse educator, providing theory and clinical instruction to diploma nursing students.

"It is very rewarding to witness young graduates moving into successful nursing careers and experiencing the joy and satisfaction of caring for others," she stated.

Ms. Race said she considers her doctoral capstone her greatest professional achievement. The project, which focused on recognizing the early changes of a patient's condition, is in the process of being implemented into the electronic health record at UPMC Shadyside.

Outside of work, Ms. Race volunteers as a nurse for Camporee, an annual event for 200 Girl Scouts at Camp Redwing near Evans City, Pa. In addition, she recently served as chairperson of the Outreach Ministry at Montours' Presbyterian Church in Robinson Township, where she also serves as an elder and member of the session. She and her husband, Harold, have two daughters, Autumn and Taylor.



**Sullywn Stewart '77,  
M.D.**

*Family Physician*  
Licking Memorial Hospital  
Health Partners

For Sullywn Stewart, becoming a physician required hard work, sacrifice and the courage to take a risk.

Dr. Stewart earned her undergraduate degree in sociology from La Roche College, spent 15 years as a social worker in Western Pennsylvania and was a practicing physician assistant before she decided to embark on a new career path. At age 42, she was accepted to Saba University School of Medicine in the Netherlands Antilles and went onto residency at the Ohio State University Family Medicine Residency Program.

"I left the country to pursue this career," said Dr. Stewart, who is now a family physician at Licking Memorial Hospital Health Partners in Johnstown, Ohio. "I took a risk of leaving a steady job, cashed in my pension and sold most of my belongings to relocate in a foreign country to go to medical school."

In addition to traditional family medicine, Dr. Stewart also worked in comprehensive wound care, hyperbaric medicine, and clinical and classroom teaching. Presently she precepts medical students and physician assistant students in her office.

"Family medicine is unique in that we treat the entire patient — physically, mentally and psychosocially," she said. "When I teach clinical medicine, I instill the characteristics of the social worker I became as a result of my degree from La Roche: a keen knowledge of the community resources that so many patients need in their lives, and the ability to communicate with a patient for both medical and emotional issues."

Dr. Stewart is the immediate past president of the Ohio Academy of Family Medicine (OAFP), serving on the board since 2007 and as president from 2014 to 2015. She also served on the OAFP Executive Committee and Advocacy Committee, and as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. She is vice chair of the OAFP Family Medicine Foundation and serves on the CORE Review Board that publishes the CORE Content Review of Family Medicine.



**Janice M. Talerico '81**

*Vice President, Total Rewards  
and Chief Diversity Officer*  
Giant Eagle Inc.

Janice Talerico has more than 34 years of experience in various industries and service providers in the Pittsburgh area.

After graduating from La Roche College, Ms. Talerico began her financial career as an auditor for Ernst and Young, became a Certified Public Accountant and spent 10 years in various auditing and financial positions at Pitt-Des Moines Inc., an engineering and construction company.

For the past 21 years, Ms. Talerico has worked for Giant Eagle Inc., a \$10 billion retail and wholesale grocery chain. She has held various high-level positions in the areas of finance, human resources and store operations, negotiating deals with independent owners of both Giant Eagle stores and other wholesale independent operators. Recently she was named Vice President of Total Rewards and Chief Diversity Officer of Giant Eagle. She also recently received the 2015 Progressive Grocers Top Women in Grocery Award.



Ms. Talerico stated, "My accounting degree has been the basis for success in all of my positions. Good, solid business and accounting knowledge can help in any position within an organization."

A lifelong resident of Pittsburgh, Ms. Talerico resides with her partner, Christine, and enjoys spending time with her family and friends.



### **Dawnita J. Wilson** **M.S. '03**

*Director, Global Diversity  
and Inclusion*  
Sodexo

Dawnita Wilson has more than 15 years of professional experience in the areas of diversity and inclusion, human resources, talent acquisition,

and management, having worked for companies such as Highmark, UPMC, KMART Corporation, IKON Office Solutions and MARC USA.

Currently she is the Director of Global Diversity and Inclusion at Sodexo, an \$8.9 billion organization serving 15 million consumers at 8,000 client sites in North America. The company provides food service and facilities management for educational, health care, government and corporate entities, plus in-home care, corporate concierge services and more.

Ms. Wilson is responsible for leading and developing diversity and inclusion strategies focused on competency and awareness, employee engagement, marketing and communications, community involvement and global initiatives. She also has oversight of nine Employee Business Resource Groups, which continue to play a significant role in ensuring that diversity and inclusion remains a top priority at Sodexo. Under Ms. Wilson's leadership, Sodexo was named to Diversity Inc.'s Top 50 Companies for Diversity list for the sixth consecutive year in 2015.

A graduate of La Roche College's Master of Science in Human Resources Management program, Ms. Wilson said, "La Roche was instrumental in helping me to build relationships and understand the importance of team work."

Ms. Wilson's community involvement and board affiliations in the Pittsburgh area have included: YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh; the Workforce Development Global Alliance; the Pittsburgh Association of Human Resources Professional; the Pittsburgh National Black MBA Association; the Pennsylvania Diversity Council; the Josh Gibson Foundation; the Allegheny County Juvenile Justice Board of Directors; the Adonai Center Board of Directors; and the Presby SeniorCare Network Board of Directors.



### **Maurita J. Wisniewski** **'84, MSN '88**

*Nurse Educator*  
Ohio Valley Hospital School  
of Nursing

Maurita J. Wisniewski found her calling when she became a nurse educator.

Throughout her career, Ms. Wisniewski worked as a staff nurse in the critical care units throughout the Pittsburgh area. While working toward her master's degree in nursing, she became the director of the coronary care unit at Allegheny General Hospital.

"There is no question that education makes a nurse a better nurse. With education, one begins to teach, educate, mentor and support, whether they are nursing staff or nursing students. Sharing knowledge makes it better for the nurse and improves outcomes for the patients we care for."

After deciding that nurse education was her career goal, Ms. Wisniewski began teaching both didactic and clinical nursing at UPMC Shadyside Hospital's School of Nursing, and later she served as the course coordinator for critical care at Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing.

Currently Ms. Wisniewski is a nurse educator at Ohio Valley, providing didactic and clinical education to first and second-year nursing students. She also provides basic cardiac rhythm classes as a critical care educator.

"During the last eight years, working at Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing has been a wonderful experience, allowing me to develop the course and teach young nursing students entering the profession," she said. "I continue to work at Ohio Valley in a casual position during my retirement, loving the work that I do to educate the next generation of nurses."

Ms. Wisniewski has served on the board of La Roche's Theta Mu chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the nursing honor society. Since Theta Mu's founding, she has served in a variety of positions from treasurer to president. Ms. Wisniewski also has served on the board of the Three Rivers Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and the Greater Pittsburgh Nursing Research Conference.

For the past 20 years, she has volunteered as La Roche's Theta Mu Craft Show coordinator to raise funds.

"When you give up your time so that an organization can be successful, that is reward in itself," she said. "At Theta Mu we have given thousands of dollars for both nursing research and scholarships to deserving recipients. In addition, we are able to assist La Roche College and its Department of Nursing with educational material when they are in need."









## 2016 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

The following is a listing of La Roche College donors during the 2015-16 fiscal year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016).

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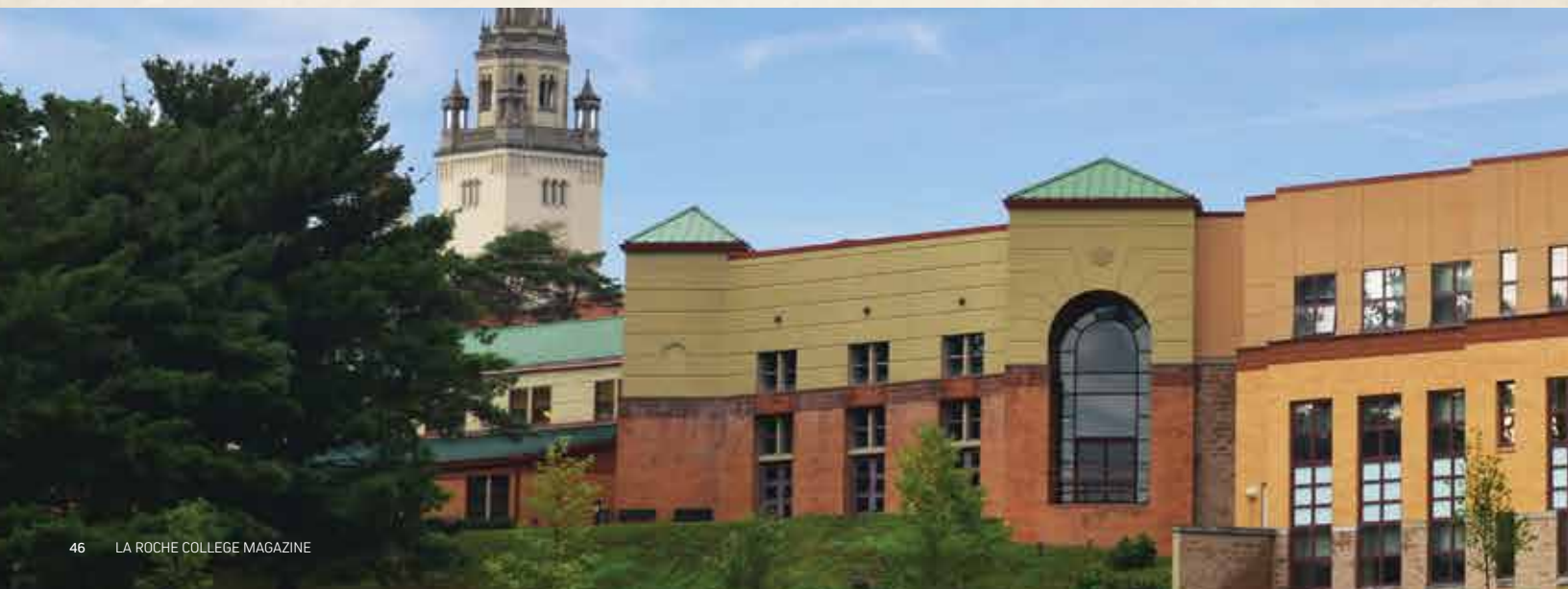
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 Accounting Seminars Inc.  
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 Redstone Candies  
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 Rohland Associates  
 Romp n' Roll  
 RSH Interiors  
 Ruthrauff Services LLC  
 S&T Bank  
 Sage Dining Services Inc.  
 Saint Bonaventure Parish School  
 Schneider's Dairy  
 Scott Electric Foundation Inc.  
 Segway Pittsburgh  
 Seven Springs Mountain Resort  
 Shadyside Inn  
 Shamrock Limousine  
 Shaw Floors  
 Society for Analytical Chemists  
 of Pittsburgh  
 Society for Contemporary Craft  
 Sognatore Salon & Spa  
 Spectra Development Co.  
 Spokane Orthodontics  
 St. Paul's United  
 Methodist Church Women  
 State Farm  
 Companies Foundation  
 Stewart Marketing LLC  
 Sunbury Controls, Inc.  
 SunTrust Foundation  
 Matching Gift Program  
 Susan Dunn & Associates  
 Tandus Centiva  
 Tatjana Grgich Family Foundation  
 The Benevity Community  
 Impact Fund

La Roche College has made every effort to verify the names listed. If an error or omission has occurred, please accept our apology and contact us at 412-536-1150.

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**MEMORIAL GIFTS**

In Memory of **Dick Battaglia**  
Gina Miller '77

In Memory of **Jack Bisbey**  
Anonymous  
Eileen & Michael Andreola  
Janet Dennis  
June R. Fischerkeller '92  
Sandy Knobloch  
Kathy Kozdemba  
Gina Miller '77

In Memory of **Carol Pray Churchill '81**  
Robert P. Churchill

In Memory of **William J. Coyne**  
Coyne For Congress  
Kathy Kozdemba

In Memory of **Joaquin DeSousa**  
Teresa M. DeSousa '96

In Memory of **Charles Eperthener '00**  
Sandra & Robert Morgan Jr.

In Memory of **David John Faingnaert**  
Bryan Rieder '14  
Carolyn & Kenneth J. Rieder

In Memory of **Dr. MariJean Ferguson**  
Joseph R. Winterhalter II '96

In Memory of **Barbara Fisher**  
Cynthia & Joseph Balestrino  
Kristin & James F. Getz Jr. '96 • \*  
Carl Hohnbaum  
International Poetry Forum  
Glen R. Johnson  
Jane Lambesis  
Larrimor's  
Angela J. Longo '89 • \*  
Rebecca J. Nelson  
Lisa '00 & Gregory K. Simakas •  
William Simon  
Michael Vahl

In Memory of **John Foley**  
Debra Dian

In Memory of **Norman Hasbrouck**  
Ellen K. Hasbrouck

In Memory of **Helen Introcaso**  
Sister Candace  
Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D. •

In Memory of **Mary Jackline '82**  
Carol Marsiglio '75 \*

In Memory of **Edmond C. Jacquell**  
Noreen Ackerman

In Memory of **Monsignor William A. Kerr**  
Ruth & Francis Kerr  
Emmanuel Niyibizi '04  
Sister Rita Marie  
Yeasted, SFCC '68, Ph.D. \*

In Memory of **Jean-Nepomucene Komezamahoro**  
Thierry Uwamahoro '05

In Memory of **Joseph and Anna Kosatka**  
Marjorie Jacobs '87 \*

In Memory of **Scott M. Lang**  
Joshua B. Forrest  
Dr. Jean Forti

In Memory of **Sam A. Liberto**  
Michael A. Liberto '97

In Memory of **Joseph A. Massaro Jr.**  
Angela J. Longo '89 • \*

In Memory of **Erica McArdle Kubler-Johnston**  
Donna Schiemer

In Memory of **Robert & Anna Middendorf**  
Annamae Lenkey '05

In Memory of **Ruth Mlinac**  
Angela J. Longo '89 • \*

In Memory of **Charles Mulzet**  
Kurt Mulzet '75 \*

In Memory of **Georgia Nolker**  
Lonnie Nolker '06

In Memory of **Stanley M. Pittavino '78**  
Debbie & Emil Kuhar '78 \*

In Memory of **Raul H. Saucedo**  
Kenneth M. Saucedo '02

In Memory of **Marge Schaeffer**  
Michael Ban, D.M.D.

In Memory of **Lance Shaeffer '00**  
Diane Shaeffer '11

In Memory of **William Torp**  
Dolores & Richard Marusic

In Memory of **Donald Treser**  
Anonymous

In Memory of **Lisa Vernacchio**  
Pamela & Albert Vernacchio

In Memory of **Ann Zeager**  
Thomas Haugh '14

**TRIBUTE GIFTS**

In Honor of **Hugo Churchill**  
Robert P. Churchill

In Honor of the **Class of 1972**  
Cindy '72 & David Getty '72

In Honor of **Mr. & Mrs. James Delligatti**  
Eleanor & Michael Delligatti

In Honor of **Robert G. & Claire V. Dorsch '94**  
Erin H. Dorsch

In Honor of **Alice Green**  
Anonymous

In Honor of **Louise Hall '78**  
Ronald Radwanski '77 \*

In Honor of **Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D. •**  
Anne L. Crawford '85 •  
Sister Lisa Paffrath, CDP

In Honor of **Christy Joyce-Schmieler**  
Jessica M. Sweitzer

In Honor of **Dorothy Saladiak**  
Karen Ibinson Carlin '88

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## DONORS MEET SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AT DINNER

PHOTO: JOHN SCHISLER



The President's Circle Dinner was hosted by the Office of Institutional Advancement in October to thank donors at the President's Circle level. Students receiving scholarships had the opportunity to meet the people who had made their scholarships possible.

### NEW LEGACY INDUCTEES

In September seven new multigenerational alumni families were inducted into the Legacy Society during a dinner at La Roche President Sister Candace Introcaso's home. There are now more than 50 families in the Legacy Society.

### ALUMNI MEET IN NEW YORK CITY



An alumni reception was held in New York City in November. La Roche President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., Vice President for Institutional Advancement Michael Andreola, and Director of Alumni Relations Gina Miller attended the alumni reception held in Times Square, where they had the opportunity to meet, in many cases for the very first time, alumni residing and working in The Big Apple.



### ALUMNI GATHER AT FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The Alumni Holiday Reception at the Festival of Lights was held in early December with more than 400 people in attendance.

### FIRST HAPPY HOUR IN BUTLER A SUCCESS

In November the Alumni Office hosted its first Alumni Happy Hour in Butler, Pa., at the 11th Frame Bar and Grille.

### NEW BOOK CLUB

The John J. Wright Library at La Roche has started a book club, and alumni, faculty, staff and students are invited to participate. In November the club discussed Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein." Future book club meetings will be held on Jan. 17 and Feb. 21 at noon. All are welcome to join.



### INFO SESSIONS FOR OLDER ALUMNI

The Alumni Office has started a series of informational sessions with older alumni in mind. In September alumnus James Holtzman '96 presented "What You Need to Know About Medicare." In October Megan King, RN, CHPN, program manager of UPMC Hospital Based Palliative Care, spoke about the differences between palliative care and hospice care.



### GOLF OUTING CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Office of Institutional Advancement hosted the Annual Scott Lang Memorial Golf Classic to benefit La Roche College athletics in September at Wildwood Golf Club.



# CLASS NOTES

La Roche alumni celebrate professional and personal achievements in life after college.

**Olivia L. Baylor '06, LCPC, NCC, DCC** has opened Life Revisions Counseling, LLC at 1009 Frederick Road, Suite 1, Catonsville, MD 21228. For information, visit [liferevisions.com](http://liferevisions.com) or call 410-870-5615.

**Bill Best '95** began working at rue21 as its IT service desk lead, and was recently promoted to IT service desk manager at the company's Warrendale location.

**Sister Michele Bisbey '71, CDP, Ph.D.** was elected to a five-year term as the Provincial Director of the Sisters of Divine Providence of the American/Caribbean Province.

**Lynn Brockman '79, CPC, CPB** was named Employee of the Month for October by Ohio Valley Hospital in McKees Rocks, Pa. Ms. Brockman is a senior certified coder with Ohio Valley Physician Services.



**Eva Ciccotelli '10 and Andrew Anderson '10, BSN '16, RN** married on Sept. 2, 2016.

**Jennifer Dowling '96** is celebrating 20 years of being employed in the graphic design industry, and 10 years' tenure at Northern Lights Inc. in Seattle, Wash., where she is the sole in-house graphic designer and webmaster. In October she received a plaque commemorating this achievement and the "Best in Corporate Marketing 2016–Washington" award at the 2016 Marketing, PR & Communications

Awards by AI Global Media. A Seattle resident for 16 years, she performs throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond with Kabuki Academy as a Nihon Buyoo dancer, and has appeared in the chorus of a "Madame Butterfly" performance in return for helping to dress the Seattle Opera's cast. Ms. Dowling will celebrate 15 years of marriage in December.



**Tim Devine '14 and Sarah Leslie '14** married on Oct. 4, 2015 at her family farm in Enon Valley, Pa.

**Francis Feld '97 DNP, CRNA, LAT, NRP** was recently deployed by the Department of Health and Human Services as a member of the PA-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team for Hurricane Matthew. PA-1 staged in Georgia and then moved to Melbourne, Fla., where the team's mission was to support a hospital emergency department that was overwhelmed with patients due to the closure of some small hospitals in the area because of flooding. Dr. Feld is a staff CRNA at UPMC Passavant.

**Ashley Ferrari '12** married Todd Zunic on Sept. 27, 2016 in San Diego, Calif.

**Sister Maria Fest '65, CDP, Ph.D.** has been elected as the Congregational Leader of her international congregation, the Sisters of Divine Providence. Her primary goal for the congregational team is to bring the various areas of the congregation, including the

U.S., Germany, South Korea, Peru, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic to deeper unity while honoring the diversity of the various cultures. Sister Maria hopes to connect this goal with La Roche's Global Development and Humanitarian Aid Training Program.

**Bryce F. Harper '02** has been working for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Northwest Office of Native American Programs, in Seattle, Wash., for the past five years. In July 2016 he was promoted to the role of grants evaluation specialist where he will be part of a team that oversees grant reporting and monitoring.

**Phyllis Hartman '90** welcomed a granddaughter, Penelope Grace Hartman, on June 19, 2016.

**Ashley Hartung '14** was recently hired by the Shuman Center in Allegheny County.



**Jeannie Joseph '06** welcomed her second son, Levi Sainvil, on Aug. 5, 2016 at 9:12 a.m. Levi weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz. and was 19" long.

**Amanda Kunkle '09** and John Stern were married on Oct. 15, 2016 in Hortense, Ga. Dr. Howard Penttley officiated at the ceremony. The bride is the daughter of Linda and Arnold Kunkle of Apollo, Pa., and the groom is the son of Lisa Marie and Robert Stern of Hortense, Ga. The





**Stephanie Krakowski '12** and **Gopal Nepali '11** were married at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens on Sept. 24, 2016 with many La Roche alumni in attendance.

bride is a research assistant at San Diego State University and a published author. The groom is an aerospace and systems engineer for the United States Navy. The couple honeymooned in Savannah, Ga., and will continue to live in San Diego, Calif.

**Michael W. Neft, '86 DNP, MHA, RN, CRNA, FNAP** was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN) on Oct. 22, 2016. Mr. Neft is currently an associate professor and vice chair for the Department of Nurse Anesthesia at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing.

**Dawna (McDanel) Poole MSN '14, RN** recently accepted a job as a nursing instructor/faculty at UPMC Shadyside Hospital School of Nursing.

**Yaman Saqqa '03** recently received the University of Oxford's Saïd Business School Foundation Scholarship-Middle East and has moved to Oxford, UK, to pursue his full-time MBA with the class of 2016/2017.

**Diane Shaeffer '11** recently moved to EHRResearch Data Services, LLC, to work as their compensation survey manager. Prior to this new position, Ms. Shaeffer was working as the human resources coordinator for Providence Connections.

**Michael Tarquinio '90** was awarded five Certificates of Excellence in the 2016 American Graphic Design Awards competition, marking 49 awards that he has won over the past 19 years.

**Cheryl Vierheilg '12** has become an independent business operator (IBO) for ACN and has her own website at [www.eliteservices2017.acndirect.com](http://www.eliteservices2017.acndirect.com). She also runs Elite Nannies and Caregivers Inc., and is an independent Sabika Jewelry representative.

**Kris Wilder '16, RN, MSN, CLNC** married Jason Mullin on Oct. 8, 2016. She is the manager of workers' compensation & occupational health services for PPG Architectural Coatings.



**Elizabeth Williams '07** and her husband, Andrew Herrman, welcomed their first child, Linda Marie Herrman, on April 26, 2016.

**Christopher Wise '14** took a position with Stryker in its Endoscopy Division after earning his medical imaging degree in 2014, and was promoted to its Robotics Division within Orthopedics in January of 2016. As a Stryker Mako representative, Mr. Wise provided support for surgeons who used the company's robotic assisted arm to help restore patient function with partial knee and total hip surgeries. On Sept. 1 Mr. Wise took a position with Medtronic in its Minimally Invasive Therapies Group working with its Interventional Lung Solutions Division. He married on July 18, 2015. He and his wife bought their first home together this past May.

**Sister Rita Yeasted '68, SFCC, Ph.D.** is writing the history of La Roche College's Pacem in Terris program in preparation for its 25th anniversary and would be happy to hear from any graduates of the program. To be interviewed for the history, contact Sister Rita at [sryeasted@gmail.com](mailto:sryeasted@gmail.com).

## IN MEMORIAM

**James Adamczyk '93** on Aug. 13, 2016

**Joseph Breznican '92** on May 5, 2016

**Denise (Ramaley) Doliveira '94**  
on Jan. 17, 2016

**Jeff Farbacher '90** on Feb. 29, 2016

**Brandon Holly '99** on Sept. 16, 2016

**Mary (Miller) Jackline '82**  
on Jan. 26, 2016

**Richard Kohl '82** on July 21, 2016

**Elizabeth (Betty) Kost '75**  
on Feb. 20, 2016

**Sandra Nigut '85** on Feb. 20, 2016

**Anthony Ranalli '05** on Aug. 3, 2016

**Mallory (Burns) Ries '84** on Aug. 5, 2016

**Beth Rothermund '99** on July 20, 2015

**Dolores (Dolly) Schano '81**  
on March 24, 2016

**Derek Schindler '15** on April 16, 2016

**Tariq (Alain) Shabaz '14** on April 8, 2016

**William Stewart '76** on Feb. 15, 2015

**Tracy Casper Yeager '96**  
on March 12, 2016

## SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES!



Share your news with La Roche College and fellow alumni.

Send announcements regarding career changes, promotions, marriages, births, volunteer service and other major life events to [larochemmr@gmail.com](mailto:larochemmr@gmail.com)

*Submissions may be edited for length and content.*





1.



2.



3.



4.

- 1. Science lab in the 1960s.
- 2. The bookstore located in the lower level of Wright Library in the 1970s.
- 3. Cheerleaders in the 1980s.
- 4. Commencement in the Motherhouse.
- 5. Student Dining Room in the basement of Academic Hall on the West Campus in the 1970s.



5.





LA ROCHE'S MASTER'S PROGRAM  
IN HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT  
GAVE ME THE FOUNDATION FOR  
COMPLETING MY EDUCATION IN HR.  
THE CHALLENGING YET FLEXIBLE  
ENVIRONMENT PROVIDED THE  
ESSENTIAL TOOLS FOR ME TO  
ADVANCE MY CAREER AND MEET MY  
PROFESSIONAL GOALS.

- MEREDITH STEPHENSON '16 MSHRM  
*Vice President of Human Resources  
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services*



#### GRADUATE PROGRAMS

M.S. Accounting  
M.S. Health Science / Nurse Anesthesia  
M.S. Human Resources Management  
M.S. Information Systems  
M.S. Nursing (online)  
Master of Education  
Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (online)



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REVISIT THE CAMPUS THAT  
SHAPED YOU AND REUNITE WITH  
THOSE WHO INSPIRED YOU.

# ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2016

LA ROCHE COLLEGE | APRIL 21-23

Register today at [laroche.edu/homecoming](http://laroche.edu/homecoming)



**SATURDAY, APRIL 22**  
ZAPPALA COLLEGE CENTER

Join more than 300 alumni, faculty and staff to remember and celebrate what you all have in common: memories of La Roche College.

COCKTAIL PARTY: 5 P.M. | DINNER: 6:30 P.M. | SUGGESTED DRESS: BUSINESS CASUAL

ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR: 8 P.M., NORTH PARK LOUNGE | CLASS OF '67 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## LA ROCHE COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

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.

STAY CONNECTED!

