

Connected

the La Roche College Magazine | SPRING • SUMMER 2012



Gates 1-48



Washington, DC



Pittsburgh, PA



Los Angeles, CA





The La Roche College Magdalen Chapel

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.

A Message *from* the President

La Roche College has seen many changes since its founding in 1963 by a small group of determined religious women, the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence. Today, that change continues as the College experiences a new era of growth in the number of students enrolled, as well as in the programs offered.

One tangible sign of this change is this magazine. It is the College's first magazine to be published in nearly two years. Appropriately named, "Connected," this magazine celebrates who we are as individuals, as well as who we are as a community connected by the endeavors we undertake together. This first issue focuses on our alumni who, no matter where they may be, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, CA, West Middlesex, PA, or elsewhere around the globe are intrinsically linked by their experiences at La Roche.

By now you are most likely aware the College is in the midst of a comprehensive branding initiative. And you may have wondered what makes this initiative so important. The answer is simple. This initiative is a clear statement that La Roche is prepared to take its place among colleges and universities in the region with a clear voice and message that expresses the College's uniqueness, strengths and mission. The results of this branding initiative will culminate in the introduction of our new tagline, logo and brand guidelines in August, as well as the much-anticipated launch of a new website for the College in 2013.

Also, in August, the College will begin celebrations in honor of its 50th Anniversary. These are exciting times of change and a renewed sense of mission and purpose for all of us here at La Roche. It is gratifying for me to see the enthusiasm with which students, alumni, faculty and staff have embraced the branding process and look forward to celebrating our proud history. In the end, you can be proud in knowing you played a role in advancing La Roche toward ever greater accomplishment and recognition.

Sincerely,



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



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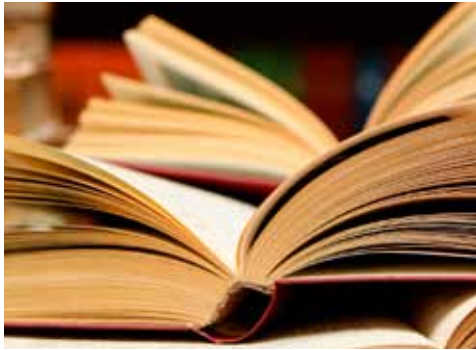
ON THE COVER
La Roche College alumni can be found
across the U.S. and around the globe,
connected by their La Roche College
education and campus-life experiences.
Cover by Justin Lotz and Greg Kemper

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about the College.*

*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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A Purposeful Life

Ammar Samad '04

Starwood Hotel & Resorts' St. Regis Hotel, Washington, D.C. is certainly one of the most prestigious hotels in the nation's capital city and indeed the world, drawing luminaries from all walks of life.

However, for 2004 La Roche College graduate Ammar Samad, it's much more.

Born in Jerusalem, Ammar moved to the Pittsburgh area and attended La Roche College's Pacem In Terris Institute. He graduated magna cum laude in 2004, with a dual Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and Marketing Management. Upon graduation, he went on to pursue his studies in international politics and economics at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Ammar told us that "The Pacem in Terris Institute is, without doubt, central to my success. And by success, I mean not only my chosen career path, but the values and virtues I learned there.

"The diversity of the student body at La Roche College is one of the main reasons I chose the hospitality industry."

It helped define my purpose and made me a better person. Living side by side with people of different cultures, backgrounds, beliefs and faiths, taught me that the world's a much larger place than it appears at first glance."

He went on to add, "The diversity of the student body at La Roche College is one of the main reasons I chose the hospitality industry as my career—it's where I learned to be open to new ideas and people, and it reinforced my

longing to be of service to others, especially those in need. At the St. Regis, the same culture of openness and acceptance prevails; so I have the good fortune of being able to live my values.”

After 10 years of operations management and transformational leadership in the five star and luxury hospitality industry, Ammar is now Director of Rooms at the St. Regis Hotel.

**“... my work, values,
cherished beliefs,
my spiritual being
—it’s who I am.”**

The St. Regis, Washington, D.C. (originally, the Carlton Hotel) was founded in 1926. Located just two blocks from the White House, it has hosted every U.S. President since Calvin Coolidge (he cut the grand opening ceremony ribbon), as well as royalty, world leaders and luminaries from all walks of life.

When asked about some of his most cherished moments at the St. Regis, Ammar replied, “Meeting Vice President Biden in 2009 at the memorial service of my dear friend, Monsignor William Kerr, the former President of La Roche College (1992-2004)—it’s something I’ll cherish forever.”

“I was so moved by the Vice President’s eulogy at the service here at the Hotel. You see, Monsignor Kerr was like a father to me. He was my advisor and mentor. Someone I trusted completely. When he came to Washington, D.C., the Monsignor always stayed here at the St. Regis, so we remained in touch. He enriched my life in so many ways. It was a privilege, indeed, an honor, to know him.”

“As president, Monsignor Kerr transformed La Roche College into the global community of lifelong learners that it is today and made significant contributions to promoting peace and understanding worldwide. And to think that the Vice President of the United States and I shared this common bond, this special relationship with this man of peace—our mutual spiritual advisor,” Ammar added.

Yet, life for Ammar goes far beyond the “glamour” of his professional life at the St. Regis. He lives the mission of La Roche College’s Pacem in Terris Institute every day—to work for peace and prosperity and to foster greater global and transcultural awareness.

As Ammar explains, Starwood Hotels and Resorts is committed to sustainable development worldwide, in keeping with its corporate values of global citizenship, environmental stewardship and social responsibility to the communities in which they serve.

“That’s why I feel so lucky to work at the St. Regis. I’ve found my home. Not just in terms of the work I love and the extraordinary colleagues with whom I work on a daily basis, but also in terms of my heart. I’ve found a synergy between my work and my values, cherished beliefs, my spiritual being—it’s who I am.”

Through his tenure at Starwood Hotel and Resorts and in particular, the prestigious St. Regis, Ammar has supported programs such as The Clean World Partnership, Hands on D.C., UNICEF and Check Out For Children Program.

In addition, Ammar is an active member of Seeds of Peace and The Fund for American Studies, as well as a scholar and member of La Roche College’s acclaimed Pacem in Terris Institute.

Ammar has achieved remarkable success in the hospitality industry. Along with his many managerial duties, as the Director of Rooms for the St. Regis, he is charged with greeting official heads of state, princes, sheiks, members of Congress, industry leaders, artists and celebrities.

**“The Pacem in
Terris Institute
is, without doubt,
central to my success.”**

However, it is his humanitarian work and his compassion for others that distinguishes him. His journey from La Roche College led him to a purposeful life. It’s a lifelong journey he creates and builds every day.

By Julie Stratton, a freelance writer based in Washington, D.C.

The Saint John's Bible

Finds a Home at La Roche

Soon visitors to the John J. Wright Library will have an opportunity to view the Heritage Edition reproduction of the Saint John's Bible. The limited-edition masterpiece, recently acquired by the College, will serve as the centerpiece of La Roche's 50th anniversary starting in the fall.

Commissioned by the Benedictine Monks of Saint John's Abbey and University, the Saint John's Bible is the first handwritten, hand-illuminated Bible produced in more than 500 years—since the invention of the printing press.

Meticulously created by a team of scribes, artists and craftspeople from around the world, this monumental work took more than 10 years to complete. The Bible is fashioned with materials associated with enduring manuscripts: calfskin vellum; hand-cut goose quills; paints hand-ground from precious minerals and stones such as lapis lazuli, vermilion and malachite; and silver, copper and 24-karat gold leaf. The original seven-volume masterpiece is housed at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. However, to ensure that people around the world can experience the beauty and inspiration of this timeless work, the monks of Saint John's Abbey and University authorized two hundred and ninety-nine, full-size, leather-bound, signed and numbered reproductions of the Bible complete with the illuminations.

The Heritage Edition Saint John's Bible housed at La Roche will serve to bring both regional and national recognition to the College, its Catholic mission and heritage. The Bible will also serve as the basis for liturgical occasions and academic programs for generations of La Roche students, faculty and staff.



“We acquired the Heritage copy because God’s Word is at the core of who we are and what we do as a Catholic institution that is proud to assert its Catholic values and beliefs; an institution that desires for its graduates to carry with them a sound moral compass to serve them well throughout their lives.”

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



Farm-Ohio
Veterinary Services

From Lab Partners to *Life Partners*

Richard and Nicole Pearsall '03

Running a business with a spouse can be a challenge; being together both at home and at work requires a lot of cooperation between a husband and wife. But for 2003 graduates, Nicole and Richard Pearsall, working together was second nature after their time spent at La Roche College.

“We met at La Roche, and we were in all of the same classes for five years,” explained Richard Pearsall, a New Castle native who double-majored in biology and chemistry with plans to become a teacher. “We were the only two students in a molecular biology class lab, so we spent three to four hours together every Tuesday. We also studied together—but we didn’t start dating right away.”

“You said that the first time you saw me you knew you were going to marry me,” laughed Nicole (Jones) Pearsall, adding that she first noticed her future husband because of his nickname, ‘Boomer,’ which was also the name of her horse. “That kind of stuck in my head.”

“Dr. Gail Rowe really knew me, which I think is partly because of the small class size at La Roche.” - Richard Pearsall

The couple, who both graduated *magna cum laude* from La Roche in 2003, went on to earn advanced degrees: Richard to Duquesne University for his master’s in biology, and Nicole to Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine. After maintaining a long-distance relationship for four years, the two settled down in West Middlesex, Pennsylvania, soon opening a successful veterinary practice.

"I always knew that I wanted to have my own practice and it really happened very quickly," said Nicole. "After I graduated in 2007, I went to work for an already established practice for a year. I liked being a vet, but I didn't like working there, so when I got the chance to move back to my hometown and open a clinic, I said, 'Let's do it.'"

The couple found a house in West Middlesex with an open side lot and built their veterinary clinic from the ground up. A year later, they opened Penn-Ohio Veterinary Services, with Nicole providing veterinary services and Richard managing the practice. "We had talked about opening our own practice, but the clincher for me was when my mom passed away in 2006," said Richard. "My dad lost his wife at the age of 57, and I didn't want to lose any of the time that Nicole and I could spend together."

***"Working closely
with your professors
allows them to recognize
what kind of person you are."***

- Nicole Pearsall

According to the couple, the hardest challenge that they faced at the beginning was knowing how to run a practice. "Neither of us had had any business courses, either as undergrads or as graduate students," said Richard. "I was working as a biology teacher at the time, which didn't provide a lot of knowledge about the ins and outs of running a business."

Richard credits La Roche's chemistry student-operated laboratory venture, CHEMSOLVE, for providing some of the management experience he needed. The CHEMSOLVE laboratory, which was developed to simulate a 'real-life' service lab, provides services to area high school classes in need of analysis for their own educational studies and works directly with industry laboratories that provide samples to CHEMSOLVE to see how students' results compare to their own.

"I was appointed to be in charge of the lab, where I oversaw staff and scheduling," said Richard. "I think this gave me some insight about how to be a manager."

While the couple had to work out a few bugs the first year—Nicole says that she is very strict about rules and Richard is more of a people-pleaser—the two have worked out their differences to run a successful clinic. "I believe the biggest benefits are that we have fun together throughout

the day and we both share a common goal," Nicole said. "I think that having two owners ensures that everything is done right—we both always have the business' best interests in mind. "While it is a huge benefit to have our home connected to the practice—we're only 15 seconds from work—it is also our downfall," she added. "We don't have a lot of privacy. We've had people walk right into our kitchen at 11 o'clock at night with an emergency."

Nicole prides herself on being extremely thorough with each case, and taking the time needed to figure out an animal's history, diagnosis and long-term treatment plan. The clinic is also equipped with the latest technology, including ultrasound, therapeutic laser, digital x-ray and an endoscope. "As a newer veterinary graduate, the practice is as cutting-edge as it can be," she said.

Surprisingly, despite her love of animals, Nicole almost ended up pursuing a different career. She was originally planning to go into biology research at Duquesne University before she received her letter of acceptance from veterinary school. "What's funny is that Dr. Gail Rowe, my biology professor at La Roche, had always encouraged me to become a vet, and when I asked her to write me a letter of recommendation to grad school, she was 100 percent honest. She said that I was meant to be a vet and that it was where I belonged.

"Dr. Rowe really knew me, which I think is partly because of the small class size at La Roche," Nicole added. "If I had been in a class of 30 people, she might not have known me as well, or encouraged me to become a veterinarian." Richard Pearsall also credits Dr. Rowe with encouraging him to pursue graduate work in biology, and the couple adds that they appreciate all of the support and encouragement they received from their science department professors to pursue advanced degrees. "They really pushed me not to settle for my bachelor's degree," said Richard. "They opened my eyes to what opportunities were out there."

"Working closely with your professors allows them to get to recognize what kind of person you are," added Nicole. "They want to put you in a place where you can succeed."

When not at work, the couple tends to their 70 miniature horses, three dogs and 12 cats, including their Australian Cattle Dog, Megan, a rescue dog who goes to work with them every day. "We don't have kids yet, so this dog is our kid," said Nicole. "She's absolutely the best dog on earth." And just one of the many animals, who, through the care of the Pearsalls, will live a long and healthy life.

By Vanessa Orr, a freelance writer based in Pittsburgh, PA.

Social Media



FACEBOOK | facebook.com/larochecollege

By Krisna Poznik, Social Media Coordinator

2,125 likes • 150 talking about this • 3,050 were here

✓ LIKED MESSAGE ▾

Page created on Dec. 11, 2008.
Official, general Facebook page for the school.

74
photo albums

2,125
likes

13
videos

3,786
photos tagged

HIGHLIGHTS

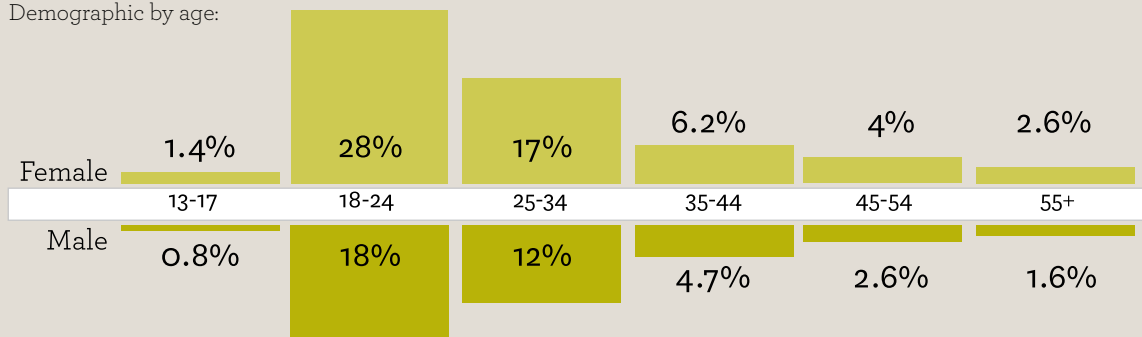
Most new fans join on Sunday.
The goal for the page is to inform and interact with those who like the page.

Most popular photo album: Commencement 2012
Posted: Wednesday, May 9, 2012
101 total likes
42 photo tags
24 total comments

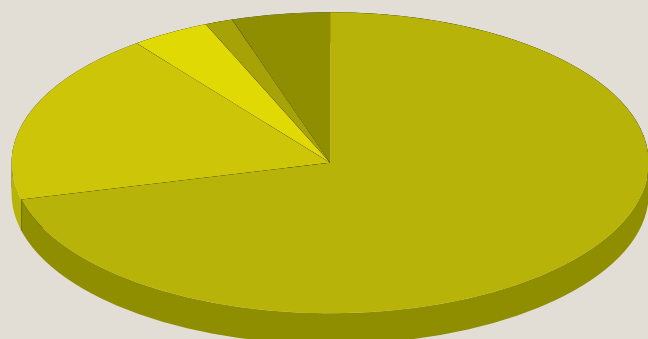
People who like this page:
Female 59%, Male 41%

Location by country:	Location by city:
1,859 United States	934 Pittsburgh, PA
18 Rwanda	30 Butler, PA
15 Canada	22 New York, NY
14 Saudi Arabia	18 Philadelphia, PA
10 Nigeria	18 Gibsonsia, PA
9 Ghana	16 Glenshaw, PA
9 South Korea	16 Kigali, Rwanda

Demographic by age:



TWITTER | twitter.com/larochecollege | @larochecollege



- 656** Followers
- 171** Following
- 37** Listed
- 14** Retweets
- 46** Mentions



LIVEHUB

The College recently launched LiveHub, the digital signage system on campus. LiveHub features real-time updates from the Facebook and Twitter feeds.



YOUTUBE

Most viewed video on the La Roche College YouTube Channel: Scott Lang Tribute Video, with 3,294 views.



East Coast MEETS *West* Coast

Laura Serecin '96

Laura Serecin is the epitome of classic LA cool. Dressed in vintage clothes, relaxing on her red mid-century sofa with her two dogs, Esquivel and Brando, she's what you'd expect a California interior designer to be. Yet behind this first look is a woman proud of her roots; a Hopewell, PA native who loves the Steelers, Polish dumplings and the city she once called home.

"I love Pittsburgh," she explains from her home in the Los Feliz area of the Golden State. "Every October I come back because I miss the fall colors. I usually catch a Steelers game, spend time with my mom and eat pierogies. I am still a Pittsburgh girl."

"I have a lot of interest in subculture and can pull in a lot of references to non-mainstream ideas or aesthetics."

A 1996 graduate of La Roche College, Serecin spent a year living in Ohio after graduation before leaving for the West Coast. "I'd always been drawn to California, not only for the weather, but for what I guess were spiritual reasons," she explains. "I just felt at home here when I came to visit; I felt like it was meant to be."

The timing could not have been better—after losing her interior design job and breaking up with her boyfriend, Serecin was looking for a change. She applied for a job on Craigslist, got the interview, and the rest is history. "I flew out to California to interview on Friday, got the job on Saturday, found a place to live on Sunday, and then flew back home to pack up all my stuff. I was at work that next Monday," she says.

Serecin took a job as an interior designer at Klawiter and Associates, where she still works today. She specializes in commercial interior design and lists clients as diverse as FOX, the BBC, the University of Southern California (USC), radio station KUSC and the USC Stevens Institute for Innovation on her resume. “It’s a pretty well-known fact among decision-makers out here that East Coast design schools are better than those on the West Coast,” she says. “Part of it is because these schools offer a very in-depth, well-rounded education. For example, I learned drafting, lettering, art, construction materials and methods, you name it—all of the nitty gritty skills that I’d need in this profession.”

Serecin credits professors Wendy Beckwith, Dev Nagar and Kip Zuback with providing her with both skills and encouragement. “Wendy always asked, ‘What is your concept?’ and the more I work in interior design, the more I wish that every project had a concept,” Serecin explains. “Dev recognized my individuality and my talent and encouraged me from very early on. And Kip was so much fun to be around. He was the glamorous designer we all wanted to be.”

Serecin believes that what sets her apart in such a competitive field is her willingness to explore non-traditional ideas. “I have a lot of interest in subculture and can pull in a lot of references to non-mainstream ideas or aesthetics that the average designer may not have reference to,” she explains. “For the BBC’s West Coast headquarters, for example, we created colorful, chandelier and drapery-filled Moroccan offices.”

**“I am still a
Pittsburgh girl.”**

When Serecin is not working, most of her time is spent with her 14-year-old Chihuahua, Esquivel, and her ‘southern Ohio porch dog,’ Brando, a mix of Whippet, Bullmastiff, Boxer and “something else.” “They are my best friends,” she says. “I love them dearly and they offer me unconditional love.”

A fixture in her Los Feliz neighborhood, which she describes as the ‘Lawrenceville of East Hollywood,’ Serecin can often be found at the dog park with her charges. “We live right next door to a little park, so I organize puppy play dates for my neighbors in the apartment complex,” she says.

Serecin also shops the area’s vintage stores, looking for mid-century furniture for her home. “I’ve been collecting for longer than I can remember,” she laughs, adding that her living room is a collection of red and black 1950s Chinese kitsch. A vegetarian, Serecin also volunteers her time with the Farm Sanctuary, a rescue organization that helps neglected farm animals and at Bark Avenue, LA’s only no-kill shelter. “Animal welfare and animal rights are very important to me,” she explains. “It’s a part of my core.”

Some of Serecin’s empathy may come from her mother, whom she credits as her biggest influence. “My mom and I are very close, and she has always been very supportive of my unconventionality,” she says. “She is an absolutely beautiful, faith-filled woman with a love for everyone that is unshakeable. She has been a huge inspiration for me.”

**“I’m open to doing
what needs to be done
to find meaning
in my life.”**

While Serecin is happy in her role as an interior designer, there are other roads that she may someday pursue. “If I weren’t doing this, I would either be doing forensics—without all of the gore, of course—or working as a Reiki practitioner; an energy healer,” she says. “I don’t know where the road will lead me, but I’m open to doing what needs to be done to find meaning in my life.”

By Vanessa Orr, a freelance writer based in Pittsburgh, PA.

Branding

The College

In William Shakespeare's, *Romeo and Juliet*, fair Juliet tells Romeo that a name is an artificial and meaningless convention. However, when it comes to building a customer base, expanding market share, or recruiting students; a name bolstered by a distinctive brand is everything.

The American Marketing Association defines brand as a "name, term, sign, symbol or design, or a combination of them intended to identify the goods and services of one seller or group of sellers and to differentiate them from those of other sellers."

In the world of higher education, as the battle for students intensifies, a strong brand is invaluable. It sets a college or university apart from its peers. And during times of growth and change, when the potential for a College's message and institutional identity is likely to become scattered and inconsistent, a brand serves to focus and centralize an institution's communications internally and externally.

A strong brand is a story that when told by everyone the same way, becomes powerful. It connects an institution with all of its audiences: current and prospective students, parents, alumni, donors, faculty and staff, and the community at large. In addition, when a brand is a true reflection of a college or university's culture, it becomes easier for the right people to find the right institution and, in turn, assists an institution in finding the right people.

For a brand to be successful, it needs to be "lived" by everyone within the organization. The brand must be lived and practiced from the top down to make it work. A brand is more than a tagline or logo; it is a way of thinking and of doing. It's much more than new marketing materials. It is cohesive campus culture that is brought to life every day by faculty, staff and students.

In the fall of 2011, La Roche College selected a Pittsburgh-based firm, Mind Over Media, to assist the College with its branding initiative. Several months were dedicated to qualitative and

quantitative research, followed by the delivery of brand messages and platforms. Taglines were developed and tested. A tagline was chosen and logo development commenced.

In August 2012, at the College's Opening Assembly, the new tagline and logo will be revealed to faculty and staff. The external launch of the new brand will follow immediately thereafter.

Developing a new brand takes resources and time; it takes buy-in and just plain hard work. With time, La Roche's branding initiative will reap rewards in making the College more widely known and more clearly understood, both inside and out.

A strong 'living' brand aligns an institution behind its strongest message and its most closely held ideals.





BLESSED LIFE

Includes Publication of

New Book

Sister Rita Yeasted '68

There are many words to describe Sister Rita Yeasted: teacher, reader, author, believer, traveler, survivor, activist, administrator ... the list goes on and on. Yet she uses only one word to describe herself—blessed.

“I am the luckiest person I know,” said Sister Rita of her life at La Roche College and beyond school walls. “Life is so interesting that I don’t understand how anyone can be bored in this world; there’s so much to talk about and do.”

Her energy is contagious; her enthusiasm overwhelming. Touching on subjects ranging from her new book, a biography of John Oliver Nelson, to political advertising on TV, to how the College has changed over the years, Sister Rita’s personality seems too large to fit into her small campus office. She says that her mind is active 24/7, which it would seemingly have to be in order to have time to explore all of her varied interests.

“People often say that they don’t watch the news because it upsets them, but I watch the news so that I know what to pray for.”

The oldest of six children, Sister Rita says that her decision to follow her faith was established early on. “My mother would bless us with holy water every time we went out the door,” she laughed. “At that time, almost every family had a priest or a sister in the family, and while I won’t say that it was an easy decision, I have never looked back. I knew that this was where I belonged, and it has been for over 50 years.”

Originally from Tarentum, Pa., Sister Rita attended La Roche College, graduating with a BA in English in 1968. She went on to earn her master’s degree and doctorate degree at

Duquesne University, then taught English at St. Anne, St. Basil and St. Bonaventure grade schools and at Greensburg Central Catholic before rejoining the La Roche faculty in 1980. She has served as the Chair of the English Department since that time.

“So much has changed—when I went to school at La Roche, it was still located in an apple orchard,” she said. “It was mostly women, then it became co-ed, and now there are international students here. I believe that this has changed us and the College for good—it’s a much more exciting place to work.”

Sister Rita has also had to adjust to changing technology, including a computer that sat on her desk for a year before she decided to use it. “I could already type really quickly, but I didn’t want to take the time to learn it,” she laughed. She wrote her dissertation and her first book, a teacher’s manual about how to teach “The Grapes of Wrath,” on an electric typewriter, but realized that she needed a better way.

“I finished the book, and then at 1:30 in the morning, realized that there was a typo,” she said. “I had to retype all of the pages, and I only earned \$1,000 for the book. It really wasn’t worth it.”

**“The joy
I have in my life
keeps me
young at heart.”**

Though she says that she is still “not good” on the computer, it did make her second book, “JON: John Oliver Nelson and the Movement for Power in the Church,” a little easier to complete. But this, too, turned into a labor of love. Started in 1994, the book was finished in 2011. “I did the book because Jack (John Nelson) and The Company at Kirkridge changed my life,” Sister Rita explained.

John Oliver Nelson was born to wealth and privilege, but spent much of his time giving that wealth away. As the founder of the nation’s first Protestant retreat center, Kirkridge, Nelson fulfilled the Gospel’s mandate of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and sheltering the homeless, while sharing his spiritual outlook with laity of all faiths. The Company at Kirkridge was established in 1976 to move

these ideas forward, with Sister Rita serving on its eight-person steering committee.

“Jack was a very complicated person in many ways,” said Sister Rita. “I started this project without knowing at all what it would entail; I plugged away at the book during my summers because it took so much psychic energy to get into his head and his life that I couldn’t do it while teaching.”

In addition to going through copious amounts of letters, boxes upon boxes of small-print diaries, interviewing friends and family who had known Nelson well, and even planning a visit to Homewood Cemetery to visit his grave, Sister Rita found herself arranging a funeral for Nelson after realizing that his ashes, and those of his wife Jane, had never been buried. “This book took so much of my life, but I’m very happy with how it came out,” Sister Rita said, adding that all royalties from the book will be donated to Kirkridge. “I wanted to thank Jack and his wife for all that they did for me.”

Now that the book is done, Sister Rita says that she may continue writing as an essayist, perhaps sharing some stories from Cape May, N.J., where she and her family have vacationed for more than 60 years. “I don’t ever want to do a biography again; I don’t even want anyone to write my own biography,” she laughed. “It’s a thankless task.”

Sister Rita traveled to Paris as part of La Roche’s Study Abroad + Study USA program and plans to take a trip to Calgary in July. She has also traveled extensively in the United States, as well as taken trips to Holland, England, Scotland, Ireland and Italy. When she’s not traveling, she spends time gardening and feeding her mind as a self-proclaimed “political junkie.”

“I don’t clean—I read,” she said, adding that she spends an hour perusing the New York Times, Boston Globe and Washington Post websites before breakfast each day. She also attends Mass each day as a member of the Sisters for Christian Community.

“People often say that they don’t watch the news because it upsets them, but I watch the news so that I know what to pray for,” said Sister Rita. “I don’t ever lie awake at night wondering about what’s going to happen—I know that it’s in God’s hands.”

“I think that the joy I have in my life keeps me young at heart,” she adds. “I see so many kids who at age 18 are so much older than I am. I tell them, ‘Smile once in a while!’”

By Vanessa Orr, a freelance writer based in Pittsburgh, PA.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Honor • Excellence • Service

Wendy Beckwith, M. Arch.

Interior Design • 1977 - 2007

Professor Beckwith served the College with distinction from 1977 - 2007 as professor and department chair of interior design, division chair of graphic & communication design, coordinator and founder of facility management, and finally as dean of the School of the Professions. Professor Beckwith graduated with a bachelor's degree in fine arts in interior design from Beaver College (now Arcadia University) in 1972, and a master's degree in architecture from Carnegie Mellon in 1978. For 30 years, Professor Beckwith was a friend and mentor to faculty and students.

Professor Beckwith was recognized as "Big Sister of the Year" by Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh. In 2005, she received the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) Service Award. In 2006, she received the La Roche College Dedication to Achievement Award. Also in 2006, she was recognized by the Western PA Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) for "Significant Contributions to Interior Design Education in the Western Pennsylvania Region."

Edward Brett, Ph.D.

History • 1984 - 2012

Professor Brett retired from La Roche College in May of 2012 after 28 years of distinguished service to the College. As a professor of history, he developed a reputation for outstanding teaching, humorous anecdotes, clear opinions, and for caring deeply about the quality of education received by students at the College.

Professor Brett is one of the College's most prolific writers, having published 25 articles, book chapters and four books. His book entitled, "The U.S. Catholic Press on Central America: From Cold War Anticommunism to Social Justice," University of Notre Dame Press, was nominated in 2003

for the John Gilmary Shea Award. His book, "Murdered in Central America: The Stories of Eleven US Missionaries," was winner of the 1988 Christopher Award and the subject of a television interview produced by Paulist Press.

Professor Brett received his bachelor's degree in history from Loyola University, his master's degree in history from Louisiana State University, and his doctorate in history from Rutgers University. Professor Brett was the recipient of the College's highest teaching honor, the Brother Gregory Nugent Award in 1994, the La Roche College Alumni Association's Educator Award in 1999, and La Roche's Commitment to Excellence Award in 2004.

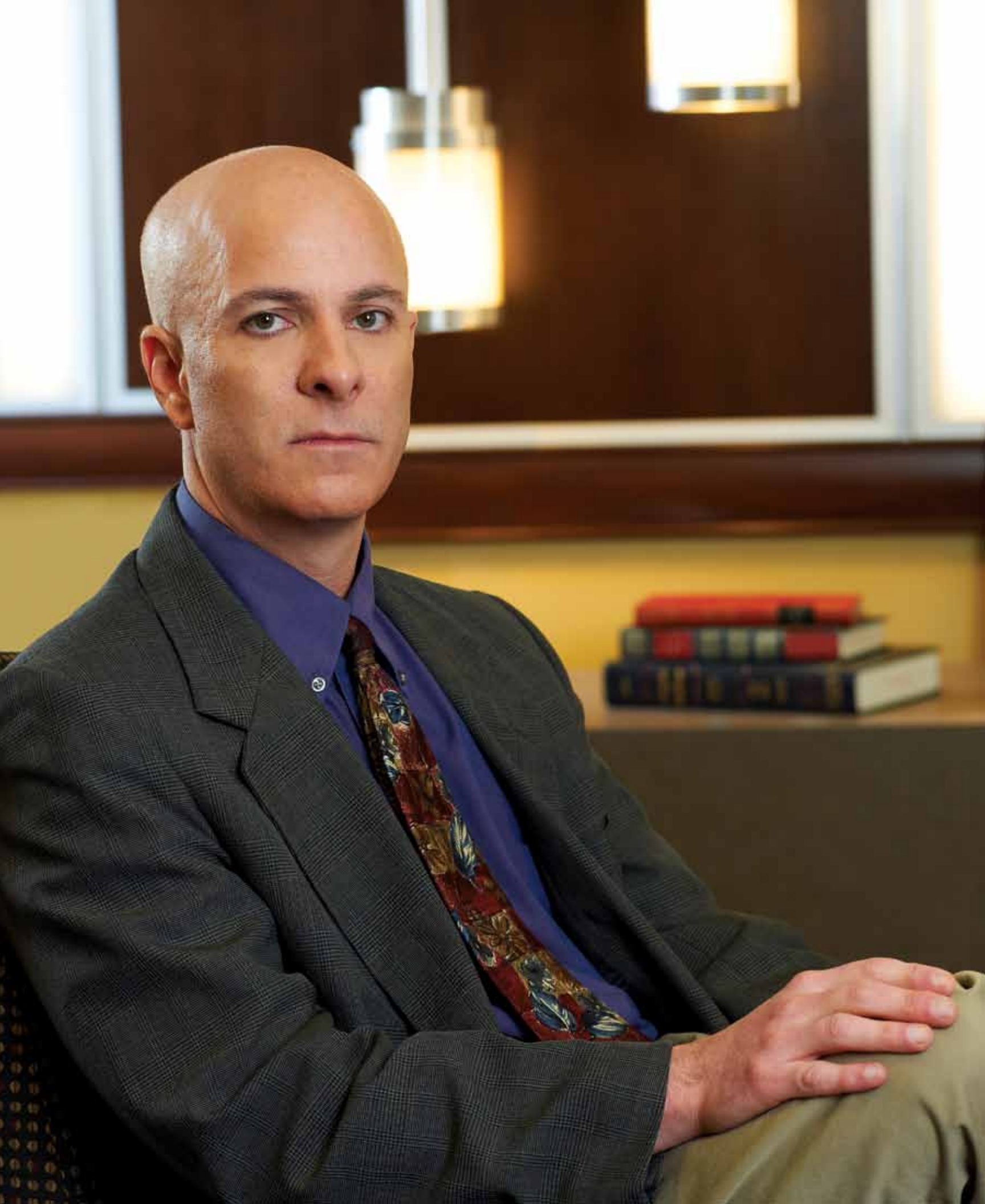
Grant Dinsmore, MFA

Graphic & Communication Design • 1974 - 2007

Professor Dinsmore was employed in 1974 by La Roche College as the College's first faculty member in design. His main charge was to separate the department from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh that, at the time, was providing art and design classes offered in La Roche's graphic design major. To do this, Professor Dinsmore created and taught more than 10 classes, many of which are still being taught today.

Professor Dinsmore received his bachelor's degree in fine arts from Syracuse University in illustration and photography, and a master's degree in fine arts from Syracuse University with major work in painting and photography in 1967. He served in the United States Marine Corp from 1963-1969, and was honorably discharged at the rank of Corporal.

Since his retirement in 2007, Professor Dinsmore remains an active photographer. His photography and prints were exhibited in 2010 and 2011 at the Associated Artists Show at the Carnegie Museum.



From *Fantasy* to REALITY

Author's Interests Run the Gamut

Dr. Joshua Bellin

Step into Dr. Joshua Bellin's office, and you don't have to look far for inspiration. Drawings by his children Lilly and Jonah cover every wall; his own sketches fill any empty spaces. A George Catlin Native American print takes center stage over his desk; a framed movie poster of "King Kong" hangs on the opposite wall. And then there are the fantasy film collectibles that cover every flat surface, sometimes bumping wings with the author himself.

It is in this space that Dr. Bellin's writing takes form; both his academic work and more fictional pursuits. A professor of English at La Roche College, he has successfully published three books, and most recently edited a collection of essays focused on one of his primary interests, Native American culture.

"... there was a lot of analytical work, there was also a lot of creativity."

"Native Acts: Indian Performance in Early North America," is a collection of essays that Dr. Bellin co-edited with Laura L. Mielke, a professor at the University of Kansas. "A lot of study has been done on Native American performance from the pre-Civil War period to the present, but not a lot has focused on Native American performance in earlier times," he explained. "This collection of essays shows the variety of ways in which Native peoples represented themselves in performance not only at ceremonial or diplomatic occasions, but in a broader sense, in their relationships with European Americans as they acted out a certain identity to gain an advantage."

Dr. Bellin gives the example of John Wompas, who went by the name John White, who was accepted by society despite being of Native ancestry. “He was a businessman and a sailor, but he was also performing a role as a Native person who functioned comfortably in European society,” he said.

**“I believe
that writing
defines me.”**

While this is the first collection of essays that Dr. Bellin has edited, he is the author of two books focused on Native American culture—“Medicine Bundle: Indian Sacred Performance and American Literature, 1824-1932,” which was published in 2008, and “The Demon of the Continent: Indians and the Shaping of American Literature,” published in 2001.

Dr. Bellin first became interested in this subject in graduate school after reading a narrative about a European woman captured by Native Americans. “The narrative talked about ‘praying Indians,’ and when I began researching the subject, I found records of John Eliot, a Puritan missionary who had written reports about his work converting Native Americans to Christianity,” Dr. Bellin explained.

“It was such a fascinating body of material, and very few people had studied it. My interest was ignited, and I realized that I could make a career out of it.”

Another subject that intrigues Dr. Bellin is fantasy film. Published in 2005, his book, “Framing Monsters: Fantasy Film and Social Alienation,” argues that movies like “King Kong,” “The Wizard of Oz” and “Jurassic Park,” while typically seen as escapist fare, actually mirror the dominant attitudes and prejudices of their times. “In 1933, when “King Kong” was released, people were worried about the growing African American population in urban areas; at the time “The Wizard of Oz” came out, people were concerned about poverty and the use of technology to either elevate workers or to deprive them of jobs,” he explained. “At the time these films were produced, they weren’t seen as innocent diversions; they were rooted in the cultural debates of the time.”

Dr. Bellin is currently working on a young adult fantasy novel, a break from his more scholarly works. “I’m a little worn out

from academic writing; I found it very exciting and very challenging, and while there was a lot of analytical work, there was also a lot of creativity,” he explained. “Now, after producing so much of this type of writing for the past 15 years, I’m drawn to a more purely creative act; stories forged individually in one’s own mind and one’s own experiences.”

So does Dr. Bellin see himself as a writer or a teacher? “I am definitely a writer,” he said. “I was a teacher who writes; now I’m a writer who teaches. I believe that writing defines me.”

In addition to his interest in Native American culture and fantasy film, Dr. Bellin is also drawn to environmental causes. The advisor of the Green LRC Club on campus, he participates in environmental advocacy events throughout Pittsburgh, and uses his talents as a cartoonist to publicize anti-fracking initiatives. He also teaches a course on Literature of the Environment at La Roche.

“I’m very passionate about the subjects that I teach and I speak my mind about issues that matter to me, so I come across as pretty intense in the classroom,” said Dr. Bellin. “What people may not realize is that I’m a somewhat shy and goofy person in a lot of ways. I like to be silly. My children definitely see that in me the most.”

**“I’m very
passionate
about the subjects
that I teach...”**

A recent video filmed by his daughter shows Dr. Bellin dressed as Uncle Vernon from the Harry Potter movies—including mustache, pillowed-stomach and bowler hat—singing a Christmas song. “Don’t look for that on YouTube,” he laughed.

Judging from his art, his authorship and his most unusual office, Dr. Bellin is a man of many facets—as well as many talents.

By Vanessa Orr, a freelance writer based in Pittsburgh, PA.

On Academics

Computer Sciences

Eight computer science majors graduated in May 2012. This was the largest graduating class since 2004. The department is very pleased and excited with their Class of 2012 graduates.

Paul Mashami, a May 2012 graduate of La Roche College, majored in computer science and minored in mathematics. He had been interning at Highmark, Inc. since June of 2011. At Highmark, he has worked in the Enterprise Informatics and Enterprise Data Warehouse-Data Quality and Control Department. Mashami hopes to continue working for Highmark as well as attend graduate school part-time.

Sciences Graduate Reception

La Roche College held their annual Sciences Graduates Reception in May. At the reception, graduates were honored and numerous awards were given. This year, a new health science award was presented. It was in memory of a past student, **Becky Bartoldi**, who articulated to Duquesne University and graduated from there in occupational therapy. She was one of La Roche's four pioneers in this cooperative program with Duquesne. Bartoldi was a practicing OT when she was killed this past fall in a tragic car accident. La Roche gave this award in her honor to a student in health science who exemplified Bartoldi's passion for the health science field and academic achievement.



La Roche Introduces Master of Science Degree in Accounting

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, job prospects in accounting are expected to increase by 22 percent through 2018, and the professionals who enjoy the greatest job security are those with additional certification or licensure.

In January 2012, La Roche College began offering a Master of Science (MS) degree in Accounting. The 30-credit master's level accounting program is one of the few comprehensive, non-MBA, graduate accounting programs in western Pennsylvania.

The program is designed to provide students with advanced accounting skills that can be immediately put to use to enhance their careers and competitiveness. "The four largest accounting firms in the world no longer interview people who do not have 150 credit hours—they want all future staff members to be certified," said Mark Dawson, chair of the Accounting and Finance Department at La Roche College. "The state of Pennsylvania also now requires CPAs to have 150 hours of college credit, compared to the 120 hours required before."

The degree, which is designed for students who want to become certified in the profession, will explore such advanced topics as international accounting, wealth management, fraud examination and forensic accounting. Students have the opportunity to apply their coursework, accounting principles and techniques to a real organization in the Applied Research Accounting Course. Upon completion, graduates will be ready for accelerated success in the accounting field, as well as have received the necessary preparation for CPA licensure.

For a detailed list of admissions requirements, contact Graduate Studies & Adult Education at 412-536-1260, or email graduateadmissions@laroche.edu.



(From left to right) Beth Shirrell, Miranda Hall and Neha Agarwal.

Graphic & Communication Design Faculty

The Associated Artists of Pittsburgh 101st Annual Exhibition is an artist-run organization. More than 500 members attend the exhibition and they all live within a 150-mile radius of Pittsburgh. Two members of the La Roche College graphic & communication design (GCD) faculty, **Professor Lauren Lampe** and **Professor Kitty Spangler**, had individual artwork selected for inclusion. Also, this year, Spangler was the winner of the Henry and Elise Hillman Award.

Beth Shirrell, assistant professor of GCD at La Roche College, designed “Kalakari Display Typeface,” which was

chosen for inclusion in both “Fingerprint 2” and “Mastering Type: The Essential Guide to Typography for Print and Web Design.” Shirrell has also been featured in three issues of HOW Magazine. One of her HOW Magazine Designs, “TypED” was selected for inclusion at the PGH365 Exhibition, which showcased 315 entries of design work submitted from the region’s most talented professionals and students.

Miranda Hall, assistant professor of GCD at La Roche College, designed the National Industry for the Blind’s (NIB) annual online marketing campaigns for Skilcraft and National Disability Employment Awareness Month, as well as an online campaign for the new NIB Wounded Warriors program. Hall also worked with Spire Institute where she collaborated on a proposal for an environmental graphics and way finding program. This included preliminary programming and budget pricing for the sports complex and Olympic training facility located in Geneva, Ohio. She also designed graphics for a new website to be launched in 2012 for Britefire, a performance consulting and training firm based in Cape Town, South Africa.

Neha Agarwal, assistant professor and department chair of GCD, published “Glimpses of Providence: An Anniversary Remembrance, Design & Illustration” in collaboration with Sister Michele Bisbey ’68, professor of religious studies and Ketteler Endowed Chair of Theology, for La Roche College. Agarwal’s “Glimpses of Providence” was selected for inclusion at PGH365. She was also featured in two issues of HOW Magazine. Her Flea Circus Posters and Annual Fund Logo were chosen for inclusion in the book “Mastering Type: The Essential Guide to Typography for Print and Web Design.”

Interior Design

La Roche College’s interior design students, **Carley Denner**, **Howard Fugitt** and **Julianna Sneath**, were in the top 10 in the Raymond Waites Competition. Their design entries were on display during the High Point Market, April 21-26th. High Point Market takes place twice each year, during the spring and fall. The High Point Market is the largest furnishings industry trade show in the world, bringing more than 80,000 people to High Point, North Carolina.

Business

On Sunday, March 25, 2012, seven students were inducted into Delta Mu Delta, an International Honor Society in Business Administration: juniors, **Alea Marks** and **Emily McCaul**, and seniors, **Nikolai Matoka**, **Michelle Argenas**, **Chiara Irakoze**, **Christopher Pastorius** and **Sharon Welfer**. “The purposes of Delta Mu Delta are to promote higher scholarship in training for business and to recognize and reward scholastic attainment in business subjects.” This is considered one of the highest national recognitions that a business student can earn.

*Students and faculty
bring home the accolades!*



Performing Arts

The La Roche College Performing Arts Department welcomed a variety of renowned artists to campus for residencies and workshops this season.

James Martin, co-chair of NYU Tisch, was welcomed for a three-week intensive residency setting, choreographing a 14-minute contemporary work for La Roche's six talented dance majors. Additionally, **Jocelyn Hrzic** of the Grier School and **Lauren Sufita Skrabalak** of North Carolina Dance Theatre staged works from their vast independent repertoire. And in preparation for the Spring Gala at the Byham Theatre, **Maria Angelica Caruso**, chair of La Roche College's Performing Arts Department, welcomed guest performances by the St. Vincent College Singers, Mercyhurst Ballet Theatre, Fluidity Dance Company and Bodiography Contemporary Ballet.

Marketing

Alea Marks, a junior at La Roche College, is double majoring in marketing and management and minoring in accounting. She was awarded an internship at Yearick-Millea, a public relations, marketing and advertising firm in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Marks was a marketing intern in the La Roche College department of marketing & media relations from January to May 2012.

Lauren Groves has accepted an internship with UPMC this summer. She will be working in their clinical marketing department. Groves has also agreed to work in sports marketing for the Pittsburgh Pirates from May to August 2012. She is studying marketing and business management at La Roche College.

Victoria Shields was an intern at Markowitz Communication, a public relations and marketing firm, for the fall 2011 academic semester. While interning there, she worked on media alerts as well as press releases for Cirque Du Soleil, Simon Malls and Jane Seymour's art exhibition. Shields is a sophomore at La Roche College and is majoring in marketing.

Natural and Behavioral Sciences

Aaron Mehlmauer, a computer science major, attended this year's Association of Information Technology Specialists National Collegiate Competition (AITP NCC). Mehlmauer came home with an honorable mention in the database competition. He is the first student at La Roche College to place at his level.

The Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) members earned money to support their trip by conducting Alice Programming Workshops for interested girl scouts. Three workshops take place over the academic year and a total of 75 local middle school and high school girls attended.



Nursing

La Roche College nursing students participated in the fifth annual Western Pennsylvania SNAP Student Nurse Challenge on March 30, 2012, at The Pennsylvania State University, New Kensington Campus. The student team consisted of **Ashley Dunn**, **Sharyce Greene**, **Cathy Pietrzyk**, **Katie Seekford**, and **Amy Williams**. **Nicolette Petrusic** was the alternate. The La Roche team made it to the second round.

Dear Alumni,

There was no such thing as an Office of Alumni Relations when I graduated from La Roche College in 1977. As a result, I never could have imagined that one day I would return to La Roche as the College's Director of Alumni Relations.

I majored in psychology and sociology and thought I was going to be a social worker. However, upon graduation La Roche College offered me employment. Little did I know that this first employment opportunity as the Director of Student Activities was going to launch a career in higher education.

Fast forward many years and through a series of unplanned extraordinary events and I find myself back at La Roche College enjoying my new position as the Director of Alumni Relations. Over the past year, I have heard countless stories from alumni about the role La Roche College played in their lives. It is from speaking with many of our alumni that new ideas for alumni programs are developed. It is also from these conversations that my pride of our College deepens.

When I talk with alumni that came to La Roche in their late teens and early twenties, they tell me that La Roche College is where they "grew-up" and established their personal sense of identity and purpose. More often than not, alumni tell me they left the College with a better understanding of who they were and with the conviction they would make a difference in the world.

The stories from alumni that came to the College as adults are different. Often these adult students were at a pivotal point in their lives and were looking to set out in a new direction. La Roche gave them the chance to change their lives, allowing them to pursue dreams that had been hindered for various reasons.

Finally, when I talk with international alumni, I realize how brave and independent they were at a very young age. Many came to this country unable to speak English. However, through our ESL program and the good work of many of our faculty and staff, they learned English, received their college degrees, and now have successful careers.

It's been an exciting year for me—a year of building connections with La Roche College alumni and helping alumni reconnect with each other and the College. My goal in the coming months is to create opportunities for all our alumni to network and reestablish or enhance their ties with La Roche. Of course, this will not be accomplished with one program, but with numerous programs tailored for each segment of our alumni population.

Returning to La Roche, I have learned that while it has grown in scope, it has retained its unique heart, mission and vision to encourage our students, and each other, to be the best in our respective fields of endeavor and for the world as well.



Best Regards,

Gina Miller

Gina Battaglia Miller '77

Director of Alumni Relations

P.S. The greatest challenge I face is maintaining updated contact information for our very mobile alumni. So please, whenever you get a new email address or move, send me your most updated contact information. Likewise, when you talk with your classmates, please ask them to provide my office with an email address and a mailing address. My email address is gina.miller@laroche.edu, or you can telephone me at 412-536-1085. I look forward to hearing from you.

Nation's Capital Site of First Alumni Chapter

With a significant number of alumni living and working in Washington, D.C. and surrounding area, new Director of Alumni Relations, Gina Miller '77, and La Roche College President, Sister Candace Introcaso, selected Washington, D.C. as the location for the College's first official alumni chapter.

In September 2011, nine of more than 150 alumni living within a 30-mile radius of the nation's capital attended the chapter's first planning meeting at the home of Ambassador Anthony and Susan Quainton, both of whom are members of the La Roche College Board of Trustees. The result of this meeting was the formation of an enthusiastic team of alumni to organize future gatherings in the D.C. area. Ms. Dalila Scott '10 and Mr. Ammar Samad '04 agreed to lead the team. Sister Candace Introcaso CDP, Ph.D., and Director Gina Miller traveled to D.C. for the first planning meeting.

On January 25, 2012, 40 D.C. alumni and friends had the good fortune of attending the College's first alumni reception at the prestigious St. Regis Hotel. Samad, the Director of Rooms at the St. Regis, made the event at this venue possible. Alumni quickly reconnected with former classmates over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. And a game of alumni trivia helped everyone make new connections. A short informational presentation by President Introcaso rounded out the evening.

Plans for a summer "Happy Hour" are being finalized for D.C. alumni. A Christmas gathering is also being considered for the chapter.

Questions about the DC Alumni Chapter or ideas for future events can be sent to Dalila Scott at larocheDVM.alumni@gmail.com.

What's New?

- A monthly electronic newsletter, "Alumni News." If you do not already receive "Alumni News," send your email address to gina.miller@laroche.edu.
- A new alumni recognition society—the Legacy Society—established for families where there are multi-generations of La Roche alumni. Twelve families, where one or more parents and one or more children have graduated from the College, were invited to dine at the home of La Roche College President, Sister Candace Introcaso, where they were inducted into the Legacy Society. (May 31, 2012)
- The establishment of a 25-member Alumni Association Board charged with supporting the initiatives of the Alumni Office and the Career Services Office. The board represents all La Roche alumni and is happy to take your suggestions for new programming ideas to benefit our mission, as well as those of the College.

What's to Come?

- The College's Distinguished Alumni Awards, presented at the 50th Anniversary Founders Gala in 2013.
- A Pennsylvania La Roche College license plate! An application pending approval.
- A reunion of La Roche College Alumni Athletes.
- The establishment of a second La Roche College Alumni Chapter in northwestern Pa. and northeastern Ohio, or in another geographic location with alumni support.





(Top left) Howard Ishiyama, Ph.D., and Lauren Lampe, MFA, with Emeritus Professor Grant Dinsmore, MFA. (Below left) Sister Maria Fest, CDP, Ph.D. leading the tour of the Motherhouse. (Above) Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D. presenting the Outstanding Alumni Award to Susan Hoolahan, MSN.

Alumni Gather to Celebrate Homecoming Weekend 2012

One hundred and eighty-six La Roche College alumni converged upon our beautiful North Hills campus for a variety of events during Alumni Weekend 2012.

The alumni reception and dinner on Saturday evening was sold out. One hundred and seven alumni attended; with 41 alumni from the 1960s and 1970s, 13 from the 1980s, six from the 1990s and 47 from the year 2000 forward. Also in attendance were 55 La Roche College faculty and staff members, as well as members of the College's administration and guests.

Thirty-one international alumni returned to the College for the President's International Alumni Reception, including Andres Ntutumu '06, who traveled from Equatorial Guinea, by way of business in Houston, Texas! Other international alumni traveled from Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Despite a rainy afternoon, the men's lacrosse game and the alumni soccer game went on as scheduled. And more than two-dozen runners persevered in the Alumni Homecoming 5K.

Throughout the weekend, alumni had opportunities to relive their college days. Many expressed how proud they were to see how the College has grown and flourished. And for the first time, many alumni saw our modern residence halls, the Science Center, Zappala College Center, and the Kerr Fitness Center.

Alumni toured the Motherhouse, attended an alumni admissions information session, attended a reception in the Cantellops Art Gallery, joined students for a root beer blast/dessert social and attended Sunday Mass in the Magdalen Chapel. After Mass, alumni were invited to renew their marriage vows.

Sister Mary Joan Coultas, former president of the College, as well as a number of other Sisters who have served in faculty and staff positions, were kept busy by former students, who stopped to share stories and talk about the impact La Roche College had on their personal lives and careers.

With yearbooks and photos in hand, alumni were overheard sharing memories and reestablishing their "Ties to La Roche."

The College Honors Five Extraordinary Alumni

The Education department's Young Professional of the Year Award was awarded to *Meghan Weinman '10*.

Weinman, who graduated from La Roche with a bachelor's degree in education, serves as a role model and mentor to the College's current students. She assists with student recruitment and is an active member of the Alumni Association Board. She currently works for the Brentwood School District at Elroy Elementary School. She was one of the Education department nominees for La Roche's highest award, the President's Scholarship and Leadership Award, when she graduated summa cum laude in 2010.

The Outstanding Alumni Award in English went to *Scott Robinette*, who graduated magna cum laude from La Roche College with a bachelor of arts in English writing in 1988.

After receiving his Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1992, Robinette served as an assistant district attorney in the Bradford County District Attorney's office. He then served as senior deputy attorney general for the Criminal Prosecutions Section and later the Insurance Fraud Section in the Office of Attorney General, Western Regional Office. Robinette returned to his alma mater in 1999 to serve as an adjunct professor at La Roche College until 2001.

Robinette received the Attorney General's Award for Excellence in 2006. In 2011, he was appointed Deputy Secretary for Safety and Labor Management Relations for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, a position he now holds.

Two alumni received the Outstanding Alumni Award in Nursing. The first, *Juanita Hogan '87*, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. She has been a school nurse in the Pittsburgh public school system for 20 years.

Hogan has served on the National Program and Policy Council of the American Federation of Teachers and is co-chair of the AFT's school health subcommittee. She has served on the executive board of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers. Hogan is the winner of the 2009 School Nurse Excellence Award for the Western Pennsylvania region, which is awarded by the Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners in six regions.

The second Outstanding Alumni Award in Nursing went to a 1991 graduate of the College's master of science degree in nursing administration, *Susan Hoolahan*. Hoolahan has 29 years of progressive nursing experience and has held various management positions in health care facilities.

In 2009, under her direction, UPMC St. Margaret's Hospital was awarded magnet status in recognition of the hospital's strong commitment to excellence in every aspect of nursing care and leadership. Hoolahan is the chief nursing officer and vice president for patient care services at UPMC Passavant Hospital. She functions as the operations officer for the McCandless and Cranberry campuses. Hoolahan is a recipient of the Leading with Wisdom Award sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (2008), and the first University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Magnet Designation Award (2009). She is a magnet appraiser for the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

The Award for Outstanding Alumni in Interior Design was awarded to *Greg Weimerskirch '90*.

Weimerskirch has a highly successful career in the movie and entertainment industry as a production designer, set designer, art director and visual effects art director for some of the biggest movies on the big screen, including "Unstoppable," "Flags of our Fathers," "Star Wars Episodes II and III," "Prefontaine," "Star Trek Generations," "Backdraft," "The Rocketeer" and "The Godfather III."

He has contributed his talents to television shows such as "Star Trek the Next Generation," "Ellen," "Life Goes On," "Indiana Jones Chronicles," "The Walton's Thanksgiving," and for each of the three most recent Olympics.

Weimerskirch also works as an urban designer internationally, most recently in the United Kingdom and Australia. In 1998, he received an Art Directors Guild nomination for outstanding art direction for the television series, "Seven Days," which aired from 1998 to 2001.

Class Notes

La Roche College alumni are making a difference.

1970s

Karen Kersting '79 has resided in New Orleans since 1982. She was recently named by New Orleans City Business as one of their Women of the Year.

1980s

Kathryn Jolley '81 is a principal at DRS Architects in Pittsburgh, Pa. She is the newly-elected vice chair of La Roche's board of trustees. Kathryn is married to Greg Madej and they have four children and three grandchildren.

Marilyn Jenkins '81 has been promoted to the associate dean of business processes and assistant professor of administration at the School of Adult and Continuing Education at Barry University in Miami Shores, Fla.



Mary Jo Benedetti '82 handled her Norwegian Elkhound, SBIS Am/Can CH Kamgaard Kodiak Snowbear to his American (AKC) and Canadian (CKC) Kennel Club championships. The highlight of

their show career came last May when Judge Årvid Göransson of Sweden named Kodiak the Best of Breed at the national Norwegian Elkhound Association of America specialty show in Manassas, Va.

Rick Kranias '84 lives in the Washington, D.C. area with his wife and two children. He is a territory manager for Herff Jones|Nystrom.

Anne Crawford '85 is currently working as a Highmark compliance officer. She volunteers her time and is the president of the board of Sojourner House, which is a faith-based organization that houses recovering addicts.

1990s

Christopher Panza '91, a commercial artist, is from the Crafton area of Pittsburgh, Pa. While attending La Roche, he spent a semester in Florence, Italy, which helped expand his fine art skills. He continues his training with Robert Daley, a noted Pittsburgh portrait artist and Christopher's mentor.

Lori Klingman, MSN '92, RN faculty at the Ohio Valley School of Nursing, received the highest award bestowed by the Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) during the 59th annual conference on November 17, 2011. The board of directors awarded her Honorary Member for her distinguished service and valuable assistance to the organization.

Claire Henke '92 was a 38-year-old undergraduate at La Roche College. She gave birth to a beautiful baby girl in January of 1991, Hannah Rose Henke, who is now a college student herself. Claire would like to announce her daughter's engagement to Richard H. Shankle of Kittanning, Pa. The couple will be married in Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church on June 1, 2013.

June Fischerkeller '92 is the assistant to the dean in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University.

Terrie Sackett '93 received a Pittsburgh HR Leadership Award in September. Terrie is the senior vice president of human resources at Fiserv. She is in the process of moving back to the area, within a mile of La Roche College.

Les Stearns '93 has been promoted to the position of director of advanced optics, Photop Technologies. Les has been an II-VI, Saxonburg, PA-based career employee since 1985. Les resides in Tampa Bay, Fla., with his spouse and two children.



April Lanotte '95 is currently working in Washington, D.C., as an Einstein Educational Fellow at NASA headquarters.

Jennifer Ackerman '96, a mother of two, resides in Cranberry Township. While she attended La Roche, she interned with the Cranberry Area Chamber of Commerce, which eventually led to a permanent position. She was recently hired as the executive director of Zelenople-Harmony Chamber of Commerce.

Tom Interval '97 recently started his own business, Interval Magic, in San Diego, Calif. Tom provides magic entertainment and training to private and corporate clients throughout the United States. Tom is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM), Society of American Magicians (SAM) and the Academy of Magical Arts (AMA).

Anita Gavett '02 is the lead consultant for Virtual OfficeWare, Inc. is (VOW) newly-formed human resources consulting division. She will lead business development, consulting, recruiting and overall division management. Anita is a certified professional in human resources and is a member of the Society of Human Resources Management, Pittsburgh Human Resources Association and the International Foundation of Employee Benefits. She volunteers as a career coach for the Pennsylvania Organization for Women in Early Recovery.

Endrias Zewde '03 and his twin brother, **Ermias Zewde '03**, are both working as senior graphic specialists in the Washington, D.C. area. They are on their way to opening a full-service global design studio, Ethio Brothers Art and Design Studio in Silver Spring, Md.



Pamela (Schrim) Salai '03 and her husband David proudly announce the birth of their son Brody on April 9, 2011.

2000s



Cindy Moser '00 is the director of human resources at Allegheny Valley Hospital (AVH). She previously served as senior human resources consultant at AVH for 11 years. Prior to her work at AVH, Cindy was the coordinator of employment services at Citizens General Hospital for 19 years. Cindy is a native of the Alle-Kiski Valley and lives in Allegheny Township.

Jeff White '01 and **Nicole Valeriano White '02** are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Kendal Avery, on April 20, 2011.



Judy (Angelo) Aiello '01 has been married for six years and is celebrating the birth of her first child, Cash Christopher Aiello.

Elizabeth McElhone '02 married in 2009 and is proud to announce the birth of her daughter in February of 2011.



Gloria Atwine Katuuku '03 celebrated her wedding in the company of two other alumni from La Roche College, Class of 2003.

Shaina (Spinelli) Vaughn '04 relocated to Florida in 2006. After completing her master's degree in educational leadership, she was promoted to associate director of culinary admissions in early 2011 and once again promoted to director of admissions in October of 2011 at Keiser University.

Priscilla Bordogna '06 relocated to Tampa, Fla., and is the executive assistant for McKinsey and Company, a global consulting firm. She has recently completed in a mud run called "Warrior Dash." She hopes to race in "Tough Muddler," which is a 12K in December.

Faith (Cole) Piskor '07 married her husband Ed on October 15th, 2011 in West Mifflin, Pa. She accepted a position as the administrative assistant/receptionist at Ditto Document Solutions in Pittsburgh in November of 2011. She and her husband purchased their first home in Munhall, Pa., this past July. They reside there with their dog, Jonas, and two cats, Maisey and Butch.

Suzanne Thomchick '08 started a new job as an assistant project manager at Bunting Graphics, Inc. She majored in interior design with a minor in management and graduated with a bachelor's degree in interior design. She works at Bunting Graphics as an assistant project manager. She is engaged to Jason Shotter, an IT project manager at UMPC. A spring 2013 wedding is planned.



Maddie Mastic '09 began working in the jewelry department at Nordstrom in November of 2009 at the Pittsburgh Ross Park Mall. She was offered a position as a watch specialist in a new store opening in Nashville, Tenn. Maddie moved with the company in August of 2011. Today, Maddie is assistant manager in the men's sportswear department.

2010s



Valerie (Newell) Gualazzi '10 graduated in 2010 with a master's degree in human resources. She is proud to announce the birth of her son, Mason Thomas Gualazzi. He was born on October 22, 2012.

Joe Anderson '10 graduated with a bachelor's degree in business leadership, along with the 2011 President's Award, after pursuing his degree for 15 years. He is now looking to transition from his experience in business development into a corporate trainer, mentor, and/or teaching role.



Nicole Eiben '10 married Bryan Garnatz in Virginia Beach, Va., on October 29, 2011. Nicole and Bryan are both Third Class Petty Officers in the United States Navy and met during their training in Great Lakes, Ill. Nicole is originally from Pittsburgh, Pa., and Bryan is from Columbia, Miss. They are still waiting for official confirmation from the Navy as to where they will be settling down and starting their life together.



Angela Wells '10 spent a year teaching abroad in South Korea after graduation. She taught all subjects at the elementary and middle school levels. She has moved back to the Pittsburgh area where she is working in the La Roche College Office of Freshmen Admissions as a domestic admissions counselor. She also enrolled at La Roche to work on certification in forensic psychology. Once completed, she hopes to teach in an inner-city high school in Washington, D.C., or New York, N.Y.

Robert C. Gasowski '11 is an Army National Guard Specialist. He graduated from basic training at Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga.

Andrew Graham '11 was hired as an Aerie web designer at American Eagle Outfitters corporate offices in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Nick Parise '11 is currently employed by PPG in Pittsburgh, Pa. He is working under three research teams. He says it has been a lot to learn, but he is surviving.

CLASS NOTES SUBMISSIONS

Share your news and photos with La Roche College and fellow alumni.

Please submit to:

Gina Miller

Director of Alumni Relations

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(412) 536-1085



Athletics

Lady Redhawks Take Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference! The Lady Redhawks (22-5) are Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) Champions for the second straight year after beating Medaille College (22-5) 55-49 to clinch an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament. It is the second straight year that La Roche has beaten the Mavericks in the AMCC Championship Game.

Three Lady Redhawks Awarded All-Conference Honors. Sophomore center, Jessica Pitts, became the first Lady Redhawk's player to win the AMCC Player of the Year Award. Pitts was also selected as the AMCC Defensive Player of the Year and to the All-Conference First Team. Casie Cygan was named to the AMCC All-Conference Third Team. Head Coach, Eddie Benton, was named the AMCC Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season. Benton led the Lady Redhawks to a 22-5 record and a school-record 17 conference wins. He also guided La Roche to their second consecutive AMCC Regular Season Championship, Tournament Title, and a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

Mike Dixon and David Jackson Make AMCC All-Conference Team. La Roche men's basketball players, Mike Dixon and David Jackson, were recognized by the AMCC for their superb play this season. Dixon was named the AMCC Conference Defensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive season. He was also an AMCC All-Conference First Team selection. Jackson was named to the AMCC All-Conference Second Team.

Redhawks Advance to ECAC South Semifinal. Four Redhawks scored in double figures as La Roche Men's Basketball (19-8) beat DeSales University (15-12) 78-68 to advance to their first-ever ECAC South Tournament Semifinal.

Redhawks Win AMCC Conference Regular Season Title! La Roche Baseball (20-15, 13-3) won their second-ever AMCC Conference Regular Season Title and clinched home-field advantage in the AMCC Conference Tournament with a double-header sweep of Mt. Aloysius College (12-21-1, 7-6-1) 5-2, 9-5. La Roche used three consecutive RBI-doubles to break up a 5-5 sixth inning tie and clinch the conference championship in Game 2.



Golf Team Sweeps 2011 Conference Awards!

Kevin Loutsenhizer capped a fine freshman campaign winning the AMCC Conference Player of the Year Award and the Newcomer of the Year Award. Head Coach, Jim Tinkey, won Coach of the Year—his second Coach of the Year Award (2002) after leading the Redhawks to three tournament wins and a top three finish in every tournament this season. Tinkey coached four individual winners this season including AMCC Champion, Shane Eichenlaub, and has coached five AMCC Conference Players of the Year. Loutsenhizer and Eichenlaub were both named First-Team All Conference and Tim Devlin was named Second-Team All Conference.

2011 Men's Soccer Season One of the Best. The Redhawks' 10-7-1 record ranks 2011 season as the third best in school history. The team qualified for the AMCC playoffs for the fifth consecutive season and third straight under Coach David Day.

La Roche Tennis Players Make Conference Finals. Four La Roche women's tennis players were honored by the AMCC, including first-year head coach, Aaron Wilf, who was named the conference's co-coach of the year. Victoria Shields (#1 singles), Doria Shima (#3 singles), Lynka Ineza (#5 singles and #3 doubles), and Melanie Ward (#3 doubles) were all named to the AMCC All-Conference Second Team.

Neiswonger Named to AMCC All-Conference Team. La Roche volleyball player, Shawn Neiswonger, was named to the AMCC All-Conference Third Team. Neiswonger, a sophomore from New Bethlehem, Pa., finished the season in fifth place in the AMCC in hitting percentage and seventh in kills.

Alumni: The Future of La Roche

La Roche College is a special place, a caring and welcoming educational community.

Everyone who comes through its doors enter with a unique set of skills and dreams for the future. Each student and graduate has a story to tell – a story about what brought them to La Roche and the impact that this College had on their lives.

Our alumni are far flung, from East Coast to West Coast and around the globe, in both developed and developing countries. They are social workers, accountants, doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, businessmen and women, and interior and graphic designers. They are building lives and careers and making a difference in the world each in their own way.

Many La Roche College alumni are making a meaningful difference right here, right now, at their alma mater. They are giving of their time; mentoring current students and helping with new student recruitment. They are also giving of their financial resources; attending events like the Founders Gala, the annual Scott Lang Memorial Golf Outing as well as giving to The President's Fund for Excellence and the Annual Fund.

Alumni are an integral part of the rich history of La Roche. They, too, are the College's future.

Their ongoing support is critical to the success of La Roche College. To learn more about how vital your gift of time and talent is, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at advancement@laroche.edu.



2012 Founders Gala

At the seventh annual 2012 Founders Gala in March, La Roche College bestowed its prestigious Ad Lucem Award to William Strickland Jr., President and CEO of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation, who for more than four decades has been inspiring Pittsburgh-area youth and giving hope to the underserved, underemployed and unemployed through education and job training.

Nearly 300 guests gathered for dinner and a silent auction at the Fairmont Pittsburgh to honor Strickland and raise funds for the President's Fund for Excellence, which enables the College to move forward with projects that benefit and enhance the academic and campus-life experiences of our students.

Since its inception, the Founders Gala has contributed in excess of half-a-million dollars in support of scholarships for worthy students, innovative academic programs and improved campus facilities.

Major sponsors of the Founders Gala included: MARC USA; Sage Dining Services, Inc.; The Sisters of Divine Providence; UPMC Health Plan; UPMC St. Margaret; UPMC Passavant; Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield; Howard Hanna Real Estate Services; Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, PC; DRS Architects, Inc.; Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC; First Commonwealth Bank; HDR Engineering, Inc.; Huntington Bank; Jenzabar, Inc.; Tucker, Johnston & Smelzer, Inc.; and the Richard A. Zappala Family Foundation.

La Roche College President, Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., and members of the Board of Trustees hosted the evening along with Honorary Chairs, Tony and Linda Bucci. Emceeding the event was Michelle Wright, anchor of WTAE Channel 4 Action News.



The 2012 Founders Gala tribute video, "A Man of Vision – Celebrating Hope" can be viewed by visiting www.laroche.edu or by scanning the QR code.



Did you receive a scholarship while at La Roche College?

If so, someone generously gave so you could benefit.

Today's students need scholarships to make a high-quality private education like the one you received possible.

Now is the time to pass on that generosity and make a difference in a La Roche College student's life. Please support scholarships through the Annual Fund or The President's Fund for Excellence.

Contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (412) 536-1096, or email advancement@laroche.edu.

Pass along the generosity and give so that others may learn.

laroche.edu/advancement



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