

# CONNECTED

the LA ROCHE COLLEGE Magazine | WINTER/SPRING 2016



BEYOND  
BORDERS



IN THE MOMENT ...





# ASH WEDNESDAY

Magdalen Chapel | Feb. 10, 2016





PHOTO: BECKY THURNER BRADDOCK

At the heart of the La Roche College community lies a deep commitment to serving others, promoting peace and harmony, and working for social justice and equality in an increasingly challenging world. Each day that commitment is visible — through our students, our faculty and staff, and through the generosity of our benefactors. It is what sets La Roche apart.

The generosity of the College's major donors helps students realize their dreams of earning their degrees. Each year those who have endowed or sponsored scholarships have the opportunity to become acquainted with the students they are helping at the annual President's Circle Dinner. The dinner recognizes donors whose monetary or in-kind gifts total \$1,000 or more each fiscal year. Many of our scholarship donors take great pride in getting to know the recipients of their scholarships and share in their hopes for future success. And, students say that knowing the underwriters of their scholarships gives them added incentive to excel.

La Roche's international student population of nearly 20 percent has transformed our suburban campus into a microcosm of a global community. The melding of cultures and customs on campus is always an opportunity for learning, and often a reason for celebrating. However, it can be hard for students to feel comfortable and confident in a place far away from all that is familiar to them. Mary McBride, wife of biology professor Dr. Robert McBride, noticed that a large group of Muslim students seemed hesitant to interact with their American counterparts. So she volunteered to be their American liaison, helping them navigate some nuances of life in this country. She has made their transition easier, and they now affectionately call her "Mom Mary."

The La Roche spirit of helping others extends beyond our classrooms to our athletic fields. Last December the Redhawks baseball team participated in the Pittsburgh Pirates CARE-a-van event, collecting and distributing food for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The men's and women's soccer teams took part in the Cuddles for Kids program at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. Cuddles for Kids, which ensures that every child at the hospital receives a stuffed animal to brighten their stay, was founded by freshman soccer player Conner Hagins when he was just 10 years old. Now that he is a La Roche student athlete, the campus community is proud to support this worthwhile effort.

These are just a few examples of the caring spirit that helps define La Roche College — a college where scholarly goals are realized, where diversity is celebrated, where service to others is a way of life.

Blessings,

*Sister Candace Introcaso*

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





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WINTER | SPRING 2016

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La Roche College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, place of origin or status as a veteran.

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**INSIDE COVER:** The La Roche College community began the holy season of Lent with liturgy and distribution of ashes during a Mass with Campus Chaplain Father Aaron Kriss in the Magdalen Chapel on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10.



## La Roche Launches Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice Program

**A** new doctorate program at La Roche College offers the opportunity for nurse anesthetists to prepare for leadership roles in today's health care arena.

The Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) is a practice-oriented program for advanced nurse anesthetist clinicians to elevate the quality of patient care and to prepare for leadership roles involving health care policy, administration and education.

With classes offered online, the 26-credit program is designed to meet the needs of working professionals. The full-time option is offered in three consecutive semesters, beginning in early summer with an on-campus weeklong residency.

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies & Adult Education Rosemary McCarthy, Ph.D., RN, said, "La Roche is responding to today's health care needs. With the ever-changing health care environment, it is imperative that as providers, we continually expand our knowledge base and skill sets. The DNAP program will challenge students intellectually and

position graduates so that they will be at the forefront of advanced nursing practice."

**Students who successfully complete the DNAP program will be prepared to:**

- Analyze current and emerging scientific knowledge and technologies to provide the highest level of nurse anesthesia practice
- Translate applicable evidence-based research findings into practice
- Initiate changes in response to social, political, economic and ethical issues in health care
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs and policies for improvement of health care
- Develop leadership skills to meet the challenges of increasingly complex health care and educational environments affecting the practice of nurse anesthesia

For more than 25 years, La Roche has been a leader in nurse anesthesia education by continuously meeting the challenges of changing health care trends and adopting new academic

standards. After a decade of offering a bachelor's degree in the field, the College moved its curriculum to the graduate level by offering a Master of Science in Health Science (Nurse Anesthesia) in 1987. This program followed a mandate by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists that anesthesia education be offered at the graduate level by the late 1990s.

The strong reputations of La Roche's health science program and Pittsburgh's health care arena have attracted students from across the country and around the world to pursue advanced specialty education in nurse anesthesia. In turn, health science graduates are highly sought for positions nationwide. Currently La Roche's graduate program in nurse anesthesia boasts a 100 percent job placement rate.

Visit [laroche.edu/dnap](http://laroche.edu/dnap) to learn more about the program and to apply. Candidates must submit all application materials by April 15 to be considered for the summer 2016 term. Applicants also may contact the Office of Graduate Studies & Adult Education at **412-536-1260** or [graduateadmissions@laroche.edu](mailto:graduateadmissions@laroche.edu).



# Exercise and Sport Science Major to Begin in Fall 2016

**T**he Natural and Behavioral Sciences Division recently added a new major in the field of exercise and sport science.

The program provides students an interdisciplinary approach and comprehensive knowledge to the scientific basis of human movement, physical activity, exercise and sports performance.

Jane Arnold, chair of the Natural and Behavioral Sciences Division, said, "This program prepares students for careers in a variety of areas related to human movement, exercise and

of clinical exercise physiology where the Clinical Exercise Physiologist assesses, evaluates and prescribes individual exercise for chronic disease populations in various medical settings.

"In accordance with growing market trends, La Roche will prepare graduates for careers in both clinical and athletic settings, as well as working with the general fitness population," Professor Arnold explained. "Students will benefit from an interdisciplinary, liberal arts education with a strong background in the sciences, making them job or graduate school ready."



physical activity, and it prepares students for advancing their studies in a variety of graduate programs."

Exercise scientists and exercise physiologists are professionals who specialize in assessing, evaluating and prescribing exercise for health-related fitness outcomes of individuals in private, health and corporate settings. Sport scientists are professionals who assess, evaluate and prescribe exercise and training protocols for the purpose of enhancing the sport performance potential of individuals. Other options include the growing field

The following coursework is required to successfully complete the Exercise and Sport Science major: 36 credits in science and math; 19 credits in exercise science and sports performance; 37 core credits; and 28 general elective credits. La Roche requires a minimum of 120 credits for the degree.

Starting in the fall of 2016, only freshmen will be admitted into the program. Those who are interested may apply online or contact the Office of Freshman Admissions at [admissions@laroche.edu](mailto:admissions@laroche.edu)



## Mark K. Shriver to Deliver 2016 Commencement Address

**M**ark K. Shriver, president of Save the Children Action Network, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters and deliver the commencement address to the 51st graduating class on Saturday, May 7.

As president of Save the Children Action Network, Mr. Shriver leads an effort to mobilize Americans to make children at home and abroad a national priority.

Save the Children Action Network's goals are to end preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths globally, and to ensure that every child in the U.S. has access to high-quality early childhood education.

Mr. Shriver's career fighting for social justice in advocacy and service organizations, as well as elected office, has focused on advancing the right of every child to a safe and vibrant childhood.

His New York Times and Washington Post best-selling memoir, "A Good Man: Rediscovering My Father, Sargent Shriver," was published in June 2012 by Henry Holt and received a 2013 Christopher Award.



Senior Dan Mauro presents design concepts to Special Initiatives Manager Betty Cruz and Immigrant Integration Associates Elizabeth Gombert and Anne McLaughlin on the final day of Immersions, an annual graphic design challenge.

## Graphic Designers Partner With Office of Mayor William Peduto

**L**ast semester La Roche College students had 60 hours to develop design solutions for a major real-world client: the Office of Mayor William Peduto.

In November the La Roche Design Division hosted Immersions, an annual graphic design challenge in which student designers have two and a half days to create concepts, develop solutions and pitch their projects to an outside client. Past clients have included Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE), Haiti H2o, Attack Theatre and Global Links.

"This project not only gives students an opportunity to interact with real-world clients, but it also gives students the opportunity to help local nonprofits," Graphic Design Department Chair Neha Agarwal said. "Students also learn the power of design. They see the significant role design can play across a variety of causes, industries, audiences and mediums."

This year students were tasked with bringing awareness to Welcoming Pittsburgh, an initiative launched by

Mayor Peduto in May 2014 to attract, support and grow a diverse workforce in Pittsburgh.

"We wanted to put ourselves in the shoes of an immigrant," junior Alexis Hetrick said. "We don't deal with the daily issues that they do, so we needed to understand their needs and wants. Once we had an idea of immigrants' needs and why they would choose Pittsburgh, we wanted to find a way to grab the attention of residents to learn more about Welcoming Pittsburgh."

On the final day of Immersions, groups of juniors and seniors presented their processes and design solutions to Special Initiatives Manager Betty Cruz and Immigrant Integration Associates Elizabeth Gombert and Anne McLaughlin.

"Each student group addressed our needs in creative and diverse ways, and in some cases opened our eyes to new possibilities that we may not have thought of or asked for," Ms. McLaughlin said. "In the end, while each team displayed individual strengths and creativity, we went with the team that created a simple, actionable design that we could begin using right away

within our current printing abilities. The La Roche students offered us an opportunity to present our message in new and exciting ways that we may not have been able to do without their ideas and designs."

### The winning teams included the following students:

#### FIRST-PLACE TEAM

Hannah Brinkman  
Amber Patsilevas  
Adam Yuras  
Alexis Hetrick  
Kim Elser  
Julia Shelton

#### SECOND-PLACE TEAM

Brianna Kelsey  
Ana Pantalone  
Carly Amann  
Rachel Baacke  
Brandi Reynolds

Immersions is the second time La Roche Design has collaborated with the Mayor's Office. In the summer of 2015, Welcoming Pittsburgh had worked with La Roche to install "Shared Border, Shared Dreams," a student-designed exhibition, in the City-County Building.





PHOTOS: PHIL PAVELY

## December Graduates Celebrate at Private Reception

On Friday, Dec. 11, La Roche College hosted a reception to honor December graduates. The event was held in the newly renovated Zappala College Center Square, and a total of 90 students graduated that month.

## Global Development and Humanitarian Aid

*Learn how to assist in global emergencies through specialized training at La Roche College this summer.*

### MAY 16-20, 2016:

Offered in partnership with RedR UK, **Essentials of Humanitarian Aid Training** focuses on the key competencies in the field, explores case studies and includes emergency response simulations. Participants receive a Certificate in Essentials in Humanitarian Practice provided by RedR UK.

### MAY 16-27, 2016:

The **Extended Program** incorporates the Essentials of Humanitarian Aid Training, plus training in specialized areas such as project management, international guidelines for action, and focus areas of humanitarian aid. Participants receive certificates from RedR UK and La Roche College.

### ONLINE + MAY 22-27, 2016:

This flexible program includes a curated selection of online certificate courses that complement on-site training and simulations at La Roche. Participants receive online course certificates and a Certificate in Global Development and Humanitarian Aid from La Roche College.



Apply online at [laroche.edu/humanitarian](http://laroche.edu/humanitarian) | FOR MORE INFORMATION: 412-536-1215 | [charlotte.reed@laroche.edu](mailto:charlotte.reed@laroche.edu)







*Students in The La Roche Experience discuss the Syrian Refugee Crisis with an interactive installation during International Education Week.*

## Campus Community Celebrates International Education Week

PHOTOS: NEHA AGARWAL, MFA

**S**tudents, faculty and staff celebrated La Roche's diverse campus, explored other cultures and discussed global issues as part of International Education Week this past November.

International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Education, developed as an opportunity to celebrate the importance of international education and student exchange worldwide.

For five days, La Roche offered internationally focused programs and events, along with opportunities for the College community to explore various cultures. The Office of Global Engagement also collaborated with the La Roche Design Division so that students could learn about the Syrian Refugee Crisis.

"We wanted to do something that would educate the La Roche community about refugees in general, and then specifically inform them about what's currently happening in Syria,"

Graphic Design Department Chair Neha Agarwal stated. "We were really hoping to make an impression in an interactive, collaborative, easy, yet high-impact manner."

The Refugee Experience event was incorporated into The La Roche Experience (LRX), a required sequence of courses for all traditional freshmen, sophomores and juniors. LRX introduces students to the Catholic principles of peace and justice, issues of diversity and discrimination, conflict prevention and issues of economic justice.

Instructors asked LRX students to come up with an equivalent to 12 million, the estimated number of Syrians affected by the conflict, and write down the equivalent on a notecard.

"It's easy for us to picture 100 of something, but wrapping our heads around a number as staggering as 12 million is very difficult," Professor Agarwal said. "The goal was to come up with several equivalents to 12 million and visualize them in order to help viewers really understand the enormity of the situation."

The activity included a display of information about refugees and the Syrian Crisis. LRX students posted their notecards with equivalents to the wall.

"As students posted their notecards and looked through the display, design students chose notecards and then doodled the concepts onto designated areas in the display. Participants also strung a precalculated number of beads throughout the day, and eventually the string of beads represented 12 million," Professor Agarwal said.

In addition to The Refugee Experience, International Education Week included presentations and information sessions by The Rukmini Foundation, Global Pittsburgh, the Peace Corps, Eco-Soap Bank and Foundation Bon Samaritan Inc. Other events included Desserts from Around the World and Global Day.

"International Education Week brings into focus that La Roche is a global campus," senior Michelle Draskovich said. "La Roche has students from all over the world, and I consider the perspectives they bring as part of my education."



## Faculty and Students Join Nursing Honor Society

**L**ast semester La Roche College hosted an induction ceremony for new members of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), the nursing honor society.

STTI membership is by invitation only. The society recognizes baccalaureate students, graduate students and nurse leaders who demonstrate academic excellence and exceptional achievements in nursing.

The following members joined La Roche's Theta Mu Chapter of STTI:

### **Undergraduate students:**

Mary Carlin, Michael Rietscha, Dawn Salerno and Andrea Lamb

### **Graduate students:**

Carrie Rubino

**Faculty:** Christina Baktay, RN, MSN, assistant professor of nursing, has worked in several areas of direct care nursing such as: oncology, medical and surgical, hospice, long-term care, assisted living and home care.



A highlight of her career was volunteering to serve as a nurse in Indonesia just months after the Indian Ocean Tsunami. Ms. Baktay received her BSN and MSN from the University of Pittsburgh. Currently she is a Ph.D. candidate at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

STTI offers nursing scholarships, research awards and scholar programs throughout the school year. The Theta Mu chapter at La Roche is responsible for the annual Fall Craft Show.

Accredited by the Accreditation Commission of Education in Nursing

Inc., La Roche offers a variety of nursing programs to fit the needs of both seasoned professionals and those who are new to the field.

### **DEGREE PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

- ASN degree
- Online RN-BSN with RN-MSN option
- Online MSN: Nursing Administration and Nursing Education

The College also offers school nurse and forensic nurse certificates, along with post-MSN certificates in nursing administration and nursing education.

## Delta Mu Delta Welcomes New Members

**E**ight La Roche College students became members of Delta Mu Delta, the international honor society in business.

Upperclassmen with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher are eligible to join. The organization promotes higher scholarship in developing business acumen and recognizes scholastic attainment in the business discipline. Student members become eligible for more than \$60,000 annually in scholarship funds to continue or extend their education, and network with some of the principal business employers.



*Pictured with Assistant Professor and Management Chair Michaela A. Noakes, the following students became Delta Mu Delta members at an induction ceremony in September: Rakan AlJanady, Bennett Carter, Xin Deng, Mahmoud A. Fallatah, Wesley P. King, Dennis Riosa, Diana D. Vogel and Jacob Michael Weidner.*

La Roche has a range of programs within its management division, offering double majors to its students at no additional tuition requirement. Undergraduate offerings include accounting, finance, international management, information systems technology, international studies, management information systems,

leadership, applied sciences and marketing. The College's programs in management, finance, international management, accounting, marketing and management information systems are accredited through the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, a leading specialized accreditation association for business education.



# BEYOND BORDERS

BY KURT HACKIMER '12 | PHOTOS: CAITLIN THOMAS '09

For years Mary McBride was most commonly known around La Roche College as the wife of biology professor Dr. Robert McBride. But after becoming the American liaison to a group of Muslim students on campus, Ms. McBride has earned a new title: Mom Mary.



In September 2014, Ms. McBride volunteered to help students enrolled in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program adjust to life in America. She started by tutoring one South Korean woman, but while on campus, she noticed a large contingent of Muslim students who were hesitant to interact with their American colleagues.

"When I saw the Muslims on campus, it seemed to me like they needed a friend," Ms. McBride said. "I thought that I could be that friend, and I could help them through some of the nuances in being in America."

Almost immediately, Ms. McBride's workload jumped from one student to a whole on-campus community. In her three years of holding the position, she has taught no less than 30 Muslim students how to tell jokes, how to order a hamburger and how to properly use the term "L-O-L."

Ms. McBride's mission quickly became less about being an educator and more about being a friend, a mentor, and, as much of La Roche's Muslim population sees her, a mother.

"They're my daughters, some of them are my sons," Ms. McBride said. "They come here, and they leave their families. It takes a lot of courage to come to America. They're brave, they're strong, and they're amazing."

This is something that Ms. McBride reiterates frequently: These women are not just her students; they are her family. She said that little separates the love that she has for her students from the love that she has for her own son.

"She's like our mom," Shekrah, one of Ms. McBride's Saudi Arabian students, said. "She always takes care of us."

Shekrah is a mother, herself. She, her husband and her five-year-old son have lived in America for four years due to her husband's pursuit of a degree at La Roche. Shekrah recently decided to work toward her own degree, and while

both she and her husband are in class, Ms. McBride often babysits her son.

La Roche's ESL program is comprised mostly of people like Shekrah, whose ages range from mid-20s through 30s. Some of them have families, and many have deep roots in Saudi Arabia that they are willing to transplant to America for two years while they receive an education. Many who graduate from La Roche's ESL program will return home for a brief period of time before returning to America to pursue a graduate-level degree.

Two other Saudi Arabian women, Leenah and her sister, Nada, also attend La Roche. Leenah has spent nearly three years in America; she first studied in Portland, Ore. before enrolling in La Roche's Master of Science in Human Resources Management program.

Nada, who Ms. McBride admits she has grown closest to, will soon graduate from La Roche and head back to Saudi Arabia. She plans on returning to America to complete a master's degree.

The thought of her Muslim daughters leaving is enough to bring Ms. McBride to tears. In fact, she cries frequently over the idea of them separating.

After the spring semester, Ms. McBride's husband will retire from La Roche, and the two of them will move to the historic colonial town of Williamsburg, Va. Aside from phone calls and text messages, she and her Saudi Arabian extended family will be separated.

"I thought I would be able to just walk away, and I just can't," Ms. McBride said. "I don't know how I will move onto the next chapter of my life."



*"They're my daughters, some of them are my sons. They come here, and they leave their families. It takes a lot of courage to come to America. They're brave, they're strong, and they're amazing."* - Mary McBride



*"Not everything you see and hear about Muslims from the media is true. Those people don't even represent one percent of the Muslim population."* - Leenah



While these women are more than capable of handling themselves, Ms. McBride worries desperately about their health and how other Americans will treat them.

Even though La Roche offers a safe haven for these women, it is not a good time to be a Muslim in America. The deplorable actions of a few radicals have somehow come to misrepresent a peaceful religion.

"Not everything you see and hear about Muslims from the media is true," Leenah said. "Those people don't even represent one percent of the Muslim population."

Leenah said that in the years that she's been in America, Ms. McBride is the only white person who has made an effort to befriend her. The Saudi women, and even Ms. McBride herself, have been victims of racial profiling from closed-minded individuals in the Greater Pittsburgh Area.

The women have encountered more than their fair share of rude waitresses, intolerant older women and

biased students who refuse to treat their Muslim colleagues with respect. On their walk to school, Leenah and Nada have had insults hurled at them by passing motorists.

"I try to tell them that's a minority of America who is saying and believing those things," Ms. McBride said. "I think that most of us are welcoming and accepting. Of course we're frightened when something bad happens, but you can't punish the innocent for that."

The women understand that prejudice is unavoidable and refuse to cause a scene whenever they encounter it. Nada even admitted that she had her own negative stereotypes of Americans being mean, and that those stereotypes have largely dissipated since her arrival at La Roche.

"I was surprised by how nice people were," Nada said. "Everywhere people smile at you and welcome you. I wasn't expecting that."

In Ms. McBride's opinion, persecuting a group of people because of how they dress or the way they pray is un-American,

especially in a country built upon the foundation of religious freedom.

If anything, she explains, these women should be lauded for their unadulterated dedication to Islam and its teachings of peace, love and family. The women pray five times a day according to where the sun is in the sky, so their times of prayer shift a minute or two each day.

"Their devotion to God, to Allah, is amazing to me," Ms. McBride, a devout Christian, said. "Their lives are their religion. When I hear the comparison between Muslims and terrorists, those people are not [representative of] Islam. These people are Islam, and their lives are devoted to God."

When back in Saudi Arabia, they spend large amounts of time with the members of their frequently large, extended families. Unlike in America, one would never see an elderly Saudi Arabian woman struggling to make her way through the grocery store; she would have her family there to support her.

This commitment to kindness and giving helped Ms. McBride grow to love these students in such a short amount of time. She has learned just as much about Islam from these women as they have learned about America through her.

"That is what we love about her," Leenah said. "We appreciate the time that she's spent learning about us and our religion."

As Ms. McBride and her husband prepare to leave Pittsburgh and the Muslim students whom she has mentored prepare to return home, she acknowledges that their time together is coming to an end.

And while she will no longer be there for afternoon tea and family movie night, she said she is confident that her adopted daughters will be successful.

"They're very driven. They're going to do great things," she said.



## College Renovates Lecture Hall

**T**his fall La Roche College began a major renovation effort of the Palumbo Science Center.

The first phase of the renovation began with a modernization of the lecture hall in Room 103 to include the addition of handicap access, new lighting, carpeting, a sound system, technology upgrades and all new furniture.

Built in 1980, the Palumbo Science Center is scheduled to undergo additional upgrades, including renovations to laboratories and office space.



## Enrollment Numbers Highest Since 2006

**T**otal enrollment at La Roche College increased by 7.8 percent during the 2015-16 academic year.

Enrollment has peaked at 1,523 students—an increase of 111 students over last year's final enrollment number of 1,412. In addition to the 1,523 for-credit students, another 117 students enrolled in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

The College saw increases in the number of freshmen enrolled, the number of new, full-time transfer students, and the number of full-time undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at La Roche.

"This is our largest overall enrollment since 2006, and we are just as proud to have welcomed 619 new students for the fall, which included 571 degree-seeking and 48 ESL," Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean Howard J. Ishiyama, Ph.D., said. "Our number of new students is quite an accomplishment for a college the size of La Roche. We can credit this to a number



PHOTO: CAITLIN THOMAS '01

of new creative initiatives across the board, as well as the dedication and hard work of our staff and faculty college-wide."

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

"We made an aggressive effort in our recruitment and advertising strategies to target specific groups, including students from regional Catholic high schools, and

out-of-state students, which resulted in out-of-state enrollment growth of 40 percent," Dr. Ishiyama said. "Our number of veteran students surged 70 percent. And, we worked to increase the number of our adult part-time students by creating multiple new agreements and relationships with hospitals and corporations across the region."

The College also amended its transfer policy to accept the core curriculum of any local community college, so that students could work on building their majors instead of retaking these courses, and designed new programs specifically

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



*Top left: President's Circle members Nancy and Richard Zappala pose with recipients of The Frank & Josephine Zappala Endowed Scholarship, Boniface Ngigi, Cynthia Ncuti and Jessica Mancuso.*

*Bottom left: Scholarship recipients and donors meet face-to-face at a private dinner reception in the Zappala College Center Square.*

*Top right: Study Abroad Coordinator Nicole Gable welcomes guests at the President's Circle Dinner this past November.*

## President's Circle Dinner Brings Donors, Students Together for Inspirational Evening

BY VANESSA ORR | PHOTOS: PHIL PAVELEY

**E**ach fall La Roche College holds its President's Circle Dinner to honor donors for their commitment to the College's mission and values.

"The President's Circle members are critical to La Roche College," President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., said. "Their scholarship support allows many of our students to earn their degrees without worrying about how they might balance full-time work and classes, and their backing of our special events and programs allows us to raise the funds necessary to support our mission."

Through the generous gifts of donors, students are able to not only better their own futures, but the futures of those around them. In some cases, these scholarships, which have been described by one recipient as "like a lamp in the darkness," allow international students

to use their education to help people back in their home countries. As a result, these global citizens are able to take what they've learned at La Roche and work to create a more humane and sustainable world, spreading the fundamental freedoms of peace and social justice far beyond the College's walls.

The President's Circle is a giving level that recognizes donors whose monetary and in-kind gifts total \$1,000 or more each fiscal year. "Their generosity and commitment to La Roche inspires us to face every day with a renewed sense of dedication to our mission and the vision of our founding congregation, the Sisters of Divine Providence," Sister Candace said.

Perhaps of even greater benefit than being recognized for their contributions, however, is the opportunity for donors to meet the students who benefit from their largesse.

"The President's Circle Dinner has been

instrumental in allowing us to get to know the kids; the fact that it links the scholarship recipients to the givers is really, really nice," said Nancy Zappala, who with her husband, Richard, provides the Frank & Josephine Zappala Endowed Scholarship to four to five students each year. "You read about these students on their applications, and learn about the hardships they face, but it's very rewarding to actually get to meet them and to see what good, hard-working, very deserving young people they are."

The President's Circle Dinner also leaves an impression on scholarship recipients. Senior Jessica Mancuso, a 2015 recipient of the Frank & Josephine Zappala Endowed Scholarship and the Robert. B. Anticole Memorial Endowed Scholarship for Computer Science Majors, said she enjoyed meeting those who made her education a reality.

"The dinner is not only a chance for students and donors to meet face-



to-face, but also an opportunity for students to understand the value of their education and how far those who believe in them will go to make their dreams come true," she said.

Some of the relationships that donors develop with scholarship recipients last far beyond the President's Circle Dinner; La Roche students from the Ukraine, Haiti and Kenya joined Mr. and Mrs. Zappala for their Christmas Eve Seven Fishes Dinner, and former scholarship students also keep in touch by email to keep the couple abreast of their accomplishments.

"One of the benefits of attending the President's Circle Dinner is that you actually get to meet the students that you help face-to-face," donor Jill L. Ferguson '92 said. "I've gotten letters from students and thank you cards that have mentioned how the scholarships have made a difference between recipients staying in school or not being able to complete their education, and that's really rewarding. But actually meeting them in person really makes an impression."

Breanna Wong, a recipient of the Sister Rita Yeasted Scholarship established by Ms. Ferguson, said, "Meeting Jill at the President's Circle Dinner was fantastic. She's one of the most inspirational women that I've ever met. She is a wonderful role model; she owns numerous businesses and it's awe-inspiring what she's done."

***"The President's Circle members are critical to La Roche College. Their scholarship support allows many of our students to earn their degrees without worrying about how they might balance full-time work and classes, and their backing of our special events and programs allows us to raise the funds necessary to support our mission."***

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

## THE DONORS

### RICHARD AND NANCY ZAPPALA FRANK & JOSEPHINE ZAPPALA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Richard and Nancy Zappala have been major supporters of La Roche College for years: Mr. Zappala laughs that he was introduced to the school "millions of years ago" by Thomas Schuchert, a member and chair of the College's board of trustees, who also introduced him to then-president Sister Margaret Huber.

***"We're happy to be able to make a difference."***

- Richard Zappala, President's Circle Member

"I was invited to join the board, and a couple of years later, was elected chair," he explained. "Then Sister Maggie—an absolutely dynamic, wonderful person—left, and the College hired Monsignor William Kerr as president. It was through him that my family got really involved in the College. His leadership inspired us."

In 2004 when Mr. Zappala's mother, Josephine, passed away, the family established The Frank & Josephine Zappala Endowed Scholarship as a symbol of her respect for the monsignor.

"We wanted it to be open to any young person who valued education the way that my parents did," Mr. Zappala said. "Both immigrants, they had great respect for the value of education."

In addition to establishing the scholarship, the Zappalas were instrumental in the opening of the \$2.5 million Zappala College Center in 1987, during Monsignor Kerr's tenure. "He inspired us all," Mr. Zappala said. "He was an amazing human being."

The family continues to support the College, its students and its mission. "It's a shame when young people who have the same values as my parents had—who want to pursue an education—can't afford it," Mr. Zappala said. "For someone to come out of the educational

experience with huge debt—or to not be able to pursue an education at all—that's a tough bind. We're happy to be able to make a difference."

### JILL L. FERGUSON '92

#### SISTER RITA YEASTED SCHOLARSHIP

Despite the fact that she only spent the last two years of her undergraduate career at La Roche College, the school made a big impression on alumna Jill Ferguson, who graduated with a communications degree in 1992.

"It was a very positive experience," said the author and self-described serial entrepreneur, who spent 13 years in higher education as a professor and academic administrator, and now runs four businesses. "I especially liked the faculty; I thought they were knowledgeable and caring."



A particular favorite was Sister Rita Yeasted, after whom she named the scholarship that she's given since 2000. "I named it for her because she's awesome!" said Ms. Ferguson, who has since become good friends with her former professor and even traveled to Germany with her this past summer. "I wanted to pay tribute to her while she was still here; a lot of people create memorial tributes, but the person doesn't get to see the result. This way Sister Rita has gotten to see students

benefiting from scholarships in her name for the past 16 years.

"Back when I went to La Roche, Sister Rita was considered one of the more difficult professors. She was definitely a grammarian," Ms. Ferguson added. "I spent 13 years as a professor and academic administrator, and realized just how much you learn from 'not-easy' teachers. She was the natural choice when I named the scholarship."

*"I feel very honored and blessed to be able to provide these scholarships. I believe that as a responsible human, you should always give back and pay it forward."*

—Jill Ferguson '92

Four scholarships are given each year to English or communication majors, which are both need- and merit-based. "I feel very honored and blessed to be able to provide these scholarships," Ms. Ferguson said, who also has returned occasionally to Sister Rita's classes to speak with students about what it takes to become a professional writer. "I believe that as a responsible human, you should always give back and pay it forward."

**It's not too late to give to the Annual Fund.**

Please consider making your contribution by June 30, 2016.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### JESSICA MANCUSO

FRANK & JOSEPHINE ZAPPALA  
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

ROBERT. B. ANTICOLE MEMORIAL  
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR COMPUTER  
SCIENCE MAJORS

After graduating from high school in southern Italy, Jessica Mancuso decided to follow in her brother's footsteps by attending La Roche College.

"My brother convinced me to follow him, and if I would ever have to make that choice again on my own, I would still choose La Roche," she said. "Its environment is so rich and diverse that there is no reason to go anywhere else in the world. If you could take a bite out of every country in the world and then combine everything into one tiny college, you would've created La Roche."

"Simply walking around the La Roche community has given me a completely new view on the world," she added. "Do not discriminate or harm those who you consider different, but learn from them, feed your ignorance. Curiosity will turn prejudice into knowledge. La Roche is the medium we should all use to reach that goal."

Now a senior majoring in computer science with a triple minor in computer security and forensics, criminal justice and Spanish studies, Ms. Mancuso greatly appreciates the support that she has received. "The Zappala Scholarship helped me this academic year by covering my health insurance expenses and other expenses such as books and

other necessities for my courses," she said of the scholarship that she has received since 2012. "The Robert B. Anticole scholarship also covered my expenses, such as academic fees. When I first moved to the U.S. in 2012, I kept worrying about how I would pay for my education and how many hours of work my parents would have to put in to get me past my first semester. The generous donors that helped me economically helped me first find emotional stability."

In addition to being a full-time student, Ms. Mancuso is very involved in campus activities. She has worked as a peer tutor since 2012 in Spanish, math, writing, computer science, English as a Second Language (ESL) and several other courses; runs an English tutoring lab for ESL students; is a test proctor for students with disabilities and a supplemental instructor in the Computer Science Department; and serves as a peer counselor, aiding incoming freshmen in transitioning from high school to college and guiding them through their first year at La Roche.

Ms. Mancuso's future plans include having a book published within the next two years, working in her field and getting a master's degree in neuroscience.



### BREANNA WONG

SISTER RITA YEASTED SCHOLARSHIP

Now in her junior year, English major Breanna Wong has learned a lot at La Roche—including just how much of a difference a tutor can make in a student's life.



"I originally started out in an affiliate program between La Roche College and Duquesne University, and planned to go into pre-med," she explained. "Then I met an international student, and in helping him with his schoolwork, I became even more interested in English as a Second Language (ESL); I realized that I would rather teach people than treat them."

When La Roche approached Ms. Wong to become a peer tutor, she jumped at the opportunity. "I love it," she said. "I liked science a lot, but I like helping people to learn a new language even more. When I switched majors, I had the chance to switch schools, but I love it here. The professors are personable and get to know you. And the student population is so diverse."

This past summer, Ms. Wong was awarded a summer internship in Washington, D.C., where she worked with students from Saudi Arabia. "My goal is to end up in Dubai or Qatar, teaching ESL, because they are always looking for native English speakers," she explained. "I'd like to teach overseas for several years while working on getting my master's and a doctorate, and then come back to teach at the high-school level."

Ms. Wong was thrilled to learn that faculty members had selected her to receive the Sister Rita Yeasted Scholarship, which she says will enable her to spend more time focusing on her studies. "It was such an honor," said Ms. Wong, who has applied for a teaching position at Phillips Exeter Academy in New York, where she hopes to spend the summer working with the college preparatory academy's large international population.

In addition to tutoring La Roche students during the regular school year, Ms. Wong serves as the president of MOSAIC (Multicultural Organization Serving an Integrated Community), which helps to bridge different cultures in the student population, and is vice president of the newly formed chapter of the American Association of University Women. She also is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the College's International English Honor Society and participates in the ESL Conversation Partnership Program.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016

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Jessica Mancuso

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Carson Hohos  
Jonghoo Lee  
Courtney Yuska Campana

### MODERN LANGUAGES ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Angel Sanchez

### CAROL '81 & HUGO CHURCHILL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Tiffany Babinsack  
Krystsina Karsiuk

### RAYMOND & REGINA DENNIS MEMORIAL AWARD

Tiffany Babinsack

### DIVINE PROVIDENCE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Ariella Itangishaka Nicole  
Linkes Cerci Smith

### CORA STEHMAN DWYER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Terryl Poling

### CHUCK EPERTHENER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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### FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Ana Paula De Marco Teixeira  
Juste Irakoze  
Hannah Strauch  
Lauren Villella  
Lin Xiao

### CHRISTINA FRAGASSO MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Alan Sam

### DR. A. KENNETH & DORIS HESSELBERG ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Ryan Balog  
Kaitlin Dobrowsky  
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Kristen Krivak  
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Kelsey Lewis  
Carson Rebel  
Jessica Seidl

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Hannah Strauch

### SISTER MARY THOMAS KADYSZEWSKI DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Felicia Gehres  
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Ryan Balog

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Cassidy Shaffer

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Krystsina Karsiuk  
Boniface Ngigi  
Pelayo Ondo  
Ondo Bindang  
Babin Thapa  
Kris Rosenberg

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Jessica Seidl

### DANIEL W. SCHNEIDER MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP II

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### SISTER RITA YEASTED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Megan Poland  
Sarah Reichle  
Taylor Tokarski  
Breanna Wong

### FRANK & JOSEPHINE ZAPPALA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Tassy Fils-Aime  
Krystsina Karsiuk  
Jessica Mancuso  
Cynthia Ncuti  
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*La Roche College has made every effort to verify membership in the President's Circle. If an error or omission has occurred, please accept our apology and contact us at 412-536-1092.*



## Enrollment Numbers Highest Since 2006

including a new bachelor of arts degree in management, and a psychology partnership at Butler County Community College (BC3) that eliminated the need for BC3 students to travel to La Roche's McCandless campus.

"We also looked to broaden our 'portfolio' with more international students. This year we welcomed 80 new international students from 20 different countries," Dr. Ishiyama continued. "This fits with our mission of creating a climate on campus that is accepting of all people and that emphasizes diversity."

### THE FOLLOWING IS A SNAPSHOT OF ENROLLMENT NUMBERS FOR THE 2015-16 ACADEMIC YEAR:

- The freshman class of 291 is a 30 percent increase over last year's entering freshman class.
- There are 138 new full-time transfer students, an increase of 22 percent over last fall.
- A total of 78 percent of last year's freshmen class returned for the fall 2015 semester.
- Full-time undergraduate enrollment is up by 9 percent.
- Enrollment in graduate programs is up by 16.8 percent.

La Roche continues to enhance its facilities to meet the growing student demand. One year ago the College unveiled a \$2.7 million renovation to its athletic complex, which included the installation of a turf field among other enhancements. The College also opened the Father Peter Horton Lounge outside of Magdalen Chapel. This past summer the College made several enhancements to residence halls and completely renovated the Zappala College Center Square and the lecture hall in the Palumbo Science Center.



## U.S. News & World Report Ranks La Roche College Among Nation's Best

According to U.S. News & World Report's 2016 Best Colleges Guidebook, La Roche College is a Best Regional College and a Best College for Veterans.

La Roche ranks 34th on the list of Best Regional Colleges in the north. Schools listed as Best Regional Colleges 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 the list of Best Regional Colleges includes 363 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.

U.S. News & World Report also named La Roche as one of the Best Colleges for Veterans. These top-ranked schools help to make a college education affordable by offering benefits to military veterans and active-duty service members. Qualifying private schools had to be certified for the G.I. Bill and participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

U.S. News & World Report is the third renowned college rankings organization to recognize La Roche College this past year. In July 2015 La Roche was named a Catholic College of Distinction and a Pennsylvania College of Distinction, and The Princeton Review listed the institution as a Best Northeastern College for the 10th consecutive year.

## La Roche College Named Military Friendly® College for Seventh Consecutive Year

Victory Media, a veteran-owned business and publisher of G.I. Jobs®, ranks La Roche College in the top 15 percent of all Military Friendly® colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide.

This year marks the seventh consecutive year for La Roche to receive Military Friendly® status. In 2009 La Roche became a Yellow Ribbon institution, working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to reimburse 100 percent of veterans' tuition cost. The College and government equally share costs associated with veterans obtaining their degrees as part of the program.



Military and veteran students also find support through the Veterans Organization, one of more than 30 student clubs and organizations offered at La Roche. Established in 2013, the organization gives veterans the opportunity to meet each other, get involved on campus and receive support. Each year the organization holds a Veterans Day panel for students and faculty members to share their military experiences with the student body.

La Roche offers credit for military services and welcomes all veterans, military students and their dependents to begin or complete their education on campus, through online learning or at one of its satellite campuses.

# Q&A

## FATHER AARON KRISS

**A**t one point, Rev. Aaron Kriss, La Roche College's new campus chaplain, did not know if he was cut out for a life in the ministry. He loves baseball and rock music, two things that are not commonly associated with a priest's reverence. But despite his preconceived notions about the seminary, Father Kriss' faith continued to draw him closer to God.



PHOTOS: JIM JUDKIS

Father Kriss was ordained in 1991. The Reverend served for 12 years at the Holy Martyrs Church in Tarentum, Pa., before he was transferred in 2015. Currently he splits his time between La Roche and his new home parish, St. Ursula Catholic Church in Hampton Township.

*How did growing up in Pittsburgh help lead you to the lifestyle that you've chosen?*

Growing up in the South Side, I belonged to St. Adalbert's Church, a Polish church. I always was involved in the church; I was an altar server when I was in fifth grade, and I became a reader, or lector, in Mass. I also was a Eucharistic minister, distributing communion, and was involved in the Parish council. Even through my college years, I still connected with my home ministry.

My oldest brother, Father David Kriss, was a priest. He showed me some of the things that he did – on youth group trips and in Mass – and I learned what he did as a priest. I always was close to my family, and my brother died 11 years ago of a heart attack. He was an influence, of course, as was my mentor Rev. Tom Zabowski, who told me that every priest is unique.

I've had a spiritual bent since I was a kid. I've always felt very comfortable at Mass — just being there I felt close to God.

You kind of wonder, after you go through high school, if that is just something that a kid feels, but those feelings remained with me.

*Do you use what inspired you as a kid in your sermons today?*

We have the greatest gift that God could give us in His body and blood. People seem to think that I bring energy and enthusiasm to the parish at St. Ursula. I don't stand behind a pulpit, but I speak at a level that they can understand. I think they immediately have seen that I bring a love for the Eucharist and a love for the faith.

Our faith is something to cherish. People come up to me to say that they love the way I celebrate Mass. I bring current events. I bring an interest in music and sports. I try to bring the scriptures to life in the present. A lot of people would complain that all that the priest does is rehash the scriptures, but we are taught in the seminary to make it real for the people and make the scriptures come alive in the present.

*In September, you discussed your infatuation with baseball during an interview with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. You stated that you didn't know if*

*"baseball-loving guys were priest material." Why was that?*

I guess it was my mistake, if you want to call it that. It was a preconceived misconception. When I was growing up, until I had more exposure to it, I felt that priests were into classical music and didn't like sports.

It wasn't until I was in the seminary that I realized that everybody came from a different background. We just had a common interest in service and ministry. It didn't matter if you liked sports. We were all there to see if we were going to be called to ministry and the priesthood.

*Is there anything that you've learned from baseball or music that helps you as a minister?*

First of all, it helps me relate to people. I want them to see the person as well as the priest. If they can relate to me with sports and music, then that will help them to approach me. I want to be approachable. I want them to not be afraid to say, "Father, I have a problem" or "Would you come to my birthday party?" I figure sports and music would help people become more comfortable with mentoring them in a spiritual way.

I used to perform with bands. When I was very young, I was very shy. When



I started getting into music — performing in front of people — it gave me the confidence to be in front of people while I was preaching. Music helped me become more confident.

Also, I think music helps people relate and feel that you're part of their lives. Sometimes people put this distance between themselves and the priest, and I don't really want that. Jesus was with His people.

*What excites you about being the chaplain at La Roche?*

I think it's exciting to be among the young people. If I can be an influence to them just by having lunch with them in the cafeteria or by celebrating Mass with them, they get to see me more in a personal way. I just like to help young people and lead them in their lives. I always feel like young people are the present as well as the future of the church.



What excites me about La Roche is that we have people who are young and blossoming, trying to find their ways, just as I was trying to find my way when I was their age. I am just here to love them, accept them and help them along in their journey. I have even begun to help a student with the process of becoming a full Catholic. The Sisters and I have been tutoring her, and the goal is for her to become a full Catholic by Easter.



*The La Roche baseball team joined with the Pittsburgh Pirates to help collect and distribute food to the less fortunate during the Pirates CARE-a-van event in December.*

## Student Athletes Show Winning Spirit On and Off the Field

BY VANESSA ORR

**S**ometimes student athletes learn just as much off the field as they do while playing sports. For this reason, La Roche College encourages its students to volunteer and reach across political, cultural and economic divides with the goal of becoming a truly global community.

"Volunteering is a part of the college experience—developing these students into well-rounded individuals is what it's all about," Head Baseball Coach Chase Rowe explained.

In December the Redhawks baseball team participated in the Pittsburgh Pirates CARE-a-van event, working with Pirates' major and minor league players and coaches to make a difference in a number of communities throughout the region. Pirates' players, including Jake Goebbert, Alen Hanson, John Holdzkom and coach Brad Fischer, teamed up with the Redhawks in a repack event for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

"Every year, we help the Pirates' players and coaches sort and fill boxes for the food bank, and we're excited that we're able to do that," Coach Rowe said of the event that collects and distributes food to the less fortunate. This year 11 cities in the Greater Pittsburgh region benefited from the event.

Senior Colin Williamson, 22, a double major in marketing and management, said the team had an opportunity to learn about business and the impact of service through the Pirates CARE-a-van event.

"We got to go on a tour of the food bank, where they showed us everything they do from logistics to marketing—the whole business aspect as well as the social aspect, which is what it's all about," he said. "When you think about what they do for the community, it's really pretty amazing."



*Pirates player Alen Hanson and freshman Kordel Collins sort food for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.*

It was eye-opening to see how much help is needed around the greater Pittsburgh area.

"The fact that we got to help out while working with Pirates' players was an extra bonus for us," he added. "One of my teammates summed it up best. He said, 'These are the guys you look up to and want to be like. You structure yourself like them as an athlete, but you also want to follow the example that they set in the community.' They are phenomenal role models."

Members of the La Roche men's and women's soccer teams also helped to make an impact on the community as part of the Kicking It With The Kids event at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. The event was part of the Cuddles for Kids program, which was started by freshman soccer player Conner Hagins, 19, long before he became a La Roche student.

"I started the charity in 2006, when I was 10 years old," he explained. "I went to visit my father in the hospital when he was having double bypass surgery, and he got a stuffed animal while he was there. I asked the nurse if everyone got a stuffed animal, and she said that only people having certain procedures did. Right then, a light bulb went off, and I decided

that we needed to give stuffed animals to all of the kids in the hospital."

Mr. Hagins decided to bring the program, which originally started in his hometown of Johnstown, to La Roche when he enrolled.

*"I believe that if you're lucky enough to be in college and playing a sport, the least you can do is give back to help those in need."*

- Conner Hagins

"A lot of my friends on the soccer team in high school had been involved, so I thought it would be a good idea to invite the soccer team here to take part in an event," he said. "Everyone, from the players to the coaches, got really into it. It's a great group of people on and off the field, and we do a lot of stuff together. This is the type of bonding that makes a team a team."

During the first annual Kicking It With The Kids event, the teams held a mini-soccer camp and did crafts with patients at the hospital, in addition to distributing gifts that included mini-soccer balls. "One of the goals of the program was to get the kids' minds off of what was going

on in the hospital—to make them feel happy about what they were doing that day," Mr. Hagins explained.

Now in its 10th year, the charity has expanded from delivering stuffed animals to include crayons, coloring books, toys and more. To date, Cuddles for Kids has donated more than 107,000 items, or roughly \$400,000 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.

"I believe that if you're lucky enough to be in college and playing a sport, the least you can do is give back to help those in need," Mr. Hagins said. "Growing up, I was taught that when you're on the field, you try to be the best player you can be, and off the field, you try to be the best person you can be."

Mr. Hagins, who is planning to hold another Kicking It With The Kids event this spring, received the Prudential Spirit of Community Award Distinguished Finalist medal in 2009, 2010 and 2012, and was named the Prudential Spirit of Community High School Volunteer for Pennsylvania in 2015.



*A member of the Cannonball Crew and John Holdzkorn of the Pittsburgh Pirates smile as they fill boxes to be distributed.*





## Chase Rowe Named 2015 Chuck Tanner Collegiate Coach of the Year

BY KURT HACKIMER '12 | PHOTOS: JIM JUDKIS

**O**ver the past 10 years, Head Baseball Coach Chase Rowe has built a program that now consistently ranks among the elites in Div. III baseball. And this past November, Coach Rowe was honored for his efforts when he was named the 2015 Chuck Tanner Collegiate Coach of the Year.

Coach Rowe received his award at the ninth annual Chuck Tanner Awards Banquet in November. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Pittsburgh, the banquet is named in honor of former Major League Baseball Manager Chuck Tanner, who led Pittsburgh to a World Series Championship in 1979.

As he received his award at the Rivers Club in downtown Pittsburgh, the Redhawks' bench boss shared the stage with such esteemed baseball personnel as Texas Rangers Manager Jeff Banister,

Pittsburgh Pirates pitching guru Ray Searage and former Pirates General Manager Kevin McClatchy.

"It's nice to be recognized for all of the hard work that not only myself but my staff and everybody at the College has put in for the past 10 years," Coach Rowe said.

The Redhawks manager did not find this success overnight. Coach Rowe, 31, has been manning the Redhawks bench for nine full seasons. When he started coaching at the age of 22, he was one of the youngest head coaches in college sports, and the Redhawks had a fledgling baseball program that was good enough to contend consistently in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) but not good enough to win.

That all changed under Coach Rowe, who has recruited dynamic players to La Roche and has built a proverbial Div. III juggernaut in his time at the College.

"Chase has worked very hard to put himself in the position that he is in today. He's one of the best Div. III baseball coaches in the country," La Roche Athletic Director Jim Tinkey said. "He's a great student of the game, an incredible recruiter and a tremendous leader. But most importantly, and what I'm most proud of, is that he's as good a role model as you'll find for the young men he coaches."

Coach Rowe, who also was named the ABCA/Diamond NCAA Div. III Mideast Region Coach of the Year, the DB3Baseball Mideast Region Coach of the Year and the AMCC Coach of the Year in 2015, said that the constant betterment of himself and his players is what drives him to succeed.

"For me personally, it's just a thirst for knowledge," he explained. "I'm passionate about baseball. Even more than winnings, I'm passionate about learning the game and making my players better."

Coach Rowe's dedication to learning the game has clearly had a positive effect on his players because the Redhawks baseball program has risen to unprecedented levels during the coach's tenure. For the second consecutive season, the Redhawks have gone further into the postseason than any La Roche baseball team.

Under Coach Rowe's leadership, La Roche baseball has a .591 winning percentage over the past eight seasons and won three regular season titles and three AMCC titles in the last four seasons.

"We have a great baseball program, and we work every year to try and win a national championship," he said. "I don't know if that's the sales pitch that a player hears from every other school, but that's our goal."

That appears to be the next step for La Roche, which has emerged as the dominant school in their conference in the past several seasons. And the team has done so by adjusting its standards. Coach Rowe is not looking for just any baseball player to fill out his roster; he is looking for kids who want to win.

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***"Our grades in the classroom are good, our guys work hard, and we're seeing success on both ends. When you get those types of kids who are self-motivated, I think really special things start to happen."*** - Coach Chase Rowe

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This past season the Redhawks went 32-13 with a 14-2 record in conference play and won its second straight AMCC Championship. They became the first team in school history to make it to the NCAA Mid-east Regional Championship and fell just one win short of winning that title.

The Redhawks staff have turned La Roche into a Div. III baseball powerhouse, which is beneficial not only to the College's reputation within the region but also for the purposes of recruiting highly touted student-athletes to the school.

"[Recruits] call me back more often now," Coach Rowe said. "And I have a lot more players who are kind of recruiting us, which makes things a little bit easier."

Coach Rowe said that his pitch used to mainly revolve around the campus itself. La Roche offers a personalized, small-school experience for a lower price than many of its private school counterparts in the AMCC. It is stressed to potential student athletes that La Roche's faculty and administrators will care for them in a way that other schools will not.

But now Coach Rowe can add another, possibly more intriguing item to his recruiting portfolio: potential national recognition.

"We just keep trying to get tough kids who want to be successful no matter what they do," Coach Rowe explained. "Our grades in the classroom are good, our guys work hard, and we're seeing success on both ends. When you get those types of kids who are self-motivated, I think really special things start to happen."

There is no better example of this kind of toughness and competitiveness than recent La Roche graduate and 2015 AMCC Pitcher of the Year Tyler Ferguson.

Coach Rowe said that Mr. Ferguson is inarguably the best baseball player, and possibly the best athlete, in La Roche's history. In his four years at La Roche, Mr. Ferguson smashed school records for career wins (31) and career strikeouts (318).

In June Mr. Ferguson signed with the independent Frontier League's Washington Wild Things, making him the second La Roche alumnus to play professional baseball. The Wild Things boast that 27 of its players have gone on to be signed by Major League Baseball organizations.

Mr. Ferguson's departure, as well as the departures of several key seniors such as outfielders Cory Podvasnik and



Jon Watson, infielder Brian Tougher, catcher Matt Sabatini and infielder Franzee Barlammas, means that this year's Redhawks baseball team will look much different than the dominant clubs of recent history.

But Coach Rowe is confident that his current group will not only pick up the slack left by the recent graduates, it will build upon their previous successes.

"I expect to be even better this year," he said. "I think we have more pitching depth, we're more athletic, and we're faster. I think we're going to be better offensively than we have ever been and, if we stay healthy, I think we should be right back there in the thick of things again."

La Roche's march toward their third consecutive AMCC Conference Title started on Feb. 13 at Shenandoah and hopefully will span well into May as the team looks to make another extended run into the postseason.





## Tennis Finishes Another Solid Season

**T**he La Roche tennis team concluded another successful season with the third highest total single-season win in school history (6-7 overall).

Despite a significant number of injuries and adversity, the team more than doubled their individual match wins of 27 in 2014 to 63. The Redhawks also finished with more conference and non-conference wins in 2015 while moving up in the AMCC standings.

Junior Devin Stromberg led the way for the second straight season, earning All-Conference honors at the number three singles position, and the number-three doubles spot with freshman Chardai Guthrie. Stromberg finished her second straight MVP season with 10-2 overall in singles and 9-2 in doubles, and she became the third Redhawk tennis player to win multiple All-Conference awards.

## Ceravolo Earns Spot on AMCC All-Conference First Team

**W**omen's soccer sophomore striker Vanessa Ceravolo was awarded a spot on the AMCC All-Conference First Team.

Ceravolo followed her Second Team performance last season with an incredible sophomore campaign. She led the AMCC Conference in goals (16), ranked second in points (39) and game-winning goals (4), and third in assists (7). She also had three hat tricks and registered a point in 10 of 15 games.

Ceravolo is the first Lady Redhawk to make First Team since Bethanie Moreschi in 2012, and the first sophomore to do so since Moreschi and Katherine Golebie in 2010.

## Volleyball's Amazing Run Ends in AMCC Semifinal

**T**he women's volleyball team finished an amazing season after they fell to Medaille in a thrilling 3-1 AMCC Semifinal Match.

The team earned a school-record three spots on the AMCC All-Conference Team. Kelly Slates garnered First-Team honors, which marks 2015 as the third consecutive year for a Lady Redhawk to place on the First Team. Slates had an unbelievable season from her libero spot, ranking sixth in the nation in digs while leading the conference in the same category. She finished her career as one of school's all-time leaders in digs.

Toni Torchia and Laura Nath wreaked havoc on opponents all season long at the net. Torchia ranked seventh in the AMCC in kills and digs, while Nath finished the year ninth in kills. Both athletes made the AMCC All-Conference Second Team.



## Ben Mullins Earns Second Straight All-Conference Nod

**I**n October men's golfer Ben Mullins was named to the AMCC All-Conference First Team. Mullins posted one of the best scoring averages in the AMCC with an 81.6 average over six rounds. He tied for third in the Hilbert College Invitational, placed top 10 in three of six rounds and in the top 15 in all six.

He is two for two with All-Conference nods after receiving a Third-Team honor last season. Mullins joins 11 other Redhawks since 1997 as First-Team performers.



## Men's Soccer Puts Five on All-Conference Team

**A**fter another successful season (11-9), nearly half of the men's soccer starting lineup placed on the AMCC All-Conference Team. Elliot Dick, Dave Hideringer and Ximo Vicent made the Second Team, while Tyler Balzer and Aaron Lagnese were on the Third Team.

Hideringer provided strong defense and leadership from his centerback position while

tallying three goals (two game-winning goals) and three assists. Balzer was a stalwart in the midfield, finishing the season with six goals and three assists. He ranks fifth on the school's career assist list and 11th on the point list.

Dick and Lagnese ranked among the conference leaders in goals all season long. Dick led all AMCC freshmen and tied for fourth in the conference with 10 goals. Lagnese only was a goal behind placing sixth in the conference.

Vicent tied the school's single-season assist record in his first collegiate season. He led all freshmen and ranked second in the conference with 12 assists, while also producing four goals (two game-winning goals).



## DEAR ALUMNI,

It's amazing to see how La Roche College alumni are always excited to return "home." I attended Festival of Lights this past December, and it was a packed house in all venues. It was great to meet and speak with fellow alumni at the event.

Events like Festival of Lights only happen because of you — because you participate, donate and support the College. Thank you for all that you do for the community and La Roche.

Please remember to mark you calendars for Alumni Homecoming Weekend from April 22-24. Hosted by the College and the Office of Alumni Relations, Homecoming offers a weekend of events for alumni to reconnect and celebrate their time at La Roche.

Be sure to visit [laroche.edu/homecoming](http://laroche.edu/homecoming) to register and view important details. Homecoming is great time to catch up with friends, professors and staff, especially if you belonged to the design or liberal arts/humanities divisions, for which we're hosting reunions.

I hope to see all of you come "home" to the Redhawk nest in April. I, and the rest of the executive alumni board, appreciate your time and your support.

## THANK YOU.

Sincerely,

**Lonnie Nolker '06**

*Alumni Board President*



# ALUMNI FAST FACTS



### TOTAL COUNT

DEGREE EARNERS | LIVING AND DECEASED



### TOTAL LIVING



### COUNTRIES BORN IN



### COUNTRIES RESIDING IN



### STATES RESIDING IN (USA)



### LIVING IN PENNSYLVANIA



### LIVING WITHIN 25 MILES OF LA ROCHE COLLEGE



### EMAIL ADDRESSES RECORDED

AS OF JAN. 15, 2016



# HOMEcoming WEEKEND

## LA ROCHE COLLEGE | APRIL 22-24

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 22

**CELEBRATE LA ROCHE!** | *Distinguished Alumni Circle Inductions* | Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 23

**Noon** | Alumni Men's Soccer Game | Athletic Complex

**1 and 3 p.m.** | Varsity Softball Games (*doubleheader*)  
Lady Redhawks vs D'Youville | La Roche Softball Field

**2 p.m.** | Alumni Women's Soccer Game | Athletic Complex

**3:30 p.m.** | Meet Design Open House  
Design Academic Reunion and Student Art Show

**4 p.m.** | Opening Mass with Celebrant Father Peter Horton

**5 p.m.** | Featured Event: Cocktail and Dinner Party

- Liberal Arts Academic Reunion
- Retirement Party for Dr. Bob McBride
- Cocktail and Dinner Party for All Alumni  
*Suggested dress: business casual*

**8 p.m.** | Happy Hour at Rum Runners Saloon

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 24

**9:30 a.m.** | 5K Race on Campus  
*Brunch to follow the race*

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



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Director of Alumni Relations

Gina Miller

412-536-1085 | [gina.miller@laroche.edu](mailto:gina.miller@laroche.edu)

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On Saturday, Jan. 28, La Roche College welcomed five alumni and one honorary member to the Athletic Hall of Fame during an induction ceremony in the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center. The Athletic Hall of Fame recognizes individuals for their outstanding athletic careers, community service and professional achievements.

## PHIL AVOLIO '09

### BASEBALL

Phil Avolio, a native of Eighty Four, Pa., majored in facilities management and led a distinguished baseball career at La Roche.

He ranked second on the school's all-time wins list at graduation and currently has the fourth most wins in school history.

In addition to his 15 career victories, Mr. Avolio also threw 11 complete games and struck out 108 batters. He was on the squad that won the AMCC Regular Season Championship in 2007 and helped lead his team to the AMCC Championship game in 2006 and 2007.

During the 2007 season, Mr. Avolio threw a no-hitter, which sparked a winning-streak where La Roche won 11 of their next 12 games en route to the regular season championship. In 2009 he received the AMCC Faculty Representative Award, which is given to the top academic student-athlete in the conference, as well as the Harry G. Austin Award.

Mr. Avolio currently works as the facilities and parks coordinator for Mt. Lebanon Municipality.

## NICOLE BOOTH '08

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

Nicole Booth was a standout soccer player who helped her team to four straight AMCC Tournament Semifinal appearances and earned the AMCC Newcomer of the Year Award.

She was a two-time AMCC All-Conference First Teamer, a two-time AMCC All-Conference Second Teamer, a four-time AMCC All-Conference Academic Teamer and the 2008 AMCC Scholar Athlete of the Year. She currently ranks fifth in school history in assists, seventh in points and eighth in goals.

A criminal justice major, Ms. Booth was an outstanding student at La Roche and earned prestigious academic awards, including the Harlan Fiske Stone Award (highest GPA among graduating criminal justice students) and the Harry G. Austin Jr. Scholar Athlete Award.

Ms. Booth was a 2008 nominee for the President's Award For Leadership and

Scholarship, made the Dean's List all four years, was a three-year member of the American Criminal Justice Association and a 2008 member of the National College Athlete Honor Society.

She and her husband, Jordan, have three children: Isabella, Brayden and Spencer. Ms. Booth currently works as a social worker in a skilled nursing facility.

## JIMMY DUNN

### 2016 HONORARY INDUCTEE

Since moving to the North Hills seven years ago, Jimmy Dunn has been a respected member of the La Roche community.

Mr. Dunn attends every basketball game and other sports events on campus, and he provides the Athletics Department with invaluable media coverage as the Redhawks' beat writer.

A Korean War veteran, Mr. Dunn has been an active participant in veterans' affairs on campus. For two years he participated in the Veterans Day panel and was recognized for his service at a game last season.



## KRISTY LESH '01

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Kristy Lesh had a stellar four-year soccer career and guided the Lady Redhawks to four consecutive AMCC Tournament appearances, including a berth in the 1998 championship game.

Ms. Lesh was recognized as the 1998 AMCC Player of the Year, a 1998 AMCC All-Conference First-Team selection and the team's captain during her senior season. During her final season, the Lady Redhawks led the nation in scoring with 101 goals while setting a school record in the process. She finished her career as the school's all-time leader in points and goals, and currently ranks fourth in both categories.

A native of Allison Park, Pa., Ms. Lesh works for City Light Products. She lives with her husband, Tom, in Pittsburgh, Pa.

## STEPHANIE PENCAK '01

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

For four seasons Stephanie Pencak was a strong post presence on the women's basketball team.

"It is a tremendous honor to be inducted into La Roche's Hall of Fame," Ms. Pencak said. "I truly believe that my basketball

career has helped to shape the person that I am in both my personal and professional life. To be successful in anything, especially sports, takes a lot of hard work, discipline, determination, dedication and time."

An AMCC All-Conference First-Teamer and AMCC All-Conference Second Teamer, she helped her team to four straight AMCC Tournament appearances. She concluded her career as the program's all-time leading scorer. Ms. Pencak currently ranks fourth all-time and among the school's all-time leaders with 883 career rebounds and 131 career steals.

Her team was active with the American Cancer Society for five years, and she served as team captain of Team Unity, a Relay for Life team. During a five-year period, the team raised more than \$65,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Ms. Pencak currently lives in Vandergrift, Pa. and is a security supervisor at PPG Industries, where she is responsible for the safety and security of the facility, as well as managing the security guards at the facility. Outside of work she volunteers as a coach for the YMCA's basketball program and will enter her third year of coaching the third through sixth grade levels.

## BETHANY PERACCHINO '08

### SOFTBALL

As the three-year starting pitcher on the La Roche softball team, Bethany Peracchino was one of the best in school history.

Ms. Peracchino was twice named to the AMCC All-Conference First Team, and she helped lead her team to the AMCC Tournament in each of her three seasons, including an appearance in the 2005 championship game. She was named the MVP of the 2008 ECAC Tournament, and her team set a school record for wins on their way to an AMCC Regular Season Title. That year the Lady Redhawks won the ECAC South Regional Championship.

Ms. Peracchino holds the single-season wins record after tallying 21 during her junior year. She twice led the AMCC Conference in victories while leading in earned run average and strikeouts.

An outstanding accounting and business management student, she received the school's Senior Award in Accounting for Academic Excellence and made the Dean's List all eight semesters.

Ms. Peracchino currently lives in Dunlo, Pa. and is the finance director for the City of Johnstown.

PHOTO: ROBIN DENOMA



Bethany Peracchino '08, Stephanie Pencak '01, Nicole Booth '08, Phil Avolio '09 and Jimmy Dunn were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at a ceremony in the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center on Saturday, Jan. 28. Not pictured: Kristy Lesh '01.







# The Future Starts Here: The Richard A. Zappala College Center

BY ELIZABETH WILLIAMS-HERRMAN '07, M.A. | COLLEGE ARCHIVIST

*By the 1980s La Roche College had come a long way from its humble origins.*

**W**hen La Roche first opened its doors in September 1963, the College had just under 250 students, all of them sisters or sisters in formation.

By 1965 La Roche had opened itself to all women, and in 1967 the College built its first new building, the John J. Wright Library. However, a financial crisis in the late 1960s caused the Sisters of Divine Providence to consider closing the College for good.

In a bid to keep the College open, La Roche froze salaries, enacted an austerity budget, opened its doors to men (in 1970), expanded its course offerings and diversified its board of trustees. The gambit worked and La Roche not only survived, but began to thrive. By the mid-1980s, La Roche boasted a student body of 1,750, many of them the first in their families to go to college, and many of them adult students.

As the student body grew and changed, the campus, too, had to change. La Roche embarked on its first capital campaign in 1978, successfully raising \$700,000 to add much needed classroom space. When the Science Center opened in 1980, it was clear that one new building alone would not meet the needs of the up-and-coming college. The presidency of Sister Margaret Huber, who began her tenure in 1981, ushered in a new period of expansion and growth for La Roche.

Beginning in December 1982, members of the La Roche community and the North Hills community began meeting with the College's architectural firm, Urban Design Associates, in order to develop an ambitious plan, which would change the face of the College campus

and usher it not only into the 1990s, but into the new millennium.

In 1985 La Roche was ready to share its dreams with the world. During a news conference at the Duquesne Club, the chairman of the board of trustees, Thomas C. Ryan announced that the College was about to embark on its most ambitious project yet: a 10-year, \$18.5 million expansion.

The first phase of the plan was the construction of a \$4.2 million College Center. The other phases included the construction of the Fitness Center, the renovation of the Science Center and Academic Hall (which was located on the West Campus), as well as the construction of a new academic building.

After Mr. Ryan's initial announcement, the primary focus of the College for the next two years was the construction of the College Center, which would become the architectural front of the campus. It was an ambitious project, particularly since half of the funds for the new building were to be garnered through the largest capital campaign the school had ever undertaken.

However, as La Roche approached its 25th anniversary, the construction of the College Center became not only a way to usher La Roche into the future, but to celebrate how far it had come from the financial crisis that had nearly forced it to shut its doors in the 1960s. La Roche's new campaign took its inspiration from the 1930 children's book "The Little Engine that Could," marketing La Roche as "the little college that could."

Those dedicated to raising funds for the new building realized that they had their work cut out for them. La Roche was still

a young college with a small alumni base of only a few thousand men and women to draw on. Although alumni answered the call admirably (a February 1986 Phone-a-thon broke all previous records in the College for a single fundraising event), it was clear that the College could not rely on alumni alone.

The board of trustees, faculty, staff and other members of the La Roche family helped make the College Center a reality, even exceeding the expected donation level. Volunteers took La Roche's case to the public, and many donors, foundations and local businesses also contributed to the capital campaign.

Due to the hard work of the campaign's volunteers, \$2 million had already been raised to defer the cost of the new building by the time the College broke ground on it in April 1986.

The College Center opened in September 1987, ushering in La Roche's Silver Jubilee year. A decade later it would be named for Richard A. Zappala in honor of his years of service as a member of the board of trustees.

Even though the campus has undergone even more changes since the College Center's construction, the building still remains true to its original purpose. Since its conception over 30 years ago, the College Center was meant to be the heart of the college: a public space where people could gather and interact.

Today the Center bridges the two main academic buildings and still serves as the place it was meant to be: a place where strangers and friends alike can meet and share ideas, and encourage learning to extend beyond the classroom.

**Taylor Aschenbrenner '13** is getting married to Sean Flanigan on Oct. 15, 2016.

**Christopher Adesso '15** is now a vice president, project manager II in BNY Mellon's HRIS Department. Mr. Adesso is a graduate of La Roche's Master of Science in Human Resources Management program.

**Teresa Baldi '85** is a sister of the Holy Spirit and had perpetual vows since 2012. She works in Butler, Pa. for the three city parishes and is in charge of faith formation.

**Lynn Bouchier '13** is now an adjunct faculty member at Butler Community College. Ms. Bouchier teaches Medical Law and Ethics, as well as the Human Resources Management Certificate Program.



**Dana Brandi '07** gave birth to Jackson Aaron Rakes on Friday, Jan. 22, 2016.

**Jim Brockman '89** is now the Director of the National American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Museum, Education and Research Center in Wellsburg, W. Va. In February he and his wife, Lynn, attended the National United States Power Squadron in Orlando, Fla., where he received his 25th Merit Mark.

**Lynn Brockman '89** is now the Senior Medical Coder for Ohio Valley Hospital. She recently passed the AAPC Certified Professional Biller test.



**Eva Ciccotelli '10** and **Andrew Anderson '10** welcomed a baby girl, Stella Lou Anderson, on Monday, Oct. 12.

**Patricia Daube '66** and her husband, Don, have four children, six grandsons and two granddaughters. This year their oldest grandson graduated from high school with highest honors and chose to attend La Roche.



**Kristina Dice '07** married Dr. Jeremy Dincher on Dec. 4, 2015 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. Dr. Dincher is a graduate of Penn State University and Temple Medical School, and Ms. Dice was a member of La Roche's Student Government Association. She also served on the Alumni Association Board through 2013. Ms. Dice currently works for BNY Mellon as an analyst, and Dr. Dincher works for UPMC.

**Debra Frantz '83, CRNA, M.S.**, worked full time as a nurse anesthetist at St. Francis in Pittsburgh from 1982 to 1987 and Mon Valley Hospital since 1987. She recently transitioned to part-time work. Ms. Frantz now has more time to volunteer at Animal Friends/Westmoreland, where she has been volunteering for the past three years. She also is the treasurer for Hospaws, an organization which serves

people who need help with their pets if they are hospitalized or enter rehabilitation. The organization adopts the pets as fosters or provides at-home care. Ms. Frantz also began volunteering as a docent at the Pittsburgh Zoo.

**Jane Graham '06** celebrated her 20th anniversary as administrative support analyst with BASF Corporation in Evans City, Pa. this January.

**Gordon Hands '87, CRNA**, recently retired from 25 years of private anesthesia practice in Beverly Hills, Calif. In November he will enter full retirement after 29 years of service with Kaiser Permanente of Woodland Hills, Calif.

**Rev. James P. Holland '86** currently is the pastor of a 1,200-person parish in his first year of a six-year assignment. Father Holland has begun an evening tutoring program for K-12 students, utilizing volunteer teachers and experts with a cost of only \$5 per visit. In the initial year (2014-15), 200 children visited the program. He also volunteers for Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center as a clinical nurse specialist, focusing on diabetes care.

**Morgan Hollinger '10** and her fiancé, Tom Rodd, welcomed their baby boy, Kellan Patrick Roddy, on Nov. 22, 2015.

**Amanda Kunkle '09** is now a research assistant at San Diego State University (SDSU) and is currently working on her third novel. In April she will travel to Guatemala with a mission group and conduct research on culture, life and education for SDSU.

**Dan Lautenbacher '05** is a member of the Norfolk Virginia Police Department. He has worked as a patrol officer, hostage negotiator, bike officer, robbery detective and homicide detective.

In April 2015 Mr. Lautenbacher was awarded the Medal of Valor for an active shooting incident in which a fellow officer was killed and another was wounded. He arrived on scene, provided life-saving cover and first aid. After the incident culminated, he was then tasked to investigate the circumstances of the numerous homicides that were a result



of the active shooter incident.

Mr. Lautenbacher was married on Sept. 5, 2015 to Jenna Rae Baker, a nurse practitioner in Norfolk, Va.

**James K. Lautenbacher '06** recently retired from teaching at ITT Technical Institute in Youngstown, Ohio and Pittsburgh, Pa. At ITT Mr. Lautenbacher taught courses in criminal justice, American government, management and strategies. He currently is in the process of writing two books: "Emergency Planning Process" and "Slaughter in San Bernardino."

Mr. Lautenbacher has been married to his wife, Dr. Susan Lautenbacher, for 40 years. They have three children and two grandchildren.

**Karen Lehman '72** will retire this year. Ms. Lehman has been a teacher at Oakland Catholic High School for the past 17 years.

**Joshua Litvik '10, MPA** was hired as a program coordinator for professional development services/human resources at Carnegie Mellon University.

**William Michael '97 and Jenna Peterson '10** focus their interior design expertise on hospitality projects at DRS Architects. The duo was recently nominated for a 2016 NEWH Top Interior Designer Award for the Pittsburgh Region. NEWH is the premier networking resource for the hospitality industry, providing scholarship, education, recognition and business networking opportunities.

**Zach Milch '02** and his wife, Stephanie Milch, welcomed their first child, Griffin "Griffey" Milch to the big leagues on Aug. 18. Griffin is excited to root for the Redhaws baseball team as they make a run to the National Championship in 2016.

**Joyce Mills '86**, treasury services operations business analyst for BNY Mellon, achieved her Lean Six Sigma Green Belt for Business Analytics.

**Sokhom Pin '92** is now head of in-vitro neuropharmacology at Alkeremes Inc.

**Dritan Shala '05** has worked for the Privatization Agency of Kosovo since 2009. In February 2013, he became

a member of the Advisory Board of La Roche's Global Development and Humanitarian Aid program.

Mr. Shala has been taking part in various trainings for continuous career development, including a licensed immovable property evaluation program, and is looking for opportunities to complete a Ph.D.



**Walter Schulte '11** married Maggie Marie Dudek on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2016. The couple now resides in New Kensington, Pa.

**Chris Churilla '10** recently had his first children's book published. The book, titled "A New Friend for Guido," is about a little train who works at the zoo.

**Christopher Havens '99** and his wife, Tonya Bortell, have twin boys, Jackson and Alexander. For 16 years Mr. Havens worked as a senior graphic artist for Smith & Jones, an advertising agency specializing in hospital and health care marketing. Recently he accepted a new position as a museum graphic designer with the New York State Museum in Albany, N.Y.

**Marisa Golden Janssen '03** and her husband, Christopher, welcomed their son, Xavier James Janssen, on March 30, 2015.

**Sister Linda Lalic, CDP, '70** recently completed five years of teaching German at Duquesne University.

**Patricia A. Simmons '82** has been appointed by Education First/Go Ahead Travel as one of its Global Ambassadors for 2016. Ms. Simmons will promote

cultural awareness and goodwill through travel connections. She also serves on the Executive Board for the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Baden, Pa.

**Caren Sobier '03** moved to Washington, D.C. after more than eight years helping students as a career adviser at New York Institute of Technology's (NYIT) Office of Career Services. She now serves as the associate director of student employment at Georgetown University. Ms. Sobier received her bachelor's degree in graphic and communication design from La Roche College and a master's degree in human resources and labor relations from NYIT.

**Cheryl Vierheilig '12** is the president and owner of Elite Nannies Inc., which offers home nanny care, elder care, pet sitting, hotel/event care and housekeepers on a temporary or permanent part-time or full-time basis. She also is an adjunct instructor at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, where she teaches fashion retail, business and leadership. A full-time doctoral student of University of Phoenix, Ms. Vierheilig is obtaining a doctorate degree in organizational leadership and information systems technology. She lives in Moon Township, Pa., and is a Sabika independent jewelry representative.

**Gustavo (Tamayo) Pennock '97** recently joined Herbalife International, a global nutrition company based in Los Angeles, Calif. as manager of brand governance and compliance. With business across over 90 countries, Mr. Pennock ensures the brand remains relevant and consistent world wide across multiple marketing touch-points.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Mia T. Corra '06** on Oct. 24, 2015

**Jason H. Dotson '06** on Nov. 16, 2015

**Anne Marie Grzybek '89** on Aug. 18, 2015

**Christine Price '70** on Aug. 30, 2015

## 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.*





La Roche  
COLLEGE **DAY**

AT



**Sunday, June 5 | 1:35 p.m. | Pittsburgh Pirates vs. Los Angeles Angels**

Ticket cost: Only \$35 per alumni ticket and \$40 per guest ticket. Each alumnus can purchase up to four tickets. Ages 14 and under receive a kid's pill box Pirates cap.

*Limited tickets available. Seat confirmations will be made when payment is received with registration. Tickets will be mailed to the purchaser in early May.*

**ALL YOU CAN EAT SEATS**

Hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn, peanuts and more included in your ticket price. Seating in Section 204.

**KIDS DAY AT PNC PARK**

Fun and games at the #1 Cochran Family Fun Zone on Federal Street from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ages 14 and under receive a kid-friendly Andrew McCutchen Compression Sleeve.

"Run the Bases" presented by the Original Pizza Logs after the game (weather permitting).

Questions? Contact Gina Miller at [gina.miller@laroche.edu](mailto:gina.miller@laroche.edu) | 412-536-1085

**Go to [laroche.edu/pnc](http://laroche.edu/pnc) to register**





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- RANDY GILBERT '04 MSHRM  
*Human Resource Manager  
HDR, Pittsburgh*



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## ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2016

LA ROCHE COLLEGE | APRIL 22-24

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



**SATURDAY, APRIL 23**  
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

### 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!**

