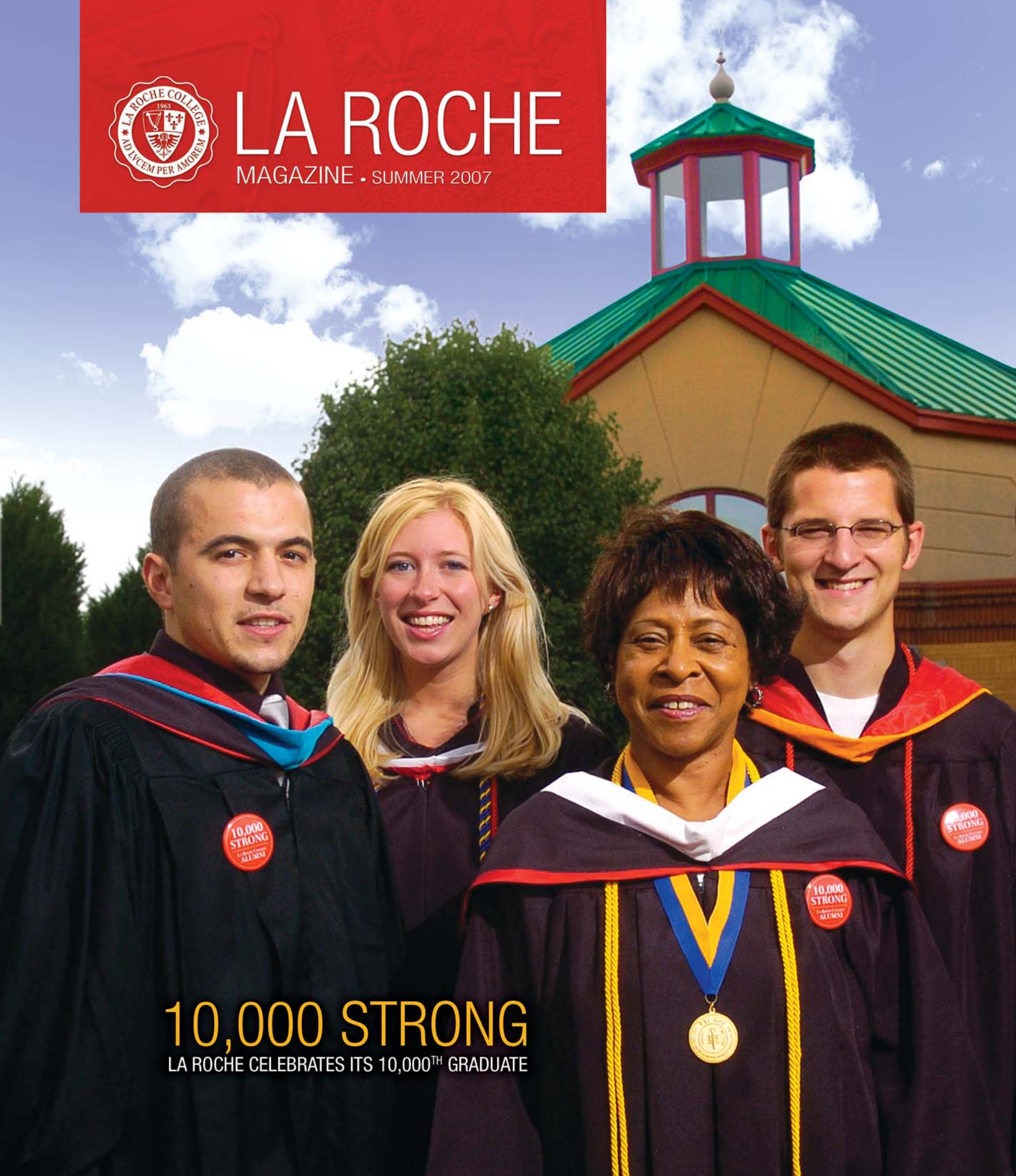




# LA ROCHE

MAGAZINE • SUMMER 2007



**10,000 STRONG**  
LA ROCHE CELEBRATES ITS 10,000<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATE





## *From the President*



## Ten Thousand Strong and Growing

**W**ith the latest group of graduates, the ranks of La Roche College alumni have now swelled to 10,000 strong. That's quite an accomplishment for an institution that conferred degrees on its first seven graduates little more than 40 years ago. La Roche alumni can now be found in positions that span the professional world – both nationally and internationally. La Roche has produced elementary school teachers, social workers, interior designers, nurses, CEOs, accountants and graphic designers, to name but a few.

Most importantly, La Roche College has produced amazing men and women who are strong in more ways than just numbers. Our alumni are part of a group of women and men who are strong in their commitment to making the world a better place for all peoples. Who are strong in their lifelong quest for learning and self-improvement. Who are strong in the ties they have to their communities and their families. Who are strong in their professional skills and capabilities. And who, perhaps most significantly, are strong in their faith that each individual can make a difference.

There is no doubt that our alumni do make a difference as they continue to demonstrate on a daily basis the values that were such an integral part of their experience here at the College. One of the most gratifying experiences I have as president is to hear compliments about our graduates from community leaders and employers who have interacted either personally or professionally with our alumni. All that you do reflects well on the College, and you continue to make us proud.

One of my priorities as president is to strengthen the College's ties to our alumni. In the pages that follow, you will read about some of the new alumni initiatives that we have undertaken, including revitalizing the alumni governing board and holding events like the downtown luncheon and the Pirates game at PNC Park. All of you, as alumni, are valued members of the La Roche community, and one of the best ways that you can help build a stronger alumni association is to let us hear from you. Take a minute to let the Alumni Office know what kind of events you would like to see or how you would like to get involved.

La Roche College is an institution on the move, and the growth of our alumni has paralleled advances at the College during the past 40 years. There is no question that with the help of our alumni – our 10,000 strong – the next 40 years will see even greater success.

*Sister Candace Introcaso*

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

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La Roche College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, founded and sponsored by the Congregation of Divine Providence, creates an international community of scholars from the region, the nation and around the world, including students from conflict, post-conflict and developing regions. Liberal and professional educational experiences are integrated into a way of life that empowers men and women to become lifelong learners, achieve success in their chosen careers and promote justice and peace in a constantly changing global society. La Roche College Magazine tells some of the College's many stories and provides a forum for discussion about issues of the day on which La Roche people are making an impact. La Roche College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, place of origin or status as a veteran. La Roche College Magazine is published by the Office of Public Relations.



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# LA ROCHE

MAGAZINE • SUMMER 2007



## Features

### 4 • Focus:

A Solitary Endeavor: Experiencing the Work of Ron Donoughe

### 10 • Cover Story:

10,000 Strong: La Roche Celebrates its 10,000th Graduate

### 18 • Profile:

Wendy Beckwith Says Farewell



## Contents

### INSIDE COVER: *Message From The President*

2 Redhawks Update

3 Medical Simulator Laboratory Made Possible Through Buhl Grant

7 A Look at the Successful 2007 Founders Gala

8 Making A Pitch for La Roche: Development and Alumni News

16 La Roche Welcomes New Trustees

20 "The poorer we are, the happier we are"

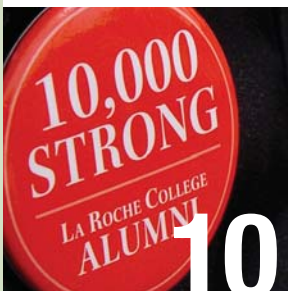
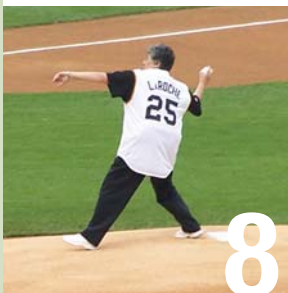
22 Remembering La Roche Alumni Donald J. Bugrin II and Emily Schultheiss

24 La Roche Class Notes

26 A Matter of the Heart Brings Kosovo Mom and Baby to College

27 Campus Clips

INSIDE BACK COVER: Calendar of Events







## Redhawks Update



PHOTOS: JAMES KNOX

### Softball Team Earns Top Honors

**L**a Roche's softball team this spring won the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) title after an outstanding season. The victory was hard-won and marked a season of great plays and endurance. The championship win came after the Lady Redhawks beat Kean University and Penn State Behrend during the ECAC tournament. Bethany Peracchino was outstanding in her pitching performances during all three games – a feat that earned her the tournament MVP title. Congratulations to all the players, and a special nod to the senior players: Amanda Bressler, Brittany Haggerty and Kim Moore.

### Baseball Team Closes Successful Season

**T**he College's baseball team advanced to the championship round of the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC). It was a Mother's Day heartbreaker as the team fell to Frostburg State but, regardless, the La Roche team ranked No. 1 in the conference this year and hosted the tournament – a first for La Roche. Three

Redhawks players earned Conference recognition for their efforts this season: senior Nate McCollough earned highest honors as second team all-conference in his play at both second base and as pitcher; first-year nominee sophomore Drew Bosco received an honorable mention for his play at third base; and senior Nick Wendell received an honorable mention for his efforts as catcher.

The game marked the last appearance for several senior players: the aforementioned McCollough, Mike Ganz, Nick Wendell, Luke McCoy, Damien Harkins, Darin Sharek, Dustin Kuhn and Varinder Gill.



### Other news & notes . . .

**H**ats off to **Matt LaPaglia**, a May graduate and La Roche soccer player, who won the Outstanding Academic Male award within the entire Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference, which totals 10 teams. Each year the AMCC member institutions nominate one male and one female student-athlete from their respective programs to be considered for the AMCC Scholar-Athlete of the Year. The criteria for this award includes academic accomplishments as well as other off-the-field endeavors.

Matt, who is from Erie, Pa., graduated as a chemistry major with a 3.7 GPA. He also received the Sister Maria Fest Award for Scholarship and Service in the Sciences, presented to the La Roche College student with the most outstanding combination of academic excellence and student service to the College, and who has demonstrated active participation and leadership in extracurricular activities.

**T**he women's soccer team traveled to Europe in late May. The women, who closed their regular season at La Roche on Nov. 1, 2006, with a 10-8-1 record, played several European soccer teams during their traveling and managed to find time to do some sightseeing, too.

**C**hestnut Ridge (Pa.) High School standout pitcher **Kelbi Berg**, who will join La Roche this fall, made news earlier this year when the Altoona Mirror featured him in a story about his efforts to help his cousin, Dolan Mosser. Dolan was diagnosed with cancer in March, and Berg organized "Strikeouts for Dolan," a campaign that raised money for every strikeout he recorded during the season. By late May, he had raised more than \$3,000 from 30 businesses.

*Top left: Softball team members Melissa Wolff, Amanda Bressler and Kim Moore. At left: Pitcher Kurt Krejocic*



## Buhl Foundation Grant Will Benefit Graduate Health Science Program

**T**he Buhl Foundation awarded La Roche College a grant for \$96,070 to be used to supply equipment within a multi-purpose medical simulator laboratory that will be housed in the College's Palumbo Science Center. The laboratory will open to students in the fall, making it one of the first of its kind housed at a liberal arts institution. Currently, most simulator laboratories are in use only in university medical schools.

The funding will enable the College to create a mock surgical operating room for students in the Nurse Anesthesia Master's Degree Program. Specifically, the grant provides for the purchase of two software-controlled simulator mannequins, which serve as the students' patients. Each life-sized mannequin — one man and one baby, commonly referred to within the medical industry as "SimMan™" and SimBaby™ — is anatomically correct. This helps students perfect their technique of administering anesthesia under an extensive array of patient scenarios, according to Professor Don Fujito, Ph.D., program coordinator of undergraduate and graduate health science programs at the College.

"Gaining experience with anesthesia simulators is as crucial for nurse anesthesia students as experience with flight simulators is for commercial airline pilots," Dr. Fujito said. "We are grateful to The Buhl Foundation for their support of our program, and through their generosity, we will continue to expand the laboratory in the future."

Through the Buhl grant, the College plans to purchase additional mannequins that will be used for basic and advanced instruction in first aid/emergency medical technician, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators. Eventually, training will be open to all students, faculty, staff and members of the community.

La Roche admits approximately 20 full-time students to the graduate health science (nurse anesthesia) program each year. The students are from the Allegheny Valley Hospital School of Anesthesia, Natrona Heights, part of the West Penn Allegheny Health System. All students are registered nurses with a minimum of one year of critical care nursing experience.

In addition to Dr. Fujito, the full-time faculty members involved in the program and in helping to secure the Buhl grant are: Bob McBride, Ph.D., professor of biology; Nursing Professor Kathleen Sullivan, B.S.N., M.S.N., Ph.D.; Deborah Davison, CRNA, director of the Allegheny Valley Hospital School of Anesthesia; and Kelly Beltz, CRNA, assistant director of the Allegheny Valley Hospital School of Anesthesia. Ms. Davison and Ms. Beltz are alumnae of the La Roche graduate health science (nurse anesthesia) program.



PHOTO: ISTOCK





# A Solitary Endeavor

## *Experiencing the Work of Ron Donoughe*

By Rosemary E. Gould, *Professor of Graphic & Communication Design*

Photos: James Knox

**O**n Nov. 16, 2006, the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts (PCA) opened its doors to an exhibit of particular interest to readers of La Roche Magazine. *“Essence of Pittsburgh: Paintings of Ron Donoughe in the Plein-Air Style,”* displayed the diverse texture and character of the western Pennsylvania landscape through the eyes of a painter known by many La Roche College students through his Wednesday evening courses – *Painting: Pastels & Watercolors* and *Painting: Oils & Acrylics*. The title of the exhibition is also the title of Ron’s book, the first ever published by the PCA.

Thronged of Pittsburghers attended the November opening and release party, which also honored Robert Dunn, the Pittsburgh Print Group, Bruce Woyt, Carol Brode and Kathleen Dlugos in adjoining galleries at the Center, located at the corner of Shady and Fifth Avenue in the city’s East End.

### *The “Plein-Air Style” and Ron’s devotion to it*

Ron calls his work a “solitary endeavor,” and although the art of painting is certainly that, this artist does his work outside, in all kinds of weather, every day of his life. The form of artistic expression known as “en plein air,” or in the open air, first became popular because of the mid-19th century development of collapsible tubes in which prepared oil paint could be stored and easily transported outside, beyond the walls of a traditional studio. It is, nonetheless, a particularly challenging painterly method and some may wonder why a painter would choose to express himself in this way.

Why is Ron fascinated with what many might consider “ordinary” scenes . . . steel mills, snow-filled parks, twisting side streets or even demolition projects? Is there something he sees in this old factory town that the rest of us simply miss? Why paint outside? Couldn’t an artist capture the same image in the warmth and convenience of a studio?

I met with Ron on a cold, late January afternoon, (he had already been out painting twice that day), to answer those questions and more.

### *Visiting with the artist*

Ron likes to work in a manner that is as “low tech” as possible – paints, brushes, an easel and a small panel of wood or canvas – usually 9” x 12” or 11” x 14” – which is completed on site, that day. (His November exhibit featured 161 of these panels; 150 are depicted in the new book.) In order to make a connection to the world he lives in, he does not simply render scenery, he becomes a part of it. He understands that much of our 21st century existence is artificial – we live in an environment that doesn’t depend on natural light because we have electricity; does not allow us to really “see” colors, shapes, shadows, textures or lines, because we are driving by too fast to notice them. The artificial world is controlled and manicured; it is produced by outside sources, which we don’t comprehend.

The outside landscape, on the other hand, is constantly undergoing physical changes and is random, Ron notes. Light is not predictable but rather, ethereal – one moment clear, another shrouded in a hazy cloud. Ron wants to be a part of that world and strives to be a conduit, which connects the unique spirit of a specific place to the viewer. “I am the filter. I edit the emotions I feel about a place as I paint it,” he says.

Artists often speak of the “process” as opposed to the “product.” In Ron’s view, his work is not about the finished painting. He sees his small panels as direct interactions with the site and has come to call them his “dailies,” like a musician practicing his scales. He talks of the addictive nature of his work and worries that, if prevented from going out, there might have been something special about the day that he missed. He calls the light his muse and says, “If I could nail it every time, it wouldn’t be so challenging.” Although he will sometimes translate the





“South Side” - oil on wood



“Arsenal Park” - oil on wood

original study into a large painting, (always taking the large canvas out again to make certain he has captured the emotional feel of the work), he likes [working with] the small size. He knows that his friends and neighbors find them more accessible and direct. He says he likes to include others in the act of observing.

#### *More than painting an image*

There is a revealing clue to another motivation for Ron’s “solitary endeavor,” which we find in the section of the book called, “Time, Place, and Experience.” Here, each image is accompanied by the date, title and size, but more importantly, by a brief comment that catalogs the events that took place around him as he painted. For example:

“Darnaizha’s Street, 2004, 9” x 12” – While I was painting in Braddock, I met a little girl named Darnaizha and her younger brother. They watched me paint for a while, so I gave them each a brush as a souvenir. I left for a moment to get supplies from my truck. When I returned, I was surprised to see how inspired the young artists were. They each had borrowed paint from my palette and begun to paint, using the sidewalk as their canvas.”

Ron says that he has had the privilege to meet thousands of people while out painting during the last 20 years and adds, “Passersby can be a distraction, but this is far outweighed by the great value of these chance interactions.” People are often shocked to see him painting on their street, looking over the edge of one of Pittsburgh’s many hillsides or peering into a pile of discarded tires. But, he relishes their interest and likes it that they might see a place differently after they watch him for a while.

And, in the end, this is why Ron Donoughe’s *Essence of Pittsburgh*, his solitary endeavor, speaks to all of us – he is telling our stories, about our experiences, about our Pittsburgh.





## La Roche Salutes Federated Founders



PHOTOS: JAMES KNOX

**C**arnegie Music Hall was the setting for this year's Founders Gala, which honored the founders of Federated Investors, Inc. – Jack Donahue, Tom Donnelly and Richard B. Fisher. The March 24 Founders Gala highlighted the humble beginnings of Federated and detailed its growth to the impressive mutual fund management company it has become. Sister Candace Introcaso, La Roche president, and Chair of the Board Kathy Kozdomba presented the Ad Lucem Award to Dick Fisher on behalf of the College and its Board of Trustees. The award is presented annually to those “whose vision, leadership and determination transformed their dream into reality.” The dinner and silent auction were followed by dancing and entertainment. The gala raised nearly \$90,000 for La Roche.

“We are so very appreciative of the support you have all showed us this evening,” Sister Candace said to the crowd. “And I especially want to acknowledge a special tie between the College and Dick Fisher, from whom we have benefited so greatly through the years.”

1. Sharon Scheidemantle and her husband, Keith, perused the great selection of silent auction items before the dinner began. Ms. Scheidemantle is a 1986 human resource management graduate.

2. La Roche Board of Trustees President Kathy Kozdomba presented the Ad Lucem Award to longtime College benefactor and co-founder of Federated Investors, Inc., Richard B. Fisher.

3. Dolores Bold, at left, enjoyed the evening with friends. Mrs. Bold and her late husband, Walter, have provided the College with much support through the years.

4. More than 290 attendees, including Teresa Petrick and David Petrick, D.M.D., pictured here, made the gala the most successful the College has hosted. Ms. Petrick is the president and CEO of UPMC Passavant.

5. Honorary Chairs Hoddy and Mary Anne Hanna greeted guests with La Roche College President Sister Candace Introcaso in the Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland.

6. Sally Wiggan, news anchor on WTAE-TV, served as emcee for the evening.



## Making A Pitch for La Roche



Pittsburgh Pirate announcer Joe Klemchek welcomes Sister Candace Introcaso and Nick Wendell, La Roche Redhawks catcher, to PNC Park.

### Alumni Doubleheader is a Big Hit

Two great events took place in May and June for La Roche College alumni. First, at a luncheon underwritten by the Fragasso Group, La Roche graduates met for lunch at the Duquesne Club, downtown, on Thursday, May 24. Pittsburgh Steelers great Rocky Bleier visited and delivered an inspiring message to the group about the high points and challenges of his life on and off the playing field.

On Saturday, June 2, alumni got to see a different type of playing field when La Roche College hosted “Adam LaRoche Bobblehead Night” at PNC Park. Following a sold-out alumni dinner at Atria’s, the group – and many additional La Roche employees and friends – headed to the ballpark to cheer on the home team Pittsburgh Pirates.

Sister Candace Introcaso threw out the first pitch to senior La Roche Redhawks catcher Nick Wendell, who is just coming off a terrific championship season for the men’s baseball team. After her windup and pitch, Sister Candace was greeted by player Adam LaRoche before the game. The Pirates went on to take this one from the L.A. Dodgers, 3-1.

### Students Reach Out to La Roche Friends and Family

Students helping with the La Roche College Annual Phonathon called alumni and friends of the College during the event last fall. Those working the phones got a special visit from College President Sister Candace Introcaso on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2006. Callers took over the Student Activities Office phones that night to encourage support from fund donors. This year, the phonathon will take place from Sept. 16 through Oct. 4, 2007. Please consider helping to advance the capabilities La Roche offers to all students by making a pledge. Every little bit helps the College provide services and programs. You can even designate your gift – ask how!



Seated: left to right, Sister Candace Introcaso and Rose Adesuyi. Standing: left to right, Kathy Corcoran - Director, Annual Giving Programs, Sheila Givens, Penny Sabano, Joshua Litvik, D.J. Trischler, Jeff Saporito, Laura Mickey, Angela Quidone, Lisa Hall and Walter Holly.

### You can tell the La Roche College story!

The La Roche College Office of Admissions would like to hear from alumni who are willing to talk with prospective students about the College. If you would like to visit your high school alma mater or another school, we would appreciate your help! Those interested may contact us at [www.laroche.edu/admission](http://www.laroche.edu/admission).





## From the Alumni Association President



**G**reetings all! As the recently appointed president of the Alumni Association, let me welcome the La Roche College Class of 2007 to the Alumni Association.

We're happy to have you among the now 10,000 La Roche College alums.

Now is a great time to become part of the alumni organization because the Alumni Association Board and I are hard at work to develop exciting and beneficial activities and programs that will strengthen the College's relationship with current alumni, as well as build a stronger foundation from which to recruit future graduates. I hope that you will join us in this important endeavor.

I am pleased to say that we have already seen a great deal of success with this year's events. The alumni presence at this year's Founder's Gala was among the largest in years. Our Annual Alumni Luncheon, with special keynote speaker,

Steelers great Rocky Bleier, had tremendous attendance. And more than 150 alumni, faculty, staff, administration and friends joined us at the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game for Adam LaRoche bobblehead night to see President Introcaso throw the first pitch. In an effort to keep this terrific momentum, we are currently developing a full line-up of events and programs for the 2008 academic year and hope that you will join us at one or two of them, if not all of them! I encourage you to check the calendar of events on the La Roche College website at [www.laroche.edu](http://www.laroche.edu) for regular updates.

In addition to the exciting changes in events and programs, we are also undergoing revitalization to the Alumni Association Board itself. As I mentioned in the start of this letter, I have recently accepted the role as president, a position for which it is my distinct pleasure to serve. In our next issue of the La Roche magazine, you will meet all the members of the alumni board. With them comes new energy and new opportunities to better serve our alumni and the greater La Roche College community.

There are so many ways to become active in the Association, and membership is free. You may want to serve on the Alumni Association Board, become a mentor or an ambassador for the College, help the admissions team in the recruitment process, or just gather a group of friends together to attend College events. Whatever the level of participation you seek, I hope that you join me in becoming an active alumnus.

We want to hear from you! If you have an idea for an activity or program that you think would help strengthen the alumni presence in the La Roche College community, please e-mail us at [alumni@laroche.edu](mailto:alumni@laroche.edu) and check the La Roche website for more information. We'll be making regular additions, so make sure you visit frequently. And please let us know how we can reach you. If you have an e-mail address, send it along. If you have moved and need to update information, we would appreciate your forwarding that to us as well. I hope that you will join me and the rest of the Alumni Association Board as we work to create a stronger, more active La Roche College Alumni Association.

Sincerely,

Bryson W. Thornton '04  
President  
La Roche College Alumni Association



# 10,000 Strong

*La Roche College Celebrates Graduation with Special Focus*

By Pam Wigley  
Photos: James Knox

**S**aturday, May 5, dawned sunny and bright – the perfect day for a college graduation celebration. The graduates of La Roche this year had something special to celebrate beyond grasping that long-awaited diploma in their hands on stage in front of family and friends. One of these graduates was No. 10,000 in La Roche's history.

Instead of focusing on one, however, the College administration decided that the class would, en masse, be the 10,000th graduate so that everyone could share the milestone equally. So, 42 years after its first commencement ceremony in which seven women were awarded diplomas, 192 new graduates joined the ranks of La Roche Alumni.

Inspired by words from commencement speaker Samuel Hazo, founder and director of the International Poetry Forum, and by Sister Candace Introcaso, La Roche College president, the Class of 2007 marked its place in history.

"Our alumni are part of a group of men and women who are strong in more ways than just numbers," Sister Candace said. "Through their actions, they are making the world a better place for all peoples."

Dr. Hazo read from several of his works, including a passage from "For My Last Class of Freshmen," a quote from which follows: "Today, it is enough that we rehearse for nothing but today and everything abreast of us impatient to be known."

The four graduates pictured on the cover of this issue represent a cross section of the most recent student body. In addition, alumni from each of the decades since La Roche's founding remembered their days at the College. All share their thoughts on the following pages.



## D.J. Trischler

Recipient, 2007 President's Award for Leadership and Scholarship  
– Traditional Student

**Hometown:** Reserve Township, Pa.  
**High School:** Shaler Area High School  
**Parents:** Cheryl and Don Trischler  
**Degree/Major:** Bachelor's Degree, Graphic and Communication Design

### *How did it feel to be part of the "10,000 Strong" celebration?*

It gave me a real sense of pride. I know how amazing my fellow graduates are, and it excites me to see the great things that they and the rest of the alumni will do and are doing to represent La Roche.



### *Of your years at La Roche, which were most memorable, and why?*

Every year had great memories, so it's really hard to say. Senior year was amazing. I really began to feel like my experiences of the past three years were combining to create who I am now. There is so much to be learned inside and outside of the classroom. By the time I became a senior, I really felt like I took advantage of the past years. I had a good time mentoring the younger students, traveling to Niger and parts of the USA, helping to create "My Brothers and Sisters from a Far Land," (See related story, Page 20), interning with PennFuture, and graduating. I would not have had such a great senior year if it weren't for the friends I made through experiences in my first three years.

### *What does the future hold for you?*

I really have a passion for the world and its people – all of them. I want to pursue any route that leads to a service that will benefit others. I have a design degree from La Roche. I believe that design and media have played a huge role in our world's history, and they still can.

### *What would you say marks your decade as most memorable?*

This generation has no limits whatsoever as to what we can do. I think we will all be pleasantly surprised by what our new alumni are doing in the years down the road. I have a bias because I am a part of the 2007 class, but I have to say that I was so lucky during the 2007 graduation ceremony to have sat beside some of the greatest people I have ever met.

## Deritch "Dee" Markus

Recipient, 2007 President's Award for Leadership and Scholarship  
– Non-traditional Student

**Hometown:** Butler, Pa.  
**High School:** Riverdale High School, New Orleans, La.  
**Family:** Husband, Joseph L., son Joseph M. and son Leighton  
**Degree/Major:** Bachelor's Degree, Psychology

### *How did it feel to be part of the "10,000 Strong" celebration?*

I felt really special because, first of all, I'm a graduate at this stage of my life, and also because it was a milestone to be selected for the President's Award and a milestone for the College to reach the 10,000th graduate mark. It showed me how the College has progressed over the years. There are more people attending from all areas of the world.

### *Of your years at La Roche, which were most memorable, and why?*

All of them were memorable. I remember from the time I set foot at the College and I saw Anna Marie Neutrelle [in Admissions] as my adviser. And there I was going back to Anna Marie [now in Career Advising] to have my resume created. How ironic that she was the first and the last person I would experience at La Roche!

### *What does the future hold for you?*

I will be a career counselor in the Career Advising Department at La Roche. I'll maintain the e-recruiter website, represent La Roche at job fairs, and I'll help students and alumni develop their resumes.



### *What advice do you have for students entering La Roche?*

Go for the gusto! Don't let anything stop you, and don't let anybody tell you what you cannot do. Any goal is attainable. If you put your mind to it, you can do it.

### *What would you say marks your decade as most memorable?*

People from this decade are go-getters. We are committed. When we make up our minds and set a goal, we do everything possible to achieve that goal.

## Kristina Dice

**Hometown:** Pittsburgh  
**High School:** Fox Chapel High School  
**Parents:** Dave and MaryAnn Dice  
**Degree/Major:** Bachelor's Degree, Criminal Justice

*Of your years at La Roche, which were most memorable, and why?*  
My freshman year was my most memorable because everything was new. I got involved and had fun, and I met so many new people. My friends from my freshman year are still some of my best friends to this day!



### *What does the future hold for you?*

At this point I feel like my future holds whatever I want it to hold. I'm educated, motivated, and I just started working full-time for an organization (The Advisor Group, Inc.) that is looking to really grow over the next few years. I've been given all of the tools that I need to succeed, so now it is up to me to use them to ensure that success is in my future.

### *What advice do you have for students entering La Roche?*

Set specific goals each school year to improve your resume. If you don't have a resume, write one! Even if there isn't a lot to put on it at first, you can use the next four years to join clubs, volunteer, do internships, whatever. Just make sure that you stick with what you do and assume leadership roles, because a resume is basically a look at what you did and how long you devoted yourself to it. You will be surprised by how many doors a solid resume will open.

### *What would you say marks your decade as most memorable?*

I think our decade will be memorable because of the fact it was a time when the College went through some of its biggest and most modern changes. It also accepted its largest freshman class during this time and, of course, celebrated its 10,000th graduate.

## Hamdi S. Bata

**Hometown:** Amman, Jordan  
**High School:** New English School  
**Family:** Mother, Sawson, and father, Said  
**Degree/Major:** Master's Degree in Human Resource Management (bachelor's degree in International Management and Computer Information Systems, 2004)

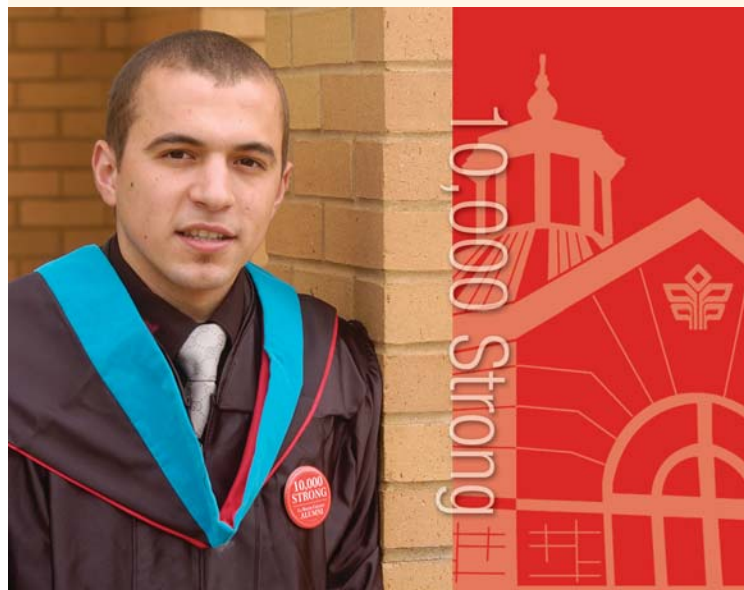
*How did it feel to be part of the "10,000 Strong" celebration?*  
It was very exciting to be graduating to begin with, and it was even more interesting to be a part of a milestone of "my" La Roche. It makes me proud to witness one of La Roche College's big accomplishments and to see the College moving forward.

### *Of your years at La Roche, which were most memorable, and why?*

Every year at La Roche was so unique and memorable in its own way. However, 2004, the year I graduated from my undergraduate degree, my family and a number of friends from Jordan were all able to join me in celebrating that step of my life.

### *What does the future hold for you?*

God knows. Sometimes I really wish I could just take a peek, but I think not to know only makes me more eager to go out there and pursue every option available. I'll knock on every door and just have to pass through the one that opens!



### *What advice do you have for students entering La Roche?*

I always wondered what I would say if I had the chance to address other La Roche students. First, I would say to make the best of your experience, keep focused on your goals and have fun while doing so. Then, considering the population that exists from all over the world at La Roche, I would let them know that they will be a part of such a special place that has an opportunity to foster an idea that I will always be fascinated by – it is what I call "World Citizens."





From the first graduation to the most recent: At left, Sister Marilyn Bergt receives her diploma in 1965 from then-Bishop John Wright. At right, Bethany Davies receives her interior design degree from Sister Candace Introcaso. (PHOTO: LEFT - LA ROCHE ARCHIVES, RIGHT - CHAPPELL GRADUATION IMAGES)

## *Sister Marilyn Bergt, CDP*

**Class of 1965**

**Hometown:** Detroit, Mich.

**Degree/Major:** Bachelor's Degree in Biology

**Family:** Mary and Robert Bergt, brother Marvin



PHOTO: GREG BLACKMAN

### *Of your years at La Roche, which were most memorable, and why?*

Ketteler Hall **was** La Roche College at the time. It was the 1960s, and space travel was beginning – this was right after Sputnik was launched. So there was a heavy concentration on English, history and biology. Those were the three majors

offered. There were 21 in our class originally, but there was a need for elementary teachers, and 14 left.

Because there were only seven of us then, we were close, so all our time together was memorable. We went through “growing pains” together. There’s a sense of that now among students, though – the students in the same major stick together. They are their own small community.

### *Where did you go upon graduation?*

I graduated on Aug. 5, 1965, wearing a full habit, and it was hot! I went on to teach grade school and then high school in McKees Rocks, Pa. I earned my master’s degree at St. Mary’s College in Winona, Minn., and then I taught at La Roche after that, in the 1970s. Now, I am Provincial Councillor at the Sisters of Divine Providence, where I serve on the leadership team for 280 sisters. My primary area of responsibility is for the corporate, personal and interpersonal duties of the sisters in Kingston, Mass.

### *What advice do you have for students entering La Roche?*

Be involved in extracurricular activities, be a volunteer. These things teach you about life and how your academics fit into real life. I took students on field trips to help them experience living. You have to do outside things to broaden your horizons, and you can still be true to your major.

### *What would you say marks your decade as most memorable?*

There were many changes in the way nuns dressed – changes to a more secular form of dress. It was Nov. 1, 1966, when we changed to a modified veil, and then we went to shorter dresses in black, blue and brown. We went back to our baptismal names (she had been known as Sister Robert Marie), and we all journeyed through these changes together.

### *Was there someone at the College who influenced and/or inspired you?*

Academic Dean Sister Victorine Verosky, who was an English teacher, was such an excellent teacher, and I learned so much from her. She encouraged us to get involved in extracurricular activities, and I became very well-rounded as a result.

# 10,000



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: CYNTHIA B. PICCIRILLI

## *Cynthia B. Piccirilli, M.D.*

**Class of 1979**

**Hometown:** Altoona, Pa.

**High School:** Altoona Area High School

**Degree/Major:** Bachelor's Degree in Biology

**Family:** Carmen and Jane Piccirilli of Altoona

### *Of your years at La Roche, which were most memorable, and why?*

As a Sister of Divine Providence "in training," I had the privilege of knowing many of the sisters who taught and worked at the College. The other memorable part of my education was that all of my science classes and labs were housed in the basement of the gym! I was delighted to hear when new buildings included the science division.

### *Where did you go upon graduation?*

After graduation, I spent two years as a novice (intense training for religious life). Then I taught science and math at Divine Providence Academy for a year. I left religious life to pursue medicine and joined the Navy in 1984 to attend the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the government's medical school, and received a doctorate in medicine in 1988. I completed a residency in neurosurgery in 1995 from National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Since 1995, I have been a staff neurosurgeon, stationed at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in Virginia and currently serve as a Captain in the U.S. Navy.

### *What advice do you have for students entering La Roche?*

Three simple things: Pursue your dreams! Serve others. Have a grateful attitude toward life.

### *What would you say marks your decade as most memorable?*

La Roche appeared to be growing as a solid presence in the community. There were a lot of older students returning to school, talk of building more housing, and expanding graduate programs.

### *Was there someone at the College who influenced and/or inspired you?*

There were two science professors who were exceptional role models. I am delighted to give them public recognition: Sister Kathleen Angel, CDP, Ph.D., and Dr. Carol Cooper. Each was an extremely smart, gentle, strong, professional and caring female role model. They were very invested in us as students and as people.

### *Do you believe you were well-prepared for your next step after graduation?*

La Roche captured the concept that "you get back what you put in." The small campus environment and dedicated staff were perfect for me.

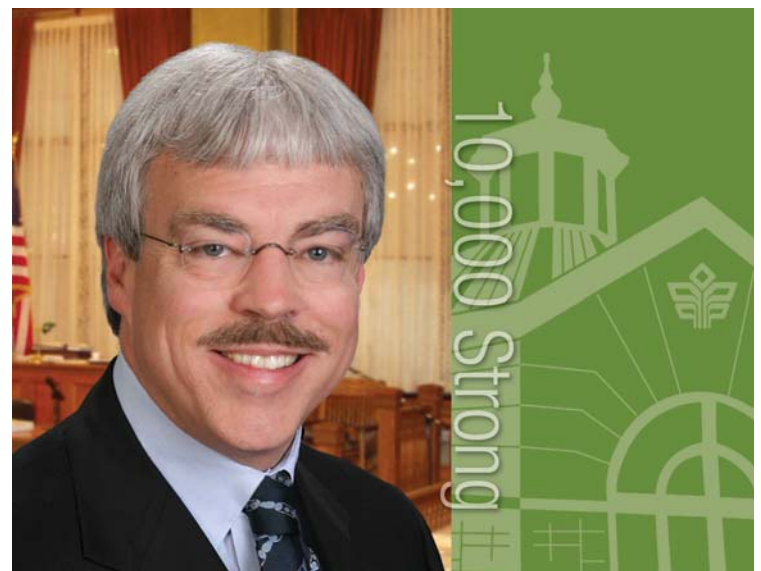


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: TERENCE D. WRIGHT

## *Terrence D. Wright*

**Class of 1983** (graduated December 1983; degree awarded May 1984)

**Hometown:** Franklin Park, Pa.

**High School:** North Allegheny High School

**Degree/Major:** Bachelor's Degree in Business

**Children:** Tara, Meghan, Alex and Jennifer

### *Of your years at La Roche, which were most memorable, and why?*

I was a non-traditional student. I had been in the military while the draft was still in effect, and I was a licensed agent selling real estate when I decided to go to college. There were a lot of changes in the real estate business at that time. The small brokerages were disappearing, and the larger real estate brokerages were becoming more prominent.



# 10,000

## *Where did you go upon graduation?*

I continued selling real estate and began to have an interest in going to law school. Some of my clients encouraged me to pursue that goal, so I entered Duquesne University at 31 and finished in 1989 when I was 35. I worked full time during law school, then went to work for Tillman & Thompson, a law firm in downtown Pittsburgh. I taught real estate at night at Robert Morris University.

George Hackett, president of Coldwell Banker Pittsburgh, contacted me about joining his company. (Coldwell Banker was sold to NRT Inc., the country's largest residential real estate company.) I'm now Associate Litigation Counsel and Director of Education for NRT, and I teach real estate at the Educational Development School of Real Estate. I also served as a member of the Board of Regents at La Roche.

## *Was there someone at the College who influenced and/or inspired you?*

I would not be an attorney today but for the sound mentorship and care demonstrated by Dr. Harvey Levenson. When I first met with him, he encouraged me to enroll at La Roche, and he met with me weekly to talk with me about continuing my progress and, later, to go on to law school. He had an infectious enthusiasm, much like Dr. Howard Ishiyama (current La Roche vice president of Academic Affairs). Dr. Levenson created a plan for me that led me to Duquesne University School of Law.

I also remember Dr. Astrid Kersten, who was a quiet, deliberate person who was helpful in assisting me when I decided to go to law school. And I want to also thank Dr. Alex Gladdis and Ms. Carol Huston.

## *Do you believe you were well-prepared for your next step after graduation?*

Yes. La Roche made going to college convenient for me. There, I found a faculty that truly cares about the student. I feel truly blessed to have my education and be doing something that I truly love.

## **Jill L. Ferguson**

**Class of 1992**

**Hometown:** Gibsonia, Pa.

**High School:** Richland High School

**Degree/Major:** Bachelor's Degree in Communications

**Family:** Husband, Darren Sawyer, parents Dennis and Leah Ferguson, brother Eric (a 1995 La Roche graduate and soccer player)

## *What brought you to La Roche?*

I actually transferred to La Roche in my sophomore year because my grandfather became very sick, and I wanted to be closer to home. At the school where I began college, I was a vocal performance/theater major, and I switched to business and communications (much to my parents' relief!). I've been writing for publication from the time I was 12, so that seemed to be natural for me.

## *Where did you go upon graduation?*

I went to Clarion County, Pa., and worked as an outreach coordinator for the next year. Then, I returned to Pittsburgh for a while and worked as a writer. In January 1996, I got married and left for Texas. We eventually moved to Seattle and then to California, where I am now. I wrote my book in 2000\*, which was my first work of published fiction. I've contributed to three non-fiction books, and I've written more than 700 articles during my career.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: JILL L. FERGUSON

## *Was there someone at the College who influenced and/or inspired you?*

Sister Rita Yeasted is such an amazing, passionate teacher. Her classes were challenging, and she expects a lot from her students – in a good way. In 1999, when the tech industry was booming, my husband and I made some money on wise investments. We decided to set up the Sister Rita Yeasted Scholarship as a way to honor her. It was \$1,000 the first year, then \$2,000 the second, \$3,000 the third and, finally, \$4,000 each year. It provides for four students to receive a \$1,000 scholarship every year.

Providing these scholarships is something we always want to do. Even when the tech stocks crashed, my husband and I stayed with our commitment to do this. We believe it's important for people who go to La Roche to get assistance so they can make their dreams come true.

## *Do you believe you were well-prepared for your next step after graduation?*

I think La Roche tends to be underrated as a school because it's seen as "the school in your backyard." But it was a wonderful experience that served me well.

*\*Editor's Note: Jill is now an award-winning writer, editor and workshop keynote speaker. Her book, Sometimes Art Can't Save You, was published at the end of 2005 and deals with the subject of self-injury. The book was nominated as a semi-finalist in both the Pirate's Alley William Faulkner Creating Writing Competition and the New Century Writers Competition.)*



## La Roche Welcomes New Trustees

**E**ight new members – three sisters from the Congregation of Divine Providence and five new lay members – joined the La Roche College Board of Trustees earlier this year. With their belief in and support of the mission of the College, together with their experience and expertise in their fields, these eight individuals bring added strengths to a Board of Trustees that works tirelessly for the benefit of La Roche College. The new board members are:



### Sister Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP

*Provincial Director, Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence  
Allison Park, Pa.*

Sister Mary Francis holds a master's degree from St. Joseph College, a master's degree in education from Bridgewater State College, and a certificate in Spiritual Leadership from Our Lady of Peace Spiritual Life Center. She is active in civic, community and church activities, including the Leadership Conference of Women Religious,

Women of Providence in Collaboration – Executive Committee, and Sisters' Place, where she serves on the board.



### Sister Barbara Lynn McMullen, CDP

*Assistant to the Provincial, Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence  
Allison Park, Pa.*

A graduate of Marillae College, Sister Barbara has a master's degree in religious education from Seattle University and a master's in human resource training and development from Webster University. She is a member of the Congregation of Divine Providence Community Leadership, a board member of Catholic Charities in

Illinois, vice president of the National Associate Board – New York, and senior associate for sponsor services – Catholic Health Association.



### Sister Lisa Paffrath, CDP

*Provincial Councilor, Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence  
Allison Park, Pa.*

A Duquesne University alumna, Sister Lisa holds a master's degree in counseling from Shippensburg State College, and a certificate of ministry from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, Calif. In addition to most recently serving as a drug and alcohol/mental health counselor in Clarion, Pa., Sister Lisa has worked as a campus

minister at Clarion University, she has served in the rural pastoral ministry in Calhoun County, W. Va., as a volunteer for the Erie County Food Bank, as hospital chaplain for Divine Providence Hospital in Pittsburgh, and as an elementary and junior high school teacher in various schools within the Pittsburgh Diocese.



### David C. Peters, P.E.

*Consultant  
Allison Park, Pa.*

After receiving his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Cincinnati, Mr. Peters joined Mellon Stuart Company as a field engineer/field superintendent, ultimately becoming corporate vice president of estimating and engineering. He founded Cameron Construction Ltd. in 1995; the company's projects were largely based in Pennsylvania, Ohio and New Jersey. A

consultant since 2001, Mr. Peters was the project manager for the La Roche College Magdalen Chapel and estimator/project manager for pre-construction on the Kerr Sports & Fitness Center.

He currently serves on the board of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh and is past vice president for that organization. His daughter Aimee is a Class of 2000 La Roche honors graduate, and his father – the late Don Peters – was a former chair of the College's Board of Trustees.





### Anthony Cecil Eden Quinton

*Program Director for the American Academy of Diplomacy  
Distinguished Diplomat in Residence,  
American University  
Washington, D.C.*

Ambassador Quinton was the La Roche College commencement speaker in May 2006. He earned his bachelor's degree from Princeton University and attended Oxford University as a Marshall Scholar, receiving a bachelor of letters degree

there. He spent an additional year at Oxford as a research fellow at St. Antony's College. Now retired from the United States Foreign Service after 37 years, Ambassador Quinton served as ambassador to Peru, Kuwait, Nicaragua and the Central African Republic. After retiring, he served as executive director of the Una Chapman Cox Foundation and president and CEO of the National Policy Association. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Washington Institute of International Affairs and the American Academy of Diplomacy. He also serves as a consultant to the International Policy Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.



### Joy Maxberry Woodruff

*Chief Operating Officer  
Woodruff Enterprises, Inc.  
Pittsburgh*

Ms. Woodruff became acquainted with La Roche College during the 1980s when she completed her final eight credits toward a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Louisville. Because of a move to Pittsburgh that accommodated her husband's career with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Ms. Woodruff has remembered the

College's goodwill gesture. Her relationship with the College continued in the 1990s, when she was president of the North Hills Ebony Women, Inc., (NHEW) organization. She was instrumental in establishing a relationship with La Roche and NHEW via the provision of Black history programs, as well as serving as a mentor to African-American and African students. Her professional experience includes work in the field of journalism/communications. In her current role with Woodruff Enterprises, she oversees marketing and promotions. She remains active in a number of organizations.



### Susan Long Quinton

*International Education Expert  
and Teacher (retired)  
Washington, D.C.*

Ms. Quinton earned her bachelor's degree in English literature summa cum laude from Mount Holyoke College and a bachelor's degree as a Marshall Scholar from Oxford University's St. Hilda College, where she was a member of the faculty of English language and literature. She also received her master's degree at Oxford. She

is a published author and has taught English, history and religion, among other subjects, throughout her career in education. While in Washington, she was affiliated with the National Cathedral School and she served as director of the After-School Tutoring Program for Hispanic elementary school students at Our Lady Queen of the Americas, where she continues to volunteer. She has been an active volunteer at various organizations around the world and is currently on the board of the Ivy Inter-American Foundation.



### Karen Yoshino, Ph.D.

*Director, Institutional Assessment,  
Blackboard, Inc.  
Washington, D.C.*

Dr. Yoshino is a California native who earned her bachelor's degree at California State University – Fresno in microbiology. She received her doctorate in education from Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, Calif. Dr. Yoshino has served as a visiting scholar and senior project director at the Asian/Pacific/American Institute of New York

University, and as executive director of higher education administration and special projects and executive director of SAT at the College Board. She also served in various educational roles at Occidental College in Los Angeles and Harvey Mudd College in Claremont. Dr. Yoshino is a frequent guest speaker at organizations across the country and is a member of the American Association of Community Colleges (founding member of the Asian Pacific Islander Council), the Association for the Study of Higher Education and the American Association for the Study of Hispanics in Higher Education. She also is active in community service organizations.



# Next Chapter

*After 30 Years, Wendy Beckwith Heads to New Hampshire to Begin “Next Chapter”*

By Pam Wigley • Photos: Ric Evans

Wendy Beckwith, leaving La Roche after 30 years, will return to the Northeast far different from the woman who left home in 1968 to attend college in Philadelphia. Now, she will take with her to her home by the lake in New Hampshire a sense of accomplishment, of achievement – and she will take the love, friendship and goodwill of all who have known her and worked with her.

When she came to La Roche 30 years ago, thoughts of staying were not even playing in her mind, Wendy now says. “I never expected to stay that long,” but the flexible environment, the rapport with colleagues and students, and her roles on campus made the years pass swiftly.

Arriving when the Interior Design program was only two years old, Wendy was instrumental in its overall development and success through the years. After beginning as a faculty member, she became department chair for Interior Design and, later, division chair for Graphics, Communication and Design. In 2002, she took on the role of program coordinator for the Facility Management program, a position she held the remainder of her time at La Roche. In 2003, she was named dean of the School of the Professions, a position she says she has appreciated for the many opportunities it has afforded her.

“I liked interacting with the broader segments of the College,” she says. “Really, I have enjoyed every position I’ve had at La Roche. So much of who I am and who I’ve come to be, especially as it relates to work, is because of La Roche.”

And so much of La Roche, especially in terms of the Interior Design program and its students, came to be as a result of Wendy’s influence. At a fall 2006 meeting of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), Pennsylvania West Chapter, three-quarters of the large crowd raised their hands when asked if they had been a student of Wendy’s. At that meeting, she was named Honoree of the Year 2006 by ASID members for having “dramatically influenced the built environment and the practice of interior design in this western Pennsylvania region.”

She has, indeed, influenced hundreds of students.



*“So much of who I am and who I’ve come to be, especially as it relates to work, is because of La Roche.” - Wendy Beckwith*

*Among the highlights of her career at the College:*

- She initiated an Interior Design Department travel abroad program with a trip to London in 2003;
- She began an Interior Design Immersion Week study program;
- She created a bachelor’s degree and certificate program in Facility Management;
- She was largely responsible for obtaining the Interior Design program’s initial Foundation for Interior Design Education Research (FIDER) accreditation in 1984 (it is now called CIDA or Council for Interior Design Accreditation). For many years – until 2004 – La Roche was the only program in the region to hold accreditation.

Wendy’s commitment to others extended beyond the La Roche College campus. A longtime supporter and volunteer for Big Brothers & Big Sisters, she was nominated as a “Community Champion” by that organization in 2006 and was named Big Sister of the Year in 1999. She also received an Interior Design Educators Council Service Award and, in 2006, the La Roche College Dedication to Achievement Award.

Despite all the accolades, Wendy remains unassuming and says she is most proud of her day-to-day accomplishments. She has found time, during her time at La Roche, to maintain a career as a professional interior designer – focusing on both residential and contract interiors. She believes that, for her teaching to be relevant for students, it was important to be active in her profession. As a designer, she adapts her style to fit her clients, but she draws the line at French Provincial (“I wouldn’t take the job” if asked), and she says that an eclectic mix is what people would find at her restored home in the Mexican War Streets section of the North Side.

Now, she will travel north to Milton, N.H., and make her new home with family members in a home by a lake. It took 18 months to find the right house, but it finally fell into place. She will be near colleges and universities, where she hopes

to begin the next chapter of her life in higher education administration and absorbing the culture of a new place.

“I decided that, after 30 years, it was time for me to move on,” she says now, running a hand through her hair and smiling as she looks around her office. “I stayed because I never felt stuck – I always felt the evolution and growth of the College. I’ll be back; I promised the junior class I would come back to see them graduate. I know hundreds of people – many former students – from around the globe, and I keep in touch. They’ve enriched my life immeasurably.”

She pauses, looking at a picture of her house that’s hanging on the wall above her desk.

“Throughout my time here and in Pittsburgh, I’ve valued having my ‘communities’ – at work and at home. And, now, it’s time for me to go on and build new ones. I have to create, or become part of, new communities. That’s what I’m looking forward to.”





From Pittsburgh to Africa



Thatching



Gathering the animals



# “The poorer we are, the happier we are.”

*Visiting Niger: One student's experience with the nomadic Tuareg tribe*

**S**aying that six other La Roche students and I “went to Africa” doesn’t do justice to the trip we made in early 2007 to Niger. As one of the largest countries in Africa, Niger makes up a very small percentage of the culturally, geographically, politically, and religiously diverse mosaic that is Africa. Yet in the Agadez region of Northwest Niger, the things we saw made us feel that we had seen a country of its own, rich in culture and people and its own stories to tell as part of the largest continent. And we did not simply “meet” the people of Niger; my fellow students and I “experienced” a small group of people that are a part of a tribe that represents only one-tenth of the population of Niger. Those people were the Tuareg, and what follows are some experiences I had with them and my classmates during our trip.

## Facing dangers

Although AIDS, malaria, and war run rampant in other regions of the continent, they do not have much of a presence where we stayed. There are, however, other dangers that our hosts, the Tuareg, must face. The Tuareg are a nomadic tribe found in West Africa and, as such, they move from place to place depending on the land’s resources. Although each clan of Tuareg has different problems, there is at least one shared challenge: the pressure of modernization. The largest culprit behind this ongoing pressure is the unyielding effect of desertification. Desertification occurs when a desert begins to expand, swallowing all vegetation that falls in its way. The Sahara Desert is increasing in size, and Niger lies in its path. Even as it transforms, the Tuareg are holding on to the land that they love. Their home is the bush, the lands that lie far from the city. The bush can be described as somewhat fertile, and it serves as home to some trees, bushes, and yellow grass. It is not quite desert; there are no sand dunes.

## Getting to know the Tuareg

The lifestyle in the bush is very laid back, and there is a very strong focus on community. A neighborhood in the village consists of a few huts and some land for the animals to graze. At dawn, the day begins. Usually, the tribe’s animals wake you before the light. In Niger, we found no lions, zebras, or monkeys, as you might expect of Africa. The animals we found were less glamorous, usually consisting of camels, donkeys, goats and cows. The Tuareg would pray after waking, as the Muslim tradition calls them to. We students began with a breakfast feast, including cheese, bread, cocoa, coffee and tea prepared by our guides, who were Tuareg men. The people that we stayed with in the bush were their families.

## Breakfast and chores

Not too far from where we enjoyed breakfast, our host family mashed porridge in a large wooden bowl that would be their humble morning feast. The small portions distributed to the family would offer all the nutrients they would need to accomplish the day’s tasks.

After eating and cleaning ourselves up, minus a sink and shower, we proceeded to the water well. The well was just about a mile from camp. At the well, a family could spend up to three hours of the morning pulling water out of the earth. They must pull enough water for both the animals and the people. After pulling water twice from the well, I felt weak. The workers consist of the young and old. Children are given responsibility at a very young age. They are considered adults. Age is very hard to determine, as there is not a hospital to keep birth records. The age of tribesmen is calculated by changing seasons or important events.





Tuareg women villagers



Friendship



Sunset

#### Telling time by nature's clock

Lunch was near when the sun turned up the heat. Lunch and the hours following are spent under the protection of the trees' shade. One afternoon, we surprised one of the boys with a soccer ball. He was excited to play. Before long, we were the ones seeking shade and rest!

Once the sun began to sink in the sky and the temperature was bearable, the work around the huts began again. Work would be very similar to the morning. The young boys were in charge of bringing in the animals for the evening.

Dinner was the most exciting meal for us travelers. It was pretty repetitive for our hosts. It seemed that all they ate was the porridge. Our meals, however, consisted of goat, couscous and vegetables. During dinner we would reflect on our day and anticipate what our host had prepared for us that evening. Every evening, there was music and dancing. The music consisted of the women singing, playing guitars or pounding the percussion. The men did the dancing, and it was very energetic with their feet pounding the ground and their arms swinging in the air. Dancing and music are very important assets to the Tuareg. I believe it takes everyone's minds off of the stresses of life.

After we danced, if you weren't ready for bed, then the campfire was the next stop. Sitting at the campfire with a tribe in Niger, Africa, is unlike any other campfire I've known. At face value it is all the same – a circle of people around a fire, chatting. However, their chatting is in a language that you can't understand. There were translators, but it was a great challenge trying to decipher what someone was saying by watching facial expressions alone. Sometimes we drew pictures in the sand to communicate.

#### The stars as night lights

Falling asleep in the bush is priceless. I challenge five star hotels around the world to compete with the cool breeze that flows above your body as you stare in

wonderment at one of God's greatest masterpieces: the galaxies of stars. There are no electrical sockets in the bush, so there are no lights to be found – which means we gazed upon an untouched sky. As you lay under the canopy of stars, you felt as if you could reach out and grab each one of them. The moon greets you as a reminder that you should be sleeping by now. And then, with the occasional screech of a baby goat, the day ends.

#### Learning from our hosts

The first evening I went to sleep thinking about what Rhissa, our host, had shared with us. "The poorer we are, the happier we are," he said of the Tuareg. I questioned how this could be true, especially of the Tuareg who lack technology, education, capital, toilets and showers! The truth is, they are the happiest people I've come across. I began to question my own definition of happiness. What is happiness? Is it material possessions, success, and making money? I decided that I want my happiness to be like the Tuareg's. With each burden, they turn their cheek and retaliate with optimism.

Who better to learn about happiness than from the Tuareg? They have not had a chance to lose their happiness in material possessions. They only know the happiness of having each other, embracing each other as brothers and sisters, which is all we really need, and no form of desertification can prevent that. As long as they have their community of brother and sisters, they will survive. This idea of happiness is the most important gift that I can share from my journey. It must be accepted with an open mind.

*Editor's Note: The students who went to Niger started a fund to raise money so that other La Roche College students might one day visit Niger to experience the Tuareg firsthand. If you would like to learn more about donating to the fund, please contact Kathy Corcoran in the Office of Fund Development at [kathleen.corcoran@laroche.edu](mailto:kathleen.corcoran@laroche.edu).*

*Designed, written and photographed by D.J. Trischler.*





## Remembering La Roche Alumnus Donald J. Bugrin II



**L** La Roche graduate Donald J. Bugrin II ('93) was known and loved by many as a “living miracle and medical marvel.” Don was one of the oldest continual patients of Pittsburgh’s Children’s Hospital. He died on April 7, 2006, in UPMC Presbyterian Hospital of complications from heart transplant surgery. The 36-year-old lifelong resident of Shaler was an endearing, unassuming and accepting person who saw good in others and made a positive impact on everyone he met.

When Don was born in 1969, there was little that doctors knew about his badly damaged heart. Born with transposition of the great vessels and a host of other deformities, doctors shook their heads in disbelief of his rare condition, not really sure how his heart was actually working. Most infants with his type of heart defects simply did not survive. Despite an initial prognosis that was bleak, each year that he lived was another year of medical advances and new technologies in cardiac care.

Don became a freshman at La Roche College in 1988, a year after he underwent a rare open-heart surgery to rebuild the chambers of his heart. He defied doctors’ expectations and seized his second chance on life, thriving at La Roche and never allowing his condition or restrictions to dampen his enthusiasm for life. As a member of Project Achievement, Don received the Distinguished Service Award in April 1993 for his dedication and service with photography and videography.

After graduating from La Roche, Don married his wife, Connie (Spangler), in 1994 and later became the proud father of daughter Bridget and twin sons, Adam and Blake. He was working as a mortgage broker at Fiserv Inc. in Pittsburgh when he became ill last Jan. 17 and went into cardiac arrest. Once again, Don beat the odds: Only seven of 100 victims survive cardiac arrest. Don spent the following seven weeks in UPMC Presbyterian, recovering from surgery to implant a defibrillator and building strength in preparation for a heart transplant.

Don finally returned home in late March to await a transplant and received the call on April 5 that a donor was available much sooner than expected. Two days after the surgery, the high hopes of a second chance with an organ donation as a gift of life did not materialize. Don passed away from complications on April 7, leaving behind devastated family members and countless friends.

Lee Beerman, M.D., Don’s primary cardiologist for 20 years at Children’s Hospital, said he was struck by Don’s ability to live a life free of the anxiety and limitations that often hinder others with such serious heart defects.



*The Bugrins: From left, Blake, Connie, Don, Bridget and Adam.*

“He overcame that by the sheer force of his personality and his family’s support. I was always tremendously impressed every time I saw him,” Dr. Beerman said. In memory of Don, students and staff of La Roche College participated in the annual Children’s Hospital holiday campaign (2006), helping to provide for the well-being of future generations of children through excellence in patient care, teaching and research.

*(In addition to his wife and children, Donald Bugrin is survived by his mother, Peggy Bugrin, and sisters, Judy Cobain and Joann Cantrell. Joann submitted this article and photos for the La Roche magazine.)*





## Emily Schultheiss: In Memory

**E**mily Schultheiss, one of La Roche College's most accomplished alumnae and beloved adjunct faculty members, passed away on March 19, 2007. Emily was a fascinating person whose life philosophy was reflected in the vision statement she used for her consulting and coaching business: "Why settle for surviving when you can be thriving?" Emily's life was a wonderful reflection of this vision.

She thrived in spite of the many difficulties and setbacks she encountered: personal struggles with cancer, open-heart surgery and chronic illness, and professional setbacks like transfers, plant closings and divestitures. Emily did not just survive these challenges; she thrived by learning everything there was to learn, from life, from experience and from academia. She successfully integrated what she learned and shared the results with wisdom, tact and, above all, good humor, optimism and cheer.

Emily had more than 30 years of experience in manufacturing, human resources, organization development, adult learning and executive coaching. She consulted internationally in the areas of strategy development, change implementation, organizational structure, and leadership effectiveness, initially as vice president and then partner in Impact Strategy Associates and, later, as an independent consultant. She designed and delivered adult learning programs in the United States and abroad.

An enthusiastic and accomplished academic, Emily graduated from La Roche College's Master's Program in Human Resource Management in 1985. Her first book, *Optimizing the Organization: How to Link People and Technology*, was published in 1988. She authored many articles for renowned business publications. Her most recent publication was *Day by Day: A Journey Toward Thriving*, a workbook to guide people in the thriving process. Emily possessed many teaching certifications, and she also worked as a certified Bridgebuilder, helping church congregations to develop their effectiveness and functioning.

Emily received the La Roche College Distinguished Graduate Alumnus Award in 1986. She was the first program alumnae who was hired back to teach in the graduate program, starting



in 1997. She brought with her not only extensive experience and knowledge, but also a real love for teaching and for making learning an engaging process.

I will remember Emily with great fondness. As a student, she showed a great joy for learning and a passion for excellent work. Emily's Organization Theory bonus project was an operetta song, titled 'I am a Radical Structuralist,' which she delivered with great fervor and a beautiful voice. As a member of our faculty, she gave us the gift of excellent teaching and a dedication to the College and our students. Thank you for everything Emily – you will be missed!

*(Article and photo submitted by Astrid Kersten, Ph.D., Professor of Management.)*



# La Roche Class Notes

## 1980s

**ROBERT BLOSAT**, MS '83, is the Senior Vice President – Clinical Operations, for the Physician Services Division at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

**ARAMINTA ROBERTS BROWN**, BS '82, was married to Michael Westcott Brown in December 2006. She is a multi-million dollar producer at Howard Hanna Real Estate Services in the Village of Sewickley, Pa., and specializes in the sale of distinctive homes throughout the Greater Pittsburgh area. In January 2007, she was one of the company's top producers in four states. Her daughter, Harper, is a junior at La Roche College majoring in Business and Marketing.

**JOAN CLEARY**, BSN '85, is the incumbent candidate in the campaign for Allegheny Council's District 6. She works as a nurse at Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh.

**ANNE CRAWFORD**, MS '85, is the recipient of the 2007 Jefferson Award for Public Service. She has been an active volunteer at Sojourner House Pittsburgh for more than six years. As the current board president for Sojourner House MOMS and a former board president for Sojourner House, she has helped to keep the mission and vision of the organization alive and well by providing leadership in the organization's expansion efforts to engage in faith-based housing. Currently she is the Director of the Medicare C & D Compliance Office at Highmark, Inc.

**DAVID MCINTOSH**, BS '83, is the Art Director for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in the Public Relations Marketing Department.

**NANCY MCKEE**, BS '88, is a financial advisor with Allegheny Financial Group, Ltd. She was recently elected to serve a second term on the board of directors for the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh and will serve as the treasurer and head of the endowment committee.

## 1990s

**VICTORIA BERDNIK**, BA '96, MS '98, was a recipient of a Community Champion Jefferson Award in October 2006. Besides her position at General Nutrition Centers, Inc. (GNC), Pittsburgh, she volunteers her time raising funds and community awareness for many community service agencies such as, Autism Speaks, The Cancer Caring Center, The Leukemia Lymphoma Society and The Amen Corner.

**DIANE ZACK BUCHANAN**, BSN '90, is currently a candidate for the office of a Judge on the Beaver County (Pa.) Court of Common Pleas. After exposure to legal work in the health care setting, she decided to begin a second career in law. While working as a registered nurse and raising her family, she enrolled in Duquesne University School of Law. She received a JD degree in 1997.

**JILL FERGUSON**, BS '92, has been traveling around the country since September 2006 doing media promotion for her novel "Sometimes Art Can't Save You." She has spoken at two schools in Pennsylvania; has been on two TV shows in Seattle; has done eight radio shows in the US and Canada; taped one web broadcast, and many more appearances have been scheduled. (See more about Jill, Page 15.)

**DENISE SCHARDING GRDNIC**, R.N., BA '98, BSN '06, returned to La Roche College in 2004 and received her second bachelor's degree, this one in nursing. After graduating in May 2006 and passing the state boards, she began working in June 2006 at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh on the transplant and cardiology floor.

**STANISLAV JOURIN**, BS '97, is currently employed by Google Corporation in New York City.

**BRANDON PASTORE**, BS '99, is an analytical chemist at Bausch and Lomb in Rochester, N.Y., where he and his family reside. His speech at this year's La Roche College FIRSTS Alumni Symposium told about life as an analytical chemist within the world of Fortune-500 companies.

## 2000s

**SARAH BEAUCHAMP**, BA '02, teaches English at Deer Lakes High School, north of Pittsburgh, during the day and at night plays on the Pittsburgh Passion women's football team. She also serves as assistant coach for the North Hills boy's varsity volleyball team, trains as a boxer, and is pursuing her master's degree in education.

**BECKY BOZYM**, BS '01, is about to defend her Ph.D. dissertation in biochemistry at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. She was one of the speakers at this year's La Roche College FIRSTS Alumni Symposium. She talked about what it's really like in graduate school and what it takes to attain a doctorate.

**MICHAEL D'ANGELO**, BS '05, is a Graphic Designer at Media Frogg Marketing and Communications in Zelienople, Pa. He is responsible for design, photography and assisting with the firm's marketing.







## Worlds Apart ... A Little Heart Brings Kosovo and Pittsburgh Together



Shortly before they left La Roche, Lonita and Naile Drugzani visited with student interpreter Hana Nixha, a 2007 interior design graduate.

**N**aile Drugzani tried never to play too strenuously with her baby daughter, Lonita. The baby, born with a hole in her heart that progressively became worse, was a classic “blue baby,” meaning that after even minor exertion, she would struggle to breathe and would literally turn blue as her little heart worked harder and harder.

Naile and her husband, Avni, already parents of a toddler son, Venis, could not bear to lose their baby daughter. So they decided that drastic measures were necessary to save the baby’s life. In their native Kosovo, that meant turning to the NATO peacekeepers, the K-FOR, and hoping that this group would agree to let them seek care for Lonita in the United States. If they agreed, the K-FOR also would pay for the health care fees associated with the procedure necessary to repair Lonita’s heart.

When Lonita was 8 months old, Naile poured her emotions into a letter to the peacekeepers, and the family was granted its wish: Lonita could travel with her mother to the United States. It wasn’t long before pediatric heart surgeons at West Virginia

University Hospital in Morgantown, W.Va., contacted Naile and Avni to tell them they would operate on Lonita. In October 2006, baby Lonita and Naile traveled to the United States and made arrangements to stay at La Roche College during their visit.

To some, it would seem odd that Naile and Lonita would stay at La Roche during their visit to America. Yet Naile said coming to La Roche was a natural choice. People in her town, she said, knew that there were several students at the College who could speak Albanian, which would make it easier for Naile to communicate. Plus, the family had been referred to a Pittsburgh pediatrician, Mary Goessler, M.D., of Bellevue Pediatrics and head of the Department of Pediatrics at Allegheny General Hospital, and seeing Dr. Goessler for follow-up visits would be an easy commute from La Roche.

*“Naile wants to thank everyone who helped her during her stay – there were so many who made a difference. She feels very privileged to have been allowed to make La Roche her home while Lonita was getting well. - Hana Nixha '07*

After a successful surgery, Naile waited nervously while Lonita remained unconscious for five days. Just a little over a month after her surgery, Lonita was well enough to return home to Kosovo.

“She is like a different child,” Naile said near the end of her visit to La Roche, smiling at her daughter as she played on a blanket nearby. “She’s not blue anymore, not even when she’s playing hard.”

“Naile wants to thank everyone who helped her during her stay – there were so many who made a difference. She feels very privileged to have been allowed to make La Roche her home while Lonita was getting well. She sends special thanks to the people at La Roche, to Dr. Goessler and her sister, Helen (Sue) Goessler, and to the people at Allegheny General who helped with financial support so they could come here,” interpreter and La Roche student Hana Nixha said.

Some day, Naile said, she wants to come back to La Roche, and she wants her husband and son to meet the people who were her family members for a little while. Naile stopped talking and searched for the right words to tell Hana. Then, in a burst of emotion and with a wide smile, she said two words in English that needed no further explanation. “Thank you.”



# CAMPUS CLIPS

## La Roche Chapter Holds Delta Mu Delta Annual Induction Ceremony

**S**eventeen students were inducted into Delta Mu Delta, the International Honor Society in Business Administration during the spring semester at La Roche. Invitation to Delta Mu Delta membership is issued based on exemplary academic achievement.

The following students became Delta Mu Delta members: Brittany Crawford, Jemma Devlin, Carli Fury, Steve Galore, Tracy Lynn Gracan, Karen Hayes, Tammy Hughes, Nicole Kuczynski, Melissa Marsico, Angel Edjang Memba, Melody Morrissey, Catherine Mwakalu, Jessica Pilarski, Joseph Schall, Vicki Schueckler-Lutz and Amy Woelke.

Eta Psi – the La Roche chapter of Delta Mu Delta – was established in April 1996, following the ACBSP accreditation of the La Roche business programs. Delta Mu Delta promotes higher scholarship in training for business and to recognize and reward scholastic attainment in business subjects.



Delta Mu Delta honorary inductees celebrate after the ceremony. From left, M.H. Sidky, Ph.D., husband of Astrid Kersten, Ph.D. (second from left), James Brown and his wife, Marcia. Both Browns are La Roche College graduates: James was Class of 1994, and Marcia was Class of 1995.

During the ceremony, Professor Mark Dawson presented each of the candidates to Judith Boros, Eta Psi chapter president. Harry Strickland, Ph.D., professor of business management and administration, provided opening comments and served as master of ceremonies.

Eta Psi also bestowed honorary Delta Mu Delta membership on two people. Astrid Kersten, Ph.D., La Roche College professor of management, received honorary membership in recognition of her 27 years of teaching, administrative and scholarly contributions to the business programs, most recently as director of business programs.

La Roche alumnus James Brown, who is a managing principal of TAG Equity Partners in Pittsburgh, also became an honorary member. Mr. Brown's remarks focused on the importance of establishing relationships in business and the way in which his experiences at La Roche College provided him with the inspiration to develop and maintain relationships in business, community and private life.

## Financial Planning Seminars

**I**f you're wondering what the future holds, and you're hoping that you can look forward to a relaxing, comfortable retirement, it's never too soon – or too late – to start planning. La Roche College will host three upcoming financial planning seminars presented by Fragasso Financial Advisors. Each seminar consists of three two-hour sessions, and they are open to the public. The cost of each seminar is \$75 per person or \$120 per couple for the general public. Cost per seminar for La Roche College alumni is \$65 per person or \$100 per couple. Fees include all materials. All proceeds benefit La Roche College.

**Can You Afford to Retire?** - This course includes detailed information about inflation, taxation, insurance and estate planning, as well as how to prevent erosion of assets because of long-term care expenses. Most importantly, it teaches how to plot a plan toward retirement security.

**La Roche College • Sept. 19, Sept. 26, Oct. 3 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Financial Security for Women** - A course designed specifically for the independent woman. Topics include evaluating, selecting and monitoring investments, financial planning in divorce and various other topics ranging from education funding and retirement planning to taxation, insurance and more.

**La Roche College • Oct. 10, 17, 24 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Achieving Life's Goals: A Personal Financial Planning Workshop** - This course includes information about growing your investment assets, levels of need for various types of insurance, children's education funding and much more.

**Regional Learning Alliance, Cranberry Woods • Oct. 2, 9, 16 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

*To register, complete this form and return it to:*

Office of Institutional Relations • La Roche College  
9000 Babcock Boulevard • Pittsburgh, PA 15237

*(Check box by date you will attend.)*

**Can You Afford to Retire?**  Sept. 19 •  Sept. 26 •  Oct. 3  
**Financial Security for Women**  Oct. 10 •  Oct. 17 •  Oct. 24  
**Achieving Life's Goals**  Oct. 2 •  Oct. 9 •  Oct. 16

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*Checks should be made payable to La Roche College. For further information, call 412-227-3200.*

# CAMPUS CLIPS



PHOTO: JAMES KNOX

## Spring Dance Performance

**O**n April 10, 2007, La Roche's Department of Dance presented "The Spirit of Dance" at the Byham Theater in Pittsburgh's Cultural District. This marked the second annual spring performance at the Byham for the Dance Department. La Roche dance majors and minors performed a variety of works at "The Spirit of Dance," including the classic ballet "Les Sylphides" and original choreography by Artistic Director Gerard Holt. The program combined

classical, contemporary and modern dance to the music of artists and composers ranging from Mozart to Mahalia Jackson.

"Performing at the Byham is an exciting experience for our dancers," Mr. Holt said. "It allows them to become a part of the vibrant performing arts community in the city of Pittsburgh, while at the same time demonstrating to the arts community the high caliber of our program at La Roche."



The NACAC event hosted 400 visitors who can help send students to La Roche.

## NACAC

**O**n Friday, Oct. 6, 2006, La Roche welcomed nearly 400 high school guidance counselors from across the country and around the world. The counselors were in Pittsburgh attending the annual conference of the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC). La Roche's evening of festivities gave counselors a taste of the college's unique atmosphere and offerings and the opportunity to showcase the strength of its academic programs. Counselors were treated to a mock crime scene where they could don official FBI gear courtesy of the Department of Justice, Law and Security. The Chemistry Department presented a display on "green" cleaning products and showed a PowerPoint to visitors that highlighted successful graduates' accomplishments.



## Chapel Book Published

**T**he Magdalen Chapel, noted recently by students, faculty and staff as one of the most recognizable features at La Roche, has been featured in a new soft-cover book. Written by Sister Michele Bisbey, Ph.D., associate professor and department chair of Philosophy and Religious Studies, the book was designed by Michael Willy, La Roche design graduate ('03) and now working in the College's Public Relations Department.

"As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Magdalen Chapel, we are extremely proud to highlight its origins and the thoughtful decisions that have been made regarding every detail of its construction," Sister Candace Introcaso said. "We're delighted to share this with everyone who has a connection to the chapel – from our alumni to the current congregation members who worship each week there."

If you are interested in ordering a copy of this commemorative book, please complete the order form below and return it to Institutional Relations, La Roche College, 9000 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Checks should be made payable to La Roche College.



## Order form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Number of books \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total



# La Roche College Calendar of Events

Please join us for these upcoming events. All are open to the public unless otherwise noted. For more information and for other events added after press time, visit [www.laroche.edu](http://www.laroche.edu).



## *AANA Alumni Reception*

**Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2007**

Hyatt Regency at the Colorado Convention Center  
Denver

This special by-invitation luncheon at the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Annual Meeting is the first “on the road” event to visit La Roche alums across the country. See you in Denver!

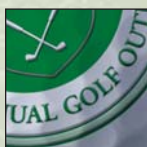


## *Interior Design Speakers Series*

**Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2007**

Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center

The Interior Design Department once again wows Pittsburgh's design community with a terrific guest speaker for the annual fall Speakers Series. This year, La Roche welcomes Designers Hall of Fame member Carleton Varney. His designs grace the rooms of some of America's most beautiful homes.



## *16th Annual La Roche College Golf Outing*

**Monday, Sept. 24, 2007**

Wildwood Golf Club, Allison Park, Pa.

This great annual event is a hit with alumni and the public alike. Who doesn't love a great day on the green, especially after the U.S. Open brought big-time golf to Pittsburgh this summer?



## *Festival of Lights*

**Friday, Nov. 30, 2007**

Kerr Fitness & Sports Center, La Roche Campus

Alumni and their families take a moment from the hustle and bustle of the holidays to come “home” to La Roche for a delightful evening in the crisp mid-winter to visit with old friends, chat with the College president and treat the kids to games and goodies. The public also may visit all La Roche events and activities. Alumni will be treated to a special reception.



## *President's Circle Dinner*

**Thursday, Oct. 11, 2007**

Zappala College Center, La Roche Campus

Donors who have contributed \$1,000 or more will be invited to this special dinner, which is hosted by La Roche College President Sister Candace Introcaso. Entertainment will be provided by the La Roche College Department of Dance.



## *Midnight Madness*

**Friday, Oct. 19, 2007**

Kerr Fitness & Sports Center, La Roche Campus

Kick off the start of the Redhawks men's and women's basketball season with this annual night of skills competition, prizes and team introductions.



## *Family Day*

**Saturday, Oct. 20, 2007**

La Roche Campus

Once again, families past and present are invited to gather on campus for a fun-filled day of activities.

Watch the Web for a complete listing of events.



## *Global Problems, Global Solutions*

### *Saving Our Earth and its People*

**Friday, Oct. 26, and Saturday, Oct. 27, 2007**

La Roche College Campus

The fourth annual event will focus on environmental issues and how all people can become involved in protecting a vital natural resource: the earth. Admission is free. For more information and to see a full list of co-sponsors and speakers, go to [www.laroche.edu/global](http://www.laroche.edu/global).



## *Tune in to KQV for La Roche "World of Learning"*

**Focusing on a wide range of topics – from child safety to what's hot on the best-seller list – La Roche College faculty and guests provide insight and advice to radio listeners every month.** Vice President of Institutional Relations, Ken Service, and Director of Public Relations, Pam Wigley, co-host a monthly radio program called “World of Learning” on Pittsburgh radio station KQV-AM 1410.

The show airs the first Monday of each month from 8 to 8:30 p.m. and is simultaneously broadcast online via [www.kqv.com](http://www.kqv.com) for those who are not in the Pittsburgh area. The broadcast is repeated the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m.



# LA ROCHE

## FALL 2007 OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Tour the campus, the residence halls and our "smart" classrooms.
- Meet our professors and learn more about our academic programs.
- Get answers to your questions on admissions and financial aid.
- Lunch will be provided for all attendees.

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

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