

# CONNECTED

the LA ROCHE COLLEGE Magazine | SPRING/SUMMER 2014



*Meet Student Entrepreneurs  
Boniface Ngigi and Stephanie Snyder*

IN THE MOMENT ...





*the 49<sup>th</sup>*  
**COMMENCEMENT**  

---

**SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2014**



PHOTO: HECTOR CORANTE

As this issue of *Connected* reaches you, the La Roche College community is still remembering the inspiring words of Charlie Batch, our 49th Commencement speaker and recipient of a Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

In a riveting and energetic address to our graduates, Mr. Batch spoke of the motivation and drive that led to his success as, in his words, "...the first person born and raised in Pittsburgh to play for the Pittsburgh Steelers and to win two Super Bowl rings."

"Who would imagine a kid from Homestead would be giving you a Commencement speech?" he asked, as he recalled the people and events who have influenced him throughout his life. He credited the following quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson as changing his path in life: "Do not go where the path might lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

In this issue's cover story, you will read about two La Roche students who are doing just as Emerson suggested. Stephanie Snyder and Boniface Ngigi have used what they are learning in their La Roche classrooms to launch businesses. Both talk about how they market their products on social media platforms while networking and collaborating effectively. In an accompanying article, Associate Professor Jean C. Forti, Ph.D., chair of our human resources management master's program, answers questions about leadership skills and traits that she believes are needed to successfully manage a company.

*Also in this issue, you will be able to:*

- Meet the 12 newest members of the La Roche College Distinguished Alumni Circle, who were inducted and honored at the first Celebrate La Roche! dinner.
- Learn about the College's new master's program in special education, designed to help teachers respond to a major challenge in today's educational system.
- Follow the progress of the McCandless Crossing town center, across Babcock Boulevard from our campus, and learn how this rapidly developing section of the North Hills will benefit La Roche College students.
- See how contractors are working to complete our new Outdoor Athletic Complex and turf field in time for the 2014-2015 academic year, and read profiles of our spring athletes and men's and women's basketball teams.
- And, in other articles, you may catch up on the latest news on campus and keep up with the interesting work of our alumni.

As we complete another successful academic year, the College community takes a collective deep breath. And even though Summer College is in full swing, this is a time to recharge and regenerate. We all look forward to the fall, to welcoming new and returning students to La Roche, to rededicating ourselves to: Engaging Minds. Embracing the World.

Blessings,

*Sister Candace Introcaso*

Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.

# CONNECTED

the LA ROCHE COLLEGE Magazine

SPRING | SUMMER 2014

## ACADEMICS

- 1 New Master of Special Education Program
- 3 New Engineering Agreement
- 4 Charlie Batch Delivers Inspirational Speech at 49th Commencement Ceremony

## COVER STORY

- 5 Student Entrepreneurs
- 9 Business Q&A with Jean Forti, Ph.D.

## MISSION & SERVICE

- 11 GLOBE Fashion Show

## CAMPUS NEWS

- 13 President Sister Candace Introcaso Honored by Pittsburgh Business Times
- 14 McCandless Crossing Development  
La Roche Fishing Team Ranks 20th in U.S.  
New Campus Signage

## ATHLETICS

- 15 Athletes to Watch
- 21 Athletics Update

## ALUMNI

- 23 The Champion of Championship Belts
- 25 Distinguished Alumni 2014
- 30 Homecoming Weekend 2014
- 31 Alumni Bookshelf

## CLASS NOTES

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



### CONNECTED MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTORS

Editor  
Brady Butler  
Managing Editor  
Becky Jeskey '11  
Creative Director  
Greg Kemper '99  
Writers  
Jimmy Finley  
Kathleen Ganster  
Kurt Hackimer '12  
Vanessa Orr  
Graphic Designer  
Thomas Phillips  
Online Magazine Production  
Dave Siroki  
Mel Latal

### COLLEGE OFFICERS

Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.  
*President*  
Howard J. Ishiyama, Ph.D.  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean*  
Michael Andreola  
*Vice President for Institutional Advancement*  
Colleen Ruefle, M.A.  
*Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students*  
William H. Firman Jr.  
*Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing*  
Robert A. Vogel, B.B.A.  
*Vice President for Business & Finance/CFO*

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Please report all address changes to:  
Gina Miller '77  
*Director of Alumni Relations*  
gina.miller@laroche.edu  
412-536-1085

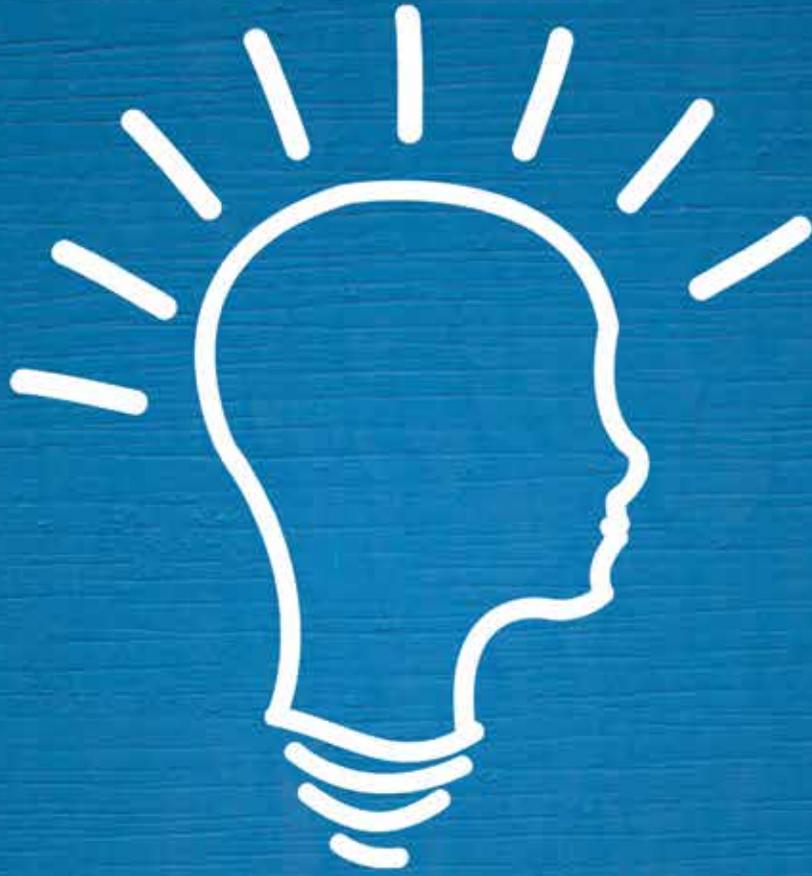
The La Roche College magazine, Connected, is published twice a year by the Office of Marketing & Media Relations and provided free to alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the College. The contents are selected to demonstrate the interests and pursuits of the La Roche College community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

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

### TALK TO US!

Send your comments and suggestions to:  
*Office of Marketing & Media Relations*  
La Roche College  
9000 Babcock Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
Phone: 412-536-1300  
Email: brady.butler@laroche.edu

Front Cover Photo: Patrick Duff  
Back Cover Photo: Caitlin Thomas '09



## New Master of Special Education Program Keeps Pace with Rise of Autism

BY KATHLEEN GANSTER

**I**t is a first for La Roche College, and that first will provide numerous opportunities for many.

Starting this fall, La Roche College will offer a master's degree in special education, the first graduate program for the education department. But it isn't just a master's degree program—which in of itself is exciting—it also offers other options students can pursue for continuing education.

With the new offerings at La Roche, students may pursue the master's degree in special education, or they may choose a certification or certificate program.

"We wanted to offer various options so that we could assist not only certified teachers, but others who also want or need other continuing education," Natalie Rugg, Ph.D., assistant professor and coordinator for the new program, said.

The new master's degree program itself has two options: one geared for certified teachers who want to earn a M.Ed. with a Pre K-8 Special Education Certification, and an option for those who are certified in special education and wish to earn a M.Ed. with an Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Endorsement.

The certificate and certification programs were designed with several options in mind: the Post-Baccalaureate PreK-8 Special Education Certification, an add-on option for teachers seeking a special education certification; the ASD Endorsement for teachers who want to pursue a 12-credit program to add the endorsement to an existing certification; and the Advanced Studies in Autism Certificate for applicants who are uncertified in education but have a bachelor's degree in another field.

"The Advanced Studies Certificate is perfect for parents of children with autism or those who may work with children with autism, but who are not necessarily teachers," Professor Rugg said.

The master's degree was developed with teachers in mind who want and need further continuing education credits and decide to fulfill those requirements while also pursuing a degree, Professor Rugg explained.

"To be certified as a Level Two in the state of Pennsylvania, teachers need 24 credits of continuing education, and many just opt to pursue a master's degree. We thought we could help people fulfill their requirements and the desire to pursue that degree by creating our program," she said.

When Professor Rugg joined with Education Department Chair Kathryn Silvis, D.Ed., and others to work on the curriculum, they realized that offering a specialized program for studies related to autism would assist even more teachers and community members.

"We were looking at programming for those working with students with intellectual disabilities, hearing loss and other issues when we saw the statistics for autism and decided to address that issue," Professor Rugg said.

The statistics that Professor Rugg refers to are the recent numbers released by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that show a 30 percent increase in autism in children in the United States. According to the CDC, autism affects one child in 68.

Dr. Silvis said this trend was a big consideration when designing the new curriculum.

"Autism is a very important and prevalent issue in education. When we looked at what we could offer and appeal to teachers, we liked the idea of an ASD Endorsement," she said.

With a rise in autism and the concern on treating and best serving these children, the State Board of Education also has created requirements for an ASD Endorsement.

"It is a relatively new endorsement, and one we felt would be of service to our students and enhance our program," Dr. Silvis said.

Professor Rugg and Dr. Silvis worked on the curriculum, creating the courses for the ASD curriculum with Eric Bieniek, Ph.D., a board-certified behavior analyst who works as a classroom therapist, consultant and staff trainer for The Education Center at The Watson Institute.



"Eric helped us develop the courses specifically for children with autism and their needs in mind. He also will teach the courses when the program begins in the fall," Professor Rugg said.

With more than 15 years of experience in working with children with autism, Dr. Bieniek brings to La Roche both experience and impressive credentials in course development. He also will serve as a professor for many of the courses.

Dr. Bieniek said, "With one in 68 children falling on the autism spectrum, it isn't *if* teachers will see children with autism, but *when*. This curriculum helps prepare our teachers to best teach these children."

*Continued on next page*

Continued from page 2

The coursework for the ASD Endorsement will include an introduction course to provide background about autism, the diagnosis and the characteristics of a diagnosis, and more advanced studies programming about behavior, communications and social skills, and instructional methods.

“There are instructional methods that work, and we want our teachers to know what they are,” Dr. Bieniek said. “We also will talk about topics such as what an autism-friendly classroom looks like.”

Much of the coursework for the ASD programs and the special education programs will be offered in an eight-week format and in the evening to serve the needs of teachers. Summer programming also will be offered.

The programming also will provide an opportunity for certified teachers to work with students pursuing an undergraduate degree at the College, according to Dr. Silvis.

*“With one in 68 children falling on the autism spectrum, it isn’t if teachers will see children with autism, but when.”* – Eric Bieniek, Ph.D.

“We are excited about the opportunity for our undergraduate students to partner with our graduate students on projects and learning experiences. These collaborative efforts will benefit both sets of students,” she said.

La Roche has reached out to school districts and other organizations that work with children to create awareness about the new special education degrees and programs.

“The response has been very enthusiastic,” Professor Rugg said.

For more information about the new master’s degree in special education at



## La Roche College and University of Pittsburgh Sign New Engineering Agreement

A new articulation agreement between La Roche College and the University of Pittsburgh will allow students to earn a degree from both institutions.

### The La Roche Portion

Under the new agreement, students who attend La Roche for three years will complete pre-engineering requirements and at least 75 percent of a La Roche major. The most popular La Roche majors are expected to be math, computer science, chemistry or an interdisciplinary major combining two science areas with pre-engineering. The agreement, which was signed this year, is available to both current and prospective students.

### The Pitt Portion

After fulfilling all requirements at La Roche, students are automatically accepted to the University of Pittsburgh. Students may earn an engineering degree in one of the following concentrations: bioengineering, chemical, computer, electrical, industrial, and engineering science with an emphasis in nanotechnology. This portion of the program generally takes two years to complete but varies depending on course rotations.

Jane Arnold, chair of La Roche’s Computer Science Department and Natural & Behavioral Sciences Division, said, “Having an agreement with an outstanding institution like the University of Pittsburgh makes a statement about the strength of the science program at a smaller college like La Roche.”

### A Competitive Advantage

Students will transfer University of Pittsburgh coursework to complete

their degree at La Roche. Professor Arnold said that earning two degrees enables students to showcase an additional talent, providing them with a competitive edge in the workforce.

“For example, combining a computer science degree with industrial engineering is significantly stronger than either one separately,” Professor Arnold explained.

### Why La Roche?

The new agreement offers students the opportunity to thrive in a smaller setting. “Our freshman science and math classes at La Roche are much smaller and more personal than a larger institution,” Professor Arnold said. “Many students struggle with the transition from high school to engineering school, so a program like ours gives them the best chance at success.”

In addition to the new engineering agreement, La Roche holds health science agreements with Duquesne University, which allow students to complete pre-professional science courses at La Roche and finish the professional phase of athletic training, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and physician assistant studies at Duquesne.

The College also finalized an agreement with Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine for students to pursue a science degree at La Roche for three or four years, which guarantees entrance into dental, pharmacy or osteopathic medical school.



## Charlie Batch Delivers Inspirational Speech at 49th Commencement Ceremony

**O**n Saturday, May 3, the Class of 2014 at La Roche College learned the formula for success from professional athlete and community advocate Charlie Batch when he delivered the College's 49th commencement address.

"Being a pro is about bringing your absolute best with you to work and mastering your expertise," Mr. Batch told the graduating class. "Expecting your best is a high standard. It means putting in the work and doing daily what ordinary people do occasionally."

Mr. Batch, who received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from La Roche, spent the first four seasons of his professional career with the Detroit Lions before returning to his hometown as a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2002. He has spent the past 11 seasons with

the Steelers, including Super Bowl XL and XLIII championships.

Aside from his NFL career, Mr. Batch is well known throughout the region for his community involvement. He takes a very active, hands-on role in the Best of the Batch Foundation, which he established in 1999 to serve underprivileged youth.

Mr. Batch shared how his desire to give back began after he experienced a personal tragedy in 1998, when his sister, Danyl, was killed, an innocent victim of gunfire between rival gangs.

"At that moment, I said to myself, 'What do I do?' And I remembered a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King: 'It's not where you stand during comfort and convenience, but it's how you stand during challenge and controversy.'"

"Here was my opportunity to now do something that was going to turn a tragedy into triumph," Mr. Batch continued. "Through this horrible story and experience in my life, my foundation was born. It's truly a blessing to be able to go out there and help others succeed."

Mr. Batch explained that his achievements could not have happened without three important attributes: preparation, resilience and greatness. He shared a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson that inspired him throughout his professional sports career and community activism: "Do not go where the path might lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

During the ceremony, the College conferred 359 degrees and also presented the President's Awards for Leadership and Scholarship, which are the most prestigious awards offered to undergraduate students of La Roche College.

These awards are conferred by President Sister Candace Introcaso to two graduating students: a traditional-aged student and nontraditional-aged student who have exemplary academic records, who exemplify the values and characteristics of the College's mission statement, and who are effective leaders either on campus, in the workplace, or in the community.

### 2014 Traditional Recipient:

**Jonathan Mancuso**  
*Bachelor of Science*

### 2014 Nontraditional Recipient:

**Nicholas Yund**  
*Bachelor of Arts*

In addition to Mr. Batch receiving a Doctor of Humane Letters, other members of the La Roche community were presented with the following awards or honorary degrees at commencement:

*Woman of Providence Award*



Sister Sandra DeNardis, CDP

*Doctor of Business Administration*



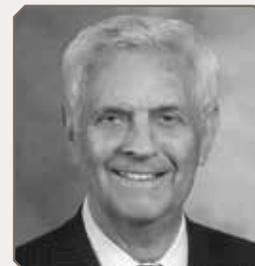
Joseph F. DiMario

*Doctor of Humane Letters*



Sister Mary Joan Coultas, CDP, Ph.D.

*Doctor of Humane Letters*



Richard B. Fisher

*Doctor of Humane Letters*



Richard G. Kotarba, Esq.



# DOWN TO BUSINESS

La Roche students are taking the skills they learn inside the classroom and applying them to launch their own companies.

BY VANESSA ORR | PHOTOS: PATRICK DUFF

One of the tenets of La Roche College's mission is to help students achieve success in their chosen careers—even if those careers start before students graduate.

Both Stephanie Snyder and Boniface Ngigi have taken what they've learned at La Roche College and started their own businesses while still in school, applying what they've learned in the classroom to successfully launch their own companies.

Ms. Snyder is a partner in Luxor Swim, which produces a line of luxury, lounging-style bathing suits, and is headquartered in Las Vegas. Mr. Ngigi is the owner of Spiffybeadz.com, an online company that sells bracelets, necklaces and key chains of his own design.

While both businesses are very different, the students agree that the education they received at La Roche helped them find a way to turn what were once just ideas into successful entrepreneurial opportunities.



## LUXOR SWIM

Ms. Snyder originally enrolled at La Roche College in its interior design program after interning at architectural firm Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann during her senior year in high school. "I'd always been interested in the visual arts, so I came to La Roche with that in mind," she explained. "After two years, I realized that it was not the direction that I wanted to go, so I changed my major to marketing."

"Both programs helped me," continued Ms. Snyder, who has three courses left to take before she graduates. "I learned about design, organization, Internet marketing and selling—all of which I use in my business."

In 2013, Ms. Snyder and partner Sierra Caldwell launched Luxor Swim (formerly known as I AM Swimwear) in Las Vegas, where both women worked in the modeling industry.

"We sell affluent, luxury swimwear that is very trendy, has lots of sex appeal, and yet is still classy," Ms. Snyder said. "Because I have an art background, I do a lot of the designing, and Sierra works more on the business end."

Ms. Snyder credits her background as a bikini model and fitness competitor for her ability to come up with ideas for the company's swimsuits. Originally signed by a talent agency at the age of 14, she has appeared in commercial print

advertisements and swimsuit contests and pageants, and has been featured in Flex magazine and Physique 3D, and online publications Flexonline.com, IAmKoreAm.com, and Maxim.com. She won the Tropic Beauty Ohio 2012 title and was a 2013 Miss Tropic Beauty world finalist.

"We chose to launch our business in Las Vegas because both of us are in the modeling industry, and most of our work is based there," Ms. Snyder said, adding that the company provided bikinis for a recent model search in the city. "Because of our experience in pageants and competitions, we know what girls like to wear. We know what a bikini should look like on stage and how it should fit."

Ms. Snyder also was able to network and build relationships with companies that promoted swimsuit events, including one that asked to collaborate with the company's new bikini line. Luxor Swim is currently undergoing a rebranding campaign which will launch this fall.

"We're really focused on creating an Internet-based product that we can market through social media," Ms. Snyder said. "There's always a new social media platform, and we'll take advantage of this to offer codes and discounts, and collaborate with different people."

Joe Puglisi, chair of the Business Division and chair of the Marketing Department, said Ms. Snyder has the qualities it requires to become a successful entrepreneur. "She is very focused, and she knows what she wants. She is aware of what her strengths are and has a passion for what she does," he said, adding that Ms. Snyder would occasionally meet with him to discuss business ideas and get his opinion from a marketing and financial point of view.

"While most students mainly concentrate on attending classes and passing courses—and Stephanie also is concerned about this—her thinking is much longer-term," he added. "She has a goal in mind as far as to what she wants to do with her life, and she is always considering what she needs to do next to meet that goal."

## SPIFFYBEADZ.COM

Boniface Ngigi, originally from Kenya, discovered La Roche College after his mother, who suggested that he study abroad, sent him to a study abroad office where he was given a catalog of colleges and universities to peruse.

"I knew what I wanted. I had attended high school with 3,000 boys and didn't want a school that large. I also didn't want to live in a big city and was looking for a traditional kind of school," Mr. Ngigi said. "I had it narrowed down to a few colleges, but once I researched La Roche online, I didn't bother to look anywhere else."

Once on campus, a number of students commented on Mr. Ngigi's bracelet, which was given to him by his sister. "People kept asking me where they could get one, and I didn't have an answer," he explained. "I thought that if I could design a bracelet like this and find a vendor in Kenya to make it, I might be able to make some extra money."

Mr. Ngigi built a website for Spiffybeadz.com in the summer of 2012, and began designing bracelets, necklaces and key chains, which are then produced by a vendor in Kenya. "Each time, I make something different," he said. "In Pittsburgh, people like a lot of black and yellow combinations, so those products are big sellers. I try to think of something that is not too broad or too narrow—something that not everyone has."

In addition to running Spiffybeadz.com, Mr. Ngigi also has a full-time job in the school's admissions office, works at Vincentian Home and attends school full time. "In the summer, I have a lot more time to dedicate to the business so I get more product in," he said. "Two weeks from now, I'll be ready to roll. I'll go on like this until the beginning of August, but when school starts, I'll cut back. My education is my first priority."

While the money he raises from Spiffybeadz.com helps him make ends meet in Pennsylvania, his entrepreneurship provides even bigger



*"I'm not just giving people money, but empowering them. This is better than charity."* – Boniface Ngigi

benefits back in Africa. "I don't make a lot of money here, but it makes a big difference back in Kenya," he said. "At first, I was only working with one vendor, but now he has two people working for him. When I buy \$200 worth of inventory, that's a lot of money there; it changes people's lives.

"Sometimes, when I get too busy and it gets to be too much here, that thought keeps me going," he added. "My mom tells me what's happening back in Kenya; that I'm not just giving people money, but empowering them. This is better than charity; I help give them a job and something to do with their skills—a source of livelihood. People gave me a chance, and it's my way of paying it back."

Mark Dawson, chair of the Accounting and Finance Department, said Mr. Ngigi has many of the qualities that make a successful entrepreneur, including the ability to use what he's learned in the classroom to further his business.

"Boniface has his act together. He's always looking ahead," he explained. "This is noticeable both inside and outside of class. He is here for a purpose; he knows that even if he is not using what he's learning right now,

he'll be using it later. Students don't always understand how they will use what they are taught here, but Boniface knows that he is being taught these lessons for a reason.

"When he comes into my office and tells me, 'Hey! What we did in class... It really works!' that is very gratifying," Professor Dawson said, laughing. "It's better than pay day for me."

While no one can predict the future, Professor Dawson believes that Mr. Ngigi will succeed in whatever he chooses to do. "I see him as a very successful business person, whether he's running the show or participating as a partner in an ownership group," he said. "He's got his own ideas, so I don't see him content working for someone else. He has so many thoughts about what can be done."

Mr. Ngigi will graduate in 2015 and plans to attend graduate school after taking his CPA exam. "As for what I'll do afterwards, I'll cross that bridge when I come to it," he said. "My goal is to get the best education that I can and push myself with that knowledge. I am open to whatever possibilities come after that."

## WHY DOES LEADERSHIP MATTER?

**D**o you have what it takes to launch and lead a business? **Jean Forti, Ph.D.**, associate professor and chair of La Roche's master of science in human resources management program, shares her insight on why effective leaders and successful businesses go hand in hand.

Dr. Forti teaches courses in leadership, organizational behavior and human resources administration. She is a certified senior professional in human resources.



### *How would you define effective leadership?*

There are many definitions of leadership, but I subscribe to Peter Northouse's definition, which says that leadership is a process in which a person influences a group of individuals to achieve a common goal.

I like this definition because it acknowledges that leadership is not linear; it is a process of ebb and flow between leader and followers in which energy is spent on trying to achieve something together.

### *What are some of the necessary skills or traits needed to successfully manage a company?*

There are literally millions of books, websites and consultants who all have their lists. In my teaching of leadership over the last several years, I see common themes including:

- **Perseverance** – Do you have the wherewithal to push onward? Times will get tough.
- **Vision and Drive** – Do you have a purpose for yourself, your employees, your business?
- **Hire the right people** – Do you have the right mix of skills, abilities and temperaments of people around you? You cannot do it all.
- **Great Communicator** – Do you convey your messages clearly and honestly? Your employees, stakeholders and customers are listening.
- **Serve** – Do you place the needs of others before yours? Treat your employees and customers well. The rewards will be great!

### *What is your advice for students or alumni who want to start a business?*

Do your homework. Find out as much as you can about the business you're trying to launch. Who is already out there (i.e. your competition) and how can or will you stand out differently?

### *How can students improve or develop leadership skills outside of the classroom?*

Take on leadership roles at school or in the workplace. Volunteer to lead a project or a committee. Find good role models or mentors and get their guidance. Ask for feedback from teachers, coaches or others around you on what you need to improve.

### *Why is leadership important?*

Poor leadership is detrimental to businesses, to families, to communities and nations. I think society is in a bit of a leadership crisis. Few people want to step up and take charge, while others seek to achieve personal agendas through leadership roles. But good leaders can make a huge difference in the lives of many.



La Roche College offers  
master's degrees in the  
following high-demand  
employment areas:

- Master of Science in Accounting
- Master of Science in Health Sciences – Nurse Anesthesia
- Master of Science in Human Resources Management
- Master of Science in Nursing
  - Nursing Administration (*online*)
  - Nursing Education (*online*)
- Master of Education in Special Education

Classes are forming now! Learn more today by calling 412-536-1260, or visit [laroche.edu](http://laroche.edu).



## ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE GLOBE

### Annual fashion show unites international and domestic students

BY BECKY JESKEY '11 | PHOTOS: CAITLIN THOMAS '09

At La Roche College, diversity is everywhere. With 30 countries represented in the student body, it's no secret that the College is home to a dynamic environment. Drawing students from across the U.S. and around the world, the campus is a mosaic of race, culture, religion and unique backgrounds.

The multicultural community alone is living proof of La Roche's mission to promote global citizenship. But how exactly does a college develop an international focus and encourage an understanding between both domestic and international students?

One student organization on campus takes an unexpected approach: fashion.

On Thursday, April 10, the organization GLOBE—which stands for Globalization of La Roche: One Beat on Earth—hosted its annual fashion show in the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center. For more than 10 years, GLOBE has organized the show to provide a cross-cultural experience for students and staff.

"Our main focus is to bring students together because there are so many different cultures here at La Roche. The show offers a snapshot of other

students' lives," GLOBE President Corrin McElwain, a junior marketing and business management major, said.

Bringing students together is the main focus of GLOBE's mission, which encourages intellectual dialogue and friendship among international and American students. The group also promotes international concerns and understanding, aids international students in the college environment, and provides both cultural and social activities for the community.

"GLOBE brings everyone to one spot so that people can get a taste of other cultures," Ms. McElwain explained. "People can't really appreciate the diversity until they see it in person."

This year's show achieved that focus, bringing together members of both the College and outside communities, with more than 125 people in attendance. The event featured clothing and performances that represented seven countries and 15 regions of Africa, South America, the United States, South Korea, China and Saudi Arabia.

But the show moves beyond fashion to promote a variety of cultural identities.

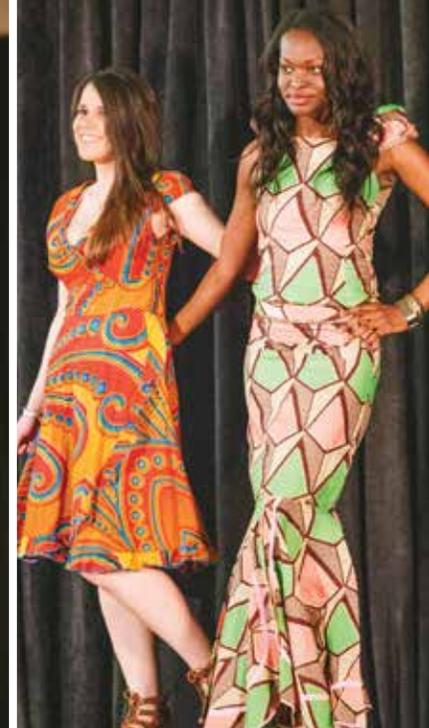
This year, the event offered video, music and dance, including an Irish dance performance, as well as a preshow for visitors to explore ethnic traditions and customs. Preshow tables featured ethnic dishes from Saudi Arabia, Argentina and Bolivia, as well as clothing, Henna tattoos, face painting, crafts, and an international dinner with free food sampling.

Students also held a Chinese auction during the preshow to raise money for Ten Thousand Villages, an independent nonprofit organization that strives to create opportunities for artists in developing countries.

"We donate money to Ten Thousand Villages every year but wanted to raise more this year," Ms. McElwain explained, adding that the auction raised \$120 to support Ten Thousand Villages' special needs fund.

A donation to the nonprofit's special needs fund makes a huge impact in many small ways, Ms. McElwain said. "For instance, for an artisan who can no longer see to do their sewing, the money will buy them a pair of glasses," she explained.

Lori Arend, LSW, advisor of GLOBE and director of counseling and health services,



The GLOBE Fashion preshow featured a Saudi Arabian table with free food sampling and the writing of names in Arabic. The main event showcased a contortionist, an African dance by One Youth and a variety of fashion, including Saudi Arabian clothing, Asian outfits and African dresses.

said the fashion show not only highlights the various cultures at La Roche, but also unites students on campus.

“The biggest purpose of the show is the connection of the students from all different backgrounds and seeing it unfold,” she explained. “They all collectively get together and collaborate. They form friendships and personal connections. The show brings us together as a whole; we’re all different, all together and all united. When the community comes to this event, they sense the pride of our students on the runway.”

More than 45 students and faculty members participate in the GLOBE Fashion Show as models, performers or preshow participants, and some work behind the scenes to help with lighting, music and stage setup.

“It’s really a big group of people that we rely on to make the show happen,” Marley Romano, a junior interior design student, said. Ms. Romano has served as vice president of GLOBE since her freshman year.

Ms. Arend said exposing students to other origins accomplishes two goals: it promotes the College’s mission while providing an opportunity for students to learn, connect and grow.

“Diversity is the best thing about La Roche. You don’t get that everywhere. It’s amazing. It’s awesome. It embodies everything we stand for,” she said. “It adds so much more to the students’ academic piece—it’s the world piece. To me, that’s the beauty of college. You come from your little world, but isn’t that what college is all about—making it all grow?”

Both Ms. Romano and Ms. McElwain said that their worlds have grown because of the multicultural component of their La Roche education.

*“Diversity is the best thing about La Roche. You don’t get that everywhere. It’s amazing. It’s awesome. It embodies everything we stand for.”* - Lori Arend, LSW, Advisor of GLOBE, Director of Counseling and Health Services

Originally from Windber, Pa., Ms. Romano said her involvement with GLOBE, along with La Roche’s international focus, has provided her with something her small hometown never could: a new perspective.

“Before La Roche, I wasn’t really exposed to different cultures, so coming here was a nice change,” she said. “Being able to sit down and talk to international students has blown my mind because of how little I actually knew about the world around me.

“At the fashion show, it feels like we’re a

family, especially when the show is actually going on,” Ms. Romano added. “You’re all behind the scenes, you’re nervous. The Saudi Arabian students were grinning ear to ear all night. Having that show makes them so happy. It’s a rush. It’s fun to be a model for a night or perform. It brings us together.”

Ms. McElwain agreed. “Since I went to a small-town high school, coming to La Roche really taught me to be open minded and pay attention to things happening around the world,” she said.

“The fact that La Roche is concerned about the rest of the world, in addition to our little school in Pittsburgh, is a great way to gain a new perspective.”

## President Sister Candace Introcaso Honored by Pittsburgh Business Times



PHOTO: PITTSBURGH BUSINESS TIMES

*President Sister Candace Introcaso stands with Alan Robertson, publisher of the Pittsburgh Business Times, after receiving The BusinessWomen First Award at an awards ceremony at the Omni William Penn this spring.*

*“As president of La Roche College and in the spirit of its founders, the Sisters of Divine Providence, I continually have sought opportunities for our students, faculty and staff to become engaged in the Pittsburgh community and the broader global community, through awareness and public service.”*

— Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.

The Pittsburgh Business Times recently named La Roche College President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., as the recipient of a 2014 Diamond Award and a 2014 BusinessWomen First Award.

The Diamond Award is given to 12 of Pittsburgh's most outstanding top executives at for-profit companies or nonprofit organizations in western Pennsylvania. Awardees are selected based on evaluation of service philosophy, relationship to employees, and

contributions to the community, and are selected by an independent panel of judges, all of whom are former Diamond Award winners.

The BusinessWomen First Awards honor the region's most influential businesswomen at for-profits and nonprofits who have made a difference in their communities and blazed a trail for other women.

“I am humbled to receive these recognitions from the Pittsburgh Business Times and proud to be a part of the exciting educational community in Pittsburgh,” Sister Candace said. “As president of La Roche College and in the spirit of its founders, the Sisters of Divine Providence, I continually have sought opportunities for our students, faculty and staff to become engaged in the Pittsburgh community and the broader global community, through awareness and public service. It is La Roche's mission to prepare students to be responsible global citizens who are indeed best for the world.”

Since becoming the seventh president of La Roche College in 2004, Sister Candace has turned the College, which at the time faced significant challenges, into one of the finest liberal arts institutions in the region.

Embodying a customer-service philosophy that is based on responsiveness, respect and efficiency, she has created a community

that meets the needs of more than 1,400 students and benefactors, and created a collegiate atmosphere of intellectual and personal growth.

Under Sister Candace's leadership, La Roche's core curriculum was revised, which included instituting service learning—something that has resulted in students working with the homeless on Pittsburgh's North Side, conducting a Burundi Relief Campaign, working with the elderly and assisting children with disabilities.

New programs and majors have been introduced in health sciences, forensic sciences, biochemistry and national security studies; and advanced degrees have been added in nursing and accounting.

In keeping with the College's global focus, a Study Abroad+Study USA program was created to familiarize students with other cultures, and a Global Development and Humanitarian Aid program was added to train graduates and working professionals on best practices in humanitarian aid relief efforts.

During Sister Candace's tenure, campus facilities were dramatically improved, with the renovation of the academic library, dining hall, and interior design and graphics arts studios. The athletics program also was expanded.

Active in numerous civic and educational organizations, Sister Candace currently serves on the board of directors for the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, and the Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Pennsylvania, and serves on the board of trustees and the Credentials Review Committee and Community Advisory Council for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Sister Candace was presented with The BusinessWomen First Award at a gala dinner on Thursday, March 13 at the Omni William Penn and received the Diamond Award on Thursday, April 24 at a presentation at the Duquesne Club.



## McCandless Crossing, the newest development in the North Hills, is a neighbor to La Roche College.

Situated across Babcock Boulevard, McCandless Crossing will offer students both entertainment and employment within walking distance. La Roche students will have access to nearby shopping and dining opportunities, plus the ability to work as they study toward their degrees.

Once complete, the development will feature:

- More than 20 major retailers, restaurants and banks
- A modern 12-screen Cinemark movie theater
- Employment and internship possibilities for our students

### Stores that will make up McCandless Crossing upon completion:

- |   |   |  |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| <b>PHASE I</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowe's Home Improvement</li> <li>• SportClips</li> <li>• Geico Insurance</li> <li>• DiBella's Old Fashioned Subs</li> <li>• Handel's Homemade Ice Cream &amp; Yogurt</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verizon</li> <li>• Nail Salon II</li> <li>• IHOP</li> <li>• Fifth Third Bank (proposed)</li> </ul> | <b>PHASE II</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WesBanco</li> <li>• CVS Pharmacy</li> </ul> | <b>PHASE III</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LA Fitness</li> <li>• Home 2 Suites by Hilton</li> <li>• DoodleBugs Childcare</li> <li>• Dentistry for Kids</li> </ul> | <b>PHASE IV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cinemark 12-screen theater</li> <li>• Bonefish Grill</li> <li>• Dick's Sporting Goods</li> <li>• HomeGoods</li> <li>• Longhorn Steakhouse</li> <li>• Panera Bread</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Watch</li> <li>• Trader Joe's</li> <li>• Chipotle</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|

PHOTO: BOAT U.S. COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES



Joseph Malachosky and Jonathan Coholich

## La Roche Fishing Team Ranks 20th in the U.S.

According to national rankings by the Association of Collegiate Anglers, La Roche College's fishing team ranks 20th in the nation.

The Association bases its top 200 rankings on a composite index, drawing results from the three main sponsors of college fishing tournaments in the United States: Cabela's Boat U.S., BASSMASTERS and the FLW college tours.

This year, the La Roche fishing team competed in the Cabela's Big Bass

tournament at Kentucky Lake in Paris, Tenn. Out of 189 competitors from across the country, Jonathan Coholich, a recent biology graduate, finished in 15th place with a 5.44 pound lunker, which ranked third in his flight. Freshman Joseph Malachosky finished in ninth place in his flight, with a 4.25 pound largemouth.

"Since the club was created four years ago, it has improved every year due to experience and opportunities presented," Mr. Coholich said.

For a national ranking, the team participated in high-competition tournaments, three of which will appear on NBC Sports Network.

"When you are fishing multi-day tournaments, the weather and water condition are variables. I believe what makes a good fisherman is the ability to constantly learn, take advice, and be able to adapt to change," he said. "There is not one fisherman in the professional ranks who would tell you that he isn't constantly learning."

As a result of their national ranking, the team was invited last month to compete in the Cabela's Boat U.S. National Championship in Florence, Ala. on Pickwick Lake.



## New Campus Signage

This spring, La Roche installed cast aluminum painted letters on campus buildings to help students, staff, guests and emergency crews easily identify them. Welcome and directional signage also was installed throughout campus.



# **ATHLETES**

**to**

# **WATCH**



**They're competitive.**  
**They're dedicated.**  
**They know the value of teamwork.**

*Meet the La Roche College student athletes who have led our spring sports and basketball teams to postseason tournaments, conference championships and hard-earned wins.*

## COLIN FEIKLES

### **Career highlights:**

ABCA/Rawlings Third Team All-American; NCAA Div. III National Player of the Week; D3Baseball Team of the Week; ECAC Player of the Week; AMCC Player of the Week. Led AMCC Conference in batting average, on base percentage, slugging percentage, hits, doubles, RBI, and total bases. Helped lead the Redhawks to the AMCC Regular Season Championship.

**Year:** Junior | **Major:** Health Science

**Hometown:** Edinboro, PA

### **What he likes about playing baseball:**

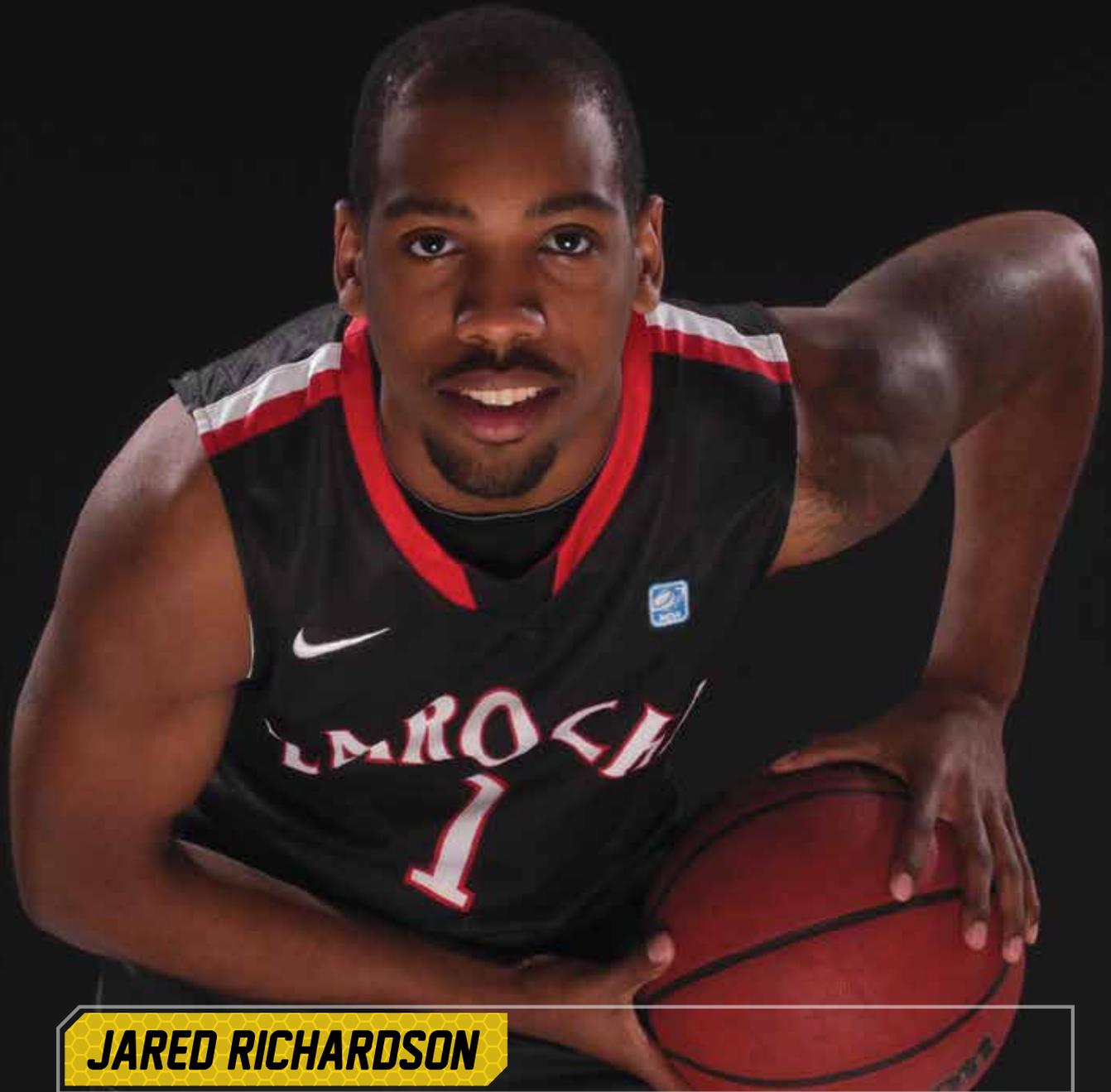
"I love playing the game itself; it's America's pastime. Being outside on the field with my teammates always is a good time. Baseball also brought me closer to my dad, so he became a best friend of mine, which I am grateful for."

**Goals for the future:** Getting a master's degree in occupational therapy.

**Why he chose La Roche:** "I liked the small campus because I'm from a small town. It was an easier transition for me than going to a big school. I like the baseball team, and Chase Rowe is a great coach."

**How baseball has enhanced his college experience:** "Being on this team taught me some life lessons. Coach Rowe provides good tips relating to baseball and life. The team also helps me to have a lot of fun. Most of us live on campus together, which helps us become closer as a family and play well on the field."





## JARED RICHARDSON

**Year:** Sophomore | **Major:** Film, Media and Communications | **Hometown:** Philadelphia, PA

**Career highlights:** Scored a career-high 6 points and hit 2 three-pointers in the team's Dec. 14 win over D'Youville.

**What he likes about basketball:** "Playing basketball helps me focus on what's happening at that second. If there is something going on in my life, I'm not thinking about it whatsoever."

**How basketball has enhanced his college experience:** "I'm not a talkative guy, so basketball improved my college experience by allowing me to create friendships I otherwise might not have formed. Also, I'm able to transition skills such as discipline, character and leadership from on the court to my everyday life off the court."

**Goals for the future:** "My goals are to complete college with good grades and be successful in my field of study."

**Why he chose La Roche:** "La Roche offered the programs that allowed me to study my major and play basketball."

# DANASHA HARRIS

**Year:** Freshman | **Major:** Accounting

**Hometown:** Uniontown, PA

**Career highlights:** AMCC Defensive Player of the Year; 2-Time AMCC Player of the Week. Led the AMCC Conference in field goal percentage, steals and offensive rebounds. Led the Lady Redhawks to an AMCC Conference Championship.

**What she likes about basketball:** "I like the atmosphere of it all. You form bonds with your teammates and your coaches – you become a family. You sweat, you cry and you bleed together. But it's worth it, especially when you are part of a team that's four-peat champions."

**How playing basketball has enhanced her college experience:** "I know a lot more people because I'm an athlete. My best friends are my teammates."

**Goals for the future:** Graduate on the Dean's list and get a job.

**Why she chose La Roche:** "I chose La Roche because it was a small college, and that's what I'm used to. My high school was small – there were about 20-25 kids in a classroom. I also heard the basketball team wasn't too bad either!"





## SARA KOHLI

**Career highlights:** Starting second baseman for the La Roche softball team. Helped the Lady Redhawks to an AMCC Tournament berth. Returned to the field after multiple surgeries and a car accident.

**Year:** Junior | **Major:** Health Science | **Hometown:** Dallas, PA

**What she likes about playing softball:** “I like the competitiveness, making memories with teammates, the challenges of playing at this level and the reward that comes with it.”

**Goals for the future:** Attend nursing school after graduation.

**Why she chose La Roche:** “I chose La Roche because of the small class sizes, location, diversity of the student population and the opportunity to play softball.”

**How softball has enhanced her college experience:** “Softball helped me to form friendships and presented opportunities to me, such as traveling to Italy.”

# JONATHAN MONAHAN

**Year:** Junior | **Major:** Radiologic Technology

**Hometown:** Shaler Township, Pittsburgh, PA

**Career highlights:** Was the top scorer among underclass with 10 goals this season. Has 25 career goals which is seventh on La Roche's all-time scoring list.

**What he likes about lacrosse:** "Playing with a family of brothers all working toward the common goal of winning games as a team."

**How playing lacrosse has enhanced his college experience:** "Lacrosse helps me manage my time effectively. I stay focused on my school work while still having fun on and off the field with my teammates."

**Goals for the future:** "To graduate and share my knowledge of lacrosse as a coach in the Pittsburgh area."

**Why he chose La Roche:** "To play lacrosse at the next level while remaining close to home. I also chose La Roche because it is a highly reputable school."





### Two Redhawks Named to AMCC All-Conference Third Team Performers

The men's basketball team had a successful season, making their fourth consecutive AMCC Tournament appearance and enjoying their sixth straight winning season. David Jackson and Andre Flanigan had fantastic senior seasons and both made the AMCC All-Conference Third Team.

Jackson, a second teamer last year, was one of the AMCC's top rebounders. He finished second in the AMCC in offensive rebounds, third in defensive rebounds, and fourth in total rebounds and rebounds per game. He averaged 11.8 points and 9.3 rebounds and graduated as the school's all-time leading rebounder and a 1,000 point scorer. Jackson also was the AMCC Player of the Week in December 2013.

Flanigan averaged 14.2 points and 3.7 assists to garner third team honors. He finished his career among the school's all-time leaders in steals, assists and games played, and scored his 1,000th career point in a victory over Pitt-Greensburg.



### La Roche Baseball Enjoys Record-Breaking Season

La Roche College baseball (31-15) ended its most successful season to date after competing for an NCAA Regional title. The Redhawks won their second AMCC championship in the past three seasons and consistently received top 25 votes in both D3Baseball's and NCBWA's national polls.

Despite a loss to UAA Champion Case Western Reserve (32-11) that eliminated them from the NCAA Tournament, the team enjoyed a tremendous year, setting records in wins (31) and wins against top 25 opponents (4). The team also broke numerous statistical records and led the nation in slugging percentage and triples, while ranking in the top 10 in six other categories.

Colin Feikles was named an ABCA/Rawlings Third Team All-American and the AMCC Conference's Player of the Year, and became the school's first-ever NCAA Div. III National Player of the Week. He also was selected as the ECAC Player of the Week, AMCC Player of the Week, and named to D3Baseball.com's Team of the Week.

Feikles and Tyler Ferguson were named to the Mideast All-Region First Team and Brian Tougher was a Third Team selection. A record 11 Redhawks made the AMCC All-Conference Team, including seven first teamers. In addition, head coach Chase Rowe was voted as the conference's Coach of the Year.

Ferguson made history by breaking the AMCC's single season win and strikeout record. Ferguson tied for the nation's lead in wins (11) and finished second in the nation in strikeouts. He also matched current assistant coach James Connelly as the school's all-time wins leader.





## AMCC Champion Lady Redhawks Appear in Four Consecutive NCAA Tournaments

The AMCC Conference Champion women's basketball team finished its season strong with an overall record of 23-5, won a fourth straight AMCC Championship, and became the first AMCC team to appear in four consecutive NCAA Tournaments.

Senior guard Casie Cygan had a tremendous senior season. She was named to the All-Region Third Team, AMCC All-Conference First Team, and passed teammate Chantelle Jennings to become the school's all-time leading scorer. Cygan led the AMCC in scoring (18.3 ppg) and field goals and ranked in the conference's top 10 in field goal percentage, 3-pointers, free throws and steals. She was twice named AMCC Player of the Week.

Three other members of the La Roche women's basketball team were honored by the AMCC. Danasha Harris was named the AMCC Defensive Player of the Year after leading the conference in steals, offensive rebounds and field goal percentage, while LaShauna Brothers was a Second Team honoree and Mackenzie O'Donnell made the Third Team.



## Zozos, Palumbo and McLay Named to All-Conference Team

The La Roche College softball team (13-15) was well represented on the AMCC All-Conference Team. Catcher Kaylee Zozos and DP Elizabeth Palumbo were named to the All-Conference Second Team, while right fielder Kimberly McLay was an All-Conference Third Team selection.

Zozos broke La Roche's single season home run record and led the team in RBI, slugging percentage, and on base percentage. She homered twice in a game against Penn State Altoona and belted a grand slam against Medaille. Zozos led the AMCC in home runs and finished third in RBI and walks.

Palumbo was stellar in her role as the DP and led the team with a .453 batting average and 8 stolen bases. She finished fifth in the AMCC in both categories and her .453 average is the highest for a Lady Redhawk in five years.

McLay hit .327 and led the Lady Redhawks with 4 triples. She tied for the team lead in hits, with 35, and played gold-glove caliber defense in right field.



## Construction of New Athletic Complex Moves Forward

In March 2014, La Roche College began the \$2 million renovation project of its athletic complex, with Massaro Corporation as the general contractor.

The installation of a synthetic turf field will be completed in June. Concessions, restrooms, a pavilion and landscaping will all be finished late summer in time for the fall sports season. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is being planned for fall 2014.

For more information or to support the project, please contact Michael Andreola at 412-536-1096 or [michael.andreola@laroche.edu](mailto:michael.andreola@laroche.edu)



# THE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONSHIP BELTS

A graphic design degree and a passion for professional wrestling led Andrew Lazarchik '99 to a successful and uncommon career.

BY KURT HACKIMER '12 | PHOTOS: JEFF ZOET | "THE MIZ" PHOTO PROVIDED BY WWE

While a college education promises to provide students with the tools they need to succeed, increasingly fewer college graduates end up employed in their chosen fields.

Positions at law firms, corporate offices and advertising agencies are frequently filled with former poets, journalists and artists whose skills have been repurposed to fit the market.

Although today's workforce pushes many college graduates into unexpected career paths, others are able to use their skills to achieve their dreams. Andrew Lazarchik, a La Roche College alumnus from Latrobe, Pa., is one of those people.

A lifelong wrestling fan, Mr. Lazarchik has made a career out of designing and producing customized championship title belts, primarily for professional wrestling organizations.

"I create each belt from hand, one at a

time," Mr. Lazarchik said. "Every job is a custom job. There is no way to make it mass-produced."

Mr. Lazarchik's business, Wildcat Championship Belts, has produced some of the most recognizable title belts in modern day professional wrestling.

Wildcat Belts produced the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) United States Championship belt, which appears regularly on WWE's globally televised weekly programming. Wildcat Belts also created Total Nonstop Action (TNA) Wrestling's Heavyweight and X Division titles.

Wildcat Belts has moved from being a business that only produces wrestling belts to a company providing belts for mixed martial arts promotions, fantasy football leagues, corporate awards and even the Nathan's Famous Hotdog Eating Contest.

Currently non-wrestling belts make up about 60 percent of Mr. Lazarchik's

business, which has made it possible for him to turn his belt-making company into a full-time operation.

But before Mr. Lazarchik was an acclaimed belt-maker, he was a self-proclaimed "belt mark."

"I've been watching wrestling since 1984 whenever Hulk Hogan first came onto the scene," he said. "My brothers and most of my friends grew out of it, but I never did. My thing was always wrestling."

Mr. Lazarchik's interest in title belts began when he and his best friend would continually sketch reproductions of Hulk Hogan's World Heavyweight Championship on 100-foot spools of scrap paper that his aunt had brought home from work.

"The Internet wasn't around yet, so I had a VHS tape that I used to pause to see what [the belt] looked like," he explained. "I remember looking through hours of footage to find a good shot of the title belt."

Mr. Lazarchik enrolled in La Roche's graphic design program not only because he felt he was a gifted artist, but because he had aspirations of working for WWE, then known as the World Wrestling Federation.

Mr. Lazarchik credits La Roche for teaching him the fundamentals of design, but the technical skills he developed at the College may have been secondary to the relationships he formed while he was a student.

"All of my software knowledge I learned at La Roche. The same stuff I learned in 1995 is the same stuff that I'm making a living off of now," he said. "But in wrestling it's all who you know."

At La Roche, Mr. Lazarchik attended his first independent wrestling show, pro wrestling's quasi-minor league. At this show, he was introduced to Rob Mazzie, a journeyman professional wrestler who was promoting shows in the Pittsburgh area.

The two became friends, and Mr. Mazzie introduced Mr. Lazarchik to a bevy of contacts within the wrestling business, including former Extreme Championship Wrestling stars The Blue Meanie and wrestling legend Ken Jagan (Lord Zoltan), who helped build Mr. Lazarchik's reputation throughout the independent wrestling scene. After getting his foot in the door with Mr. Mazzie, Mr. Lazarchik started out doing whatever he could to make money on the local wrestling scene.

"In those days, wrestling companies didn't have their own camera crews, so I went out and bought a video camera," he said. "It was \$800. I put it on a credit card."

After he bought the camera, wrestling promoters from around western Pennsylvania hired Mr. Lazarchik to record their shows and provide commentary for the video releases.

He frequently participated in wrestling shows as a referee or a manager and eventually started his own business designing and printing flyers at shows.

After several years of promoting wrestling shows alongside veteran Pittsburgh wrestling promoter Norm Connors, Mr. Lazarchik decided to give his belt business a serious try.

While his initial title belts were made out of scrapped aluminum siding and rubber roofing, he eventually developed a streamlined process for designing belts.

When a client inquires about having a belt made, Mr. Lazarchik first creates the design in Adobe Illustrator. Next, he sends the design to his "metal guy" who crafts the metallic belt design out of zinc, then electroplates it in gold or nickel.

While the metal is fashioned, Mr. Lazarchik cuts the belt strap out of a large piece of cowhide. When the metal is finished, he does whatever painting is necessary and attaches it to the strap.



*Mr. Lazarchik adds jewels to a belt that he created for the winner of the Annual Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating Contest at Nathan's Famous on Brooklyn's Coney Island.*

But even more interesting than this process is how, through a little luck and a lot of determination, Mr. Lazarchik earned the opportunity to make these title belts.

On a hunch in 2006, he contacted the Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Company about updating the trophy for their Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest.

"The belt was just a mustard yellow weightlifting belt with some gems glued onto it," Mr. Lazarchik said. "I saw the president of the company on The Food Network and sent him my portfolio."

The company initially said it wasn't interested, but one week before the 2007 contest, Mr. Lazarchik received a call.

"They called and said that the champion, Takeru Kobayashi, lost the belt and they needed another one in a week. These belts usually take more than a month to make, but I said okay," Mr. Lazarchik said.

Even with the airtight time restraints, Mr. Lazarchik completed the belt on time. The basic design of the belt is still used by Nathan's today.

That is not the only client that Mr. Lazarchik found through sheer determination.

Mr. Lazarchik followed WWE on tour, cornered ring announcer Howard Finkel and asked for a contact.

When he finally contacted WWE, he drove to its headquarters in Stamford, Conn. to sell belts.

His contract with TNA Wrestling came about after he guessed the owner's email address and sent her a portfolio.

"Where there's a will, there's a way. That's kind of my motto," he said. "Nobody taught me how to do these belts. I had to figure it out on my own through trial and error."

As a result, Mr. Lazarchik has become an integral piece of the fabric of professional wrestling. To learn more about his work, visit [wildcatbelts.com](http://wildcatbelts.com).

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI 2014



Established during La Roche College's 50th anniversary year, the Distinguished Alumni Circle honors La Roche graduates for their outstanding professional achievements and significant dedication to community service. In April 2014, La Roche inducted 12 additional alumni whose lives reflect the fundamental values of the College's mission.



**Rebecca A. Bozym '01, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor of Chemistry  
La Roche College*

Alumna Rebecca A. Bozym has made a significant impact at La Roche College and within the medical science field.

After earning a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from La Roche in 2001, Dr. Bozym pursued graduate work. She holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Now an assistant professor of chemistry at La Roche, she serves as an advisor to the chemistry, biochemistry and health science majors and is a member of the Academic Standards Committee and Honors Institute Committee.

Dr. Bozym's research has appeared in various national and international scientific journals. In 2006 and 2007, she received a Most Cited Article Award from the ACS Journal of Chemical Biology, one of the top publications in the field. The article discussed Dr. Bozym's dissertation research, which utilized a biological mechanism to insert a zinc detector into cells, leading to the first quantitative measurement of intracellular free zinc.

Zinc detection is essential to researching zinc levels for Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy and other major human health concerns. Her research resulted in a patent and is being advanced by a number of medical science companies.

"The attention from my professors at La Roche, and the support that they gave me, showed me I could achieve greater goals than I imagined. Dr. Don Fujito's guidance gave me the confidence to push on to graduate school. My professors never doubted my capabilities and convinced me that I should continue my education," Dr. Bozym said. "Without that attention and support, I am honestly not sure what I would be doing today. It made me want to be a professor like Dr. Fujito and help students achieve their dreams."



**David R. Brudy '82**

*Chief Executive Officer  
DRB Group LLC*

A love for learning helped Dave Brudy become a leader in a competitive business environment.

As chief executive officer of DRB Group LLC, Mr. Brudy leads a team of marketing professionals, creating strategic business plans and developing marketing campaigns for private and Fortune 500 companies in the United States.

Across the U.S., his team develops and executes business plans, analyzing and enhancing current operations, sales, and human relations, and develops relationships with key members of municipalities and government.

"I loved going to school and learning. Professors Stan Rosenburg, Paul Kremen and Donald Orr taught many of the practices that I still use today," Mr. Brudy explained. "Attaining a higher education allowed me to propel ahead in the business world."

Mr. Brudy also is a leader in his community. A Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, he has served as church council president and is presently a Eucharistic minister, usher and head of the Children's Liturgy Ministry at his church.

Previously he served as a board member for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Media Association of Pittsburgh, and was a keynote speaker for the Pennsylvania Department of Energy's B2B Choice Program. He also is an Animal Rescue League supporter.



### Russell L. Bynum '79

*President*  
Bynums Marketing &  
Communications Inc.

Russell Bynum used his graphic design degree to start his own advertising agency, Bynums Marketing & Communications Inc.

As president of the company, Mr. Bynum is responsible for agency and account management, advertising planning, personnel management, design, layout, illustration, audio and video direction, photo direction, public relations and event planning.

"La Roche taught me how to think, question and explore," Mr. Bynum said. "The well-rounded graphics program included technical and creative aspects. The other courses that supplemented my design courses gave me the information that made it easier for me to start a business of my own. La Roche helped me to release the power of creativity."

Outside of work, Mr. Bynum serves as a licentiate minister and Sunday School superintendent at Brown Chapel AME Church, board president of Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti, and graduation coach for the Urban League AAAT Program. His previous memberships include Pittsburgh Advertising Federation, American Marketing Association and the Pittsburgh Regional Minority Purchasing Council.



### James J. Holtzman '96

*Personal Chief Financial Officer  
and Shareholder*  
Legend Financial Advisors Inc.®

An internship during James Holtzman's sophomore year at La Roche College led to a long-term relationship with his current

employer, Legend Financial Advisors Inc.®

Mr. Holtzman, who now works as the firm's personal chief financial officer and shareholder, is responsible for meeting with clients, researching client issues, and preparing and presenting financial planning cases and updates. He also is a member of the financial planning, investment management, advanced technology and education committees, and serves as the firm's income tax and education funding and planning specialist.

Former Accounting Professor Bernie Michalek introduced Mr. Holtzman to the owner of Legend Financial Advisors Inc.® when he was still a student. The introduction resulted in an internship and a relationship that evolved until Mr. Holtzman joined the firm as a full-time employee in May 2001.

"La Roche made a difference in my life by having professors who not only taught the course material but also provided me with real-world and practical experience. I was fortunate to develop personal relationships with professors who also were mentors," Mr. Holtzman said.



### Susan E. Hoolahan, MSN '91

*Chief Nursing Officer and  
Vice President of Patient Care*  
UPMC Passavant

At UPMC Passavant, Susan E. Hoolahan sets the standard for patient care.

Ms. Hoolahan functions as the nurse executive in her role as chief nursing officer and vice president of patient care. She is board certified in nursing administration. Her duties in this role include: overseeing budget, establishing standards of nursing practice, and approving nursing policies and procedures, nursing standards of patient care and standards of practice. Ms. Hoolahan also is involved in system-wide UPMC leadership councils and committees where she represents nursing.

She is responsible for a range of departments within the nursing and patient care division: Inpatient Nursing Services, Critical Care, Cardiovascular Services, Care Management and Social Services, Education, the Emergency Department, Infection Control, Patient Transport, IV Team, Nurse Practitioners, Nursing Informatics, Patient Relations, Pharmacy, Quality and Risk Management, Rehabilitation, Respiratory Therapy, Sleep Lab and the Transitional Care Unit.

"Obtaining my MSN from La Roche opened many opportunities to advance in my career," Ms. Hoolahan said.

She was selected as one of 20 nurse executives across the country to be in a three-year Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows program (2008-2011) to prepare nurse executives to lead health care policy and health care in senior executive roles.

In her community, Ms. Hoolahan has served on the Chatham University Advisory Board, California University of Pennsylvania MSN Program Advisory Board and the CNO Advisory Council for Hospital Association of Pennsylvania. She is former president of Southwestern Pennsylvania Organization of Nurse Leaders and current president of Pennsylvania Organization of Nurse Leaders. She serves as a magnet appraiser for the American Nurse Credentialing Center.



As director of volunteer resources, she has developed programs that impact more than 100 different hospital departments, involving more than 400 volunteers at AGH and AGH Suburban Campus. The volunteer programs range from making dignity gowns for breast cancer patients, to pet therapy visits with patients and supplying the nursing staff with a wellness cart for afternoon breaks.



### Marjorie A. Jacobs '87

*Executive Director, Care Management/Quality*  
UPMC St. Margaret

After graduating from La Roche College, Marjorie Jacobs moved on to build a successful career in the health care industry.

At UPMC St. Margaret, Ms. Jacobs works as the executive director of care management and quality. In this leadership position, she is responsible for planning, organizing and directing all administrative and functional activities related to hospital and physician quality. She provides administrative leadership and performance improvement activities, patient flow, quality resource management and discharge planning, in collaboration with all hospital administrative staff and physician leadership.

Ms. Jacobs also is responsible for ensuring compliance with external regulatory entities related to quality and safety, and provides leadership in the fulfillment of quality initiatives and expectations of the hospital.

“La Roche was one of the first colleges to offer BSN and MSN programs for women who were actively working,” she said. “I graduated from a diploma program in nursing and was able to obtain, on a part-time basis, my BSN and MSN degrees when no other school at that time afforded this opportunity.”

Ms. Jacobs is a financial contributor to the St. Margaret Foundation and is a volunteer for Foundation and Hospital-sponsored events, including the annual 5K Fitness Classic. She also participates in Day of Caring, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Scouting for Food, Dress for Success, HAVIN Women's Shelter and the American Heart Association.

Ms. Kopar, who in 1994 earned a Bachelor of Science in administration/management from La Roche, said, “My job has turned into my mission. After three decades, I continue to be inspired to create new opportunities for our volunteers to bring compassionate care to the patients we serve.”

A certified administrator of volunteer services, she was honored with the Allegheny General Hospital Promise President's Award in 1995, and in 2006, she received the Burston Award for Outstanding Achievement in Volunteer Administration from the Pennsylvania Society of Directors of Volunteer Services. Over the years, Ms. Kopar has held numerous board and committee positions for the Pennsylvania Society of Directors of Volunteer Services. Her other volunteer initiatives include: the AGH Blood Drive, United Way campaigns, Day of Caring and CCD instruction at her local church.

In addition to her role as director of volunteer resources, Ms. Kopar is the manager of the AGH-Suburban Campus Gift Corner in Bellevue, Pa. She is co-author of two articles published by the American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine and is a high school mentor for City High Charter School and Project Move Program.



### April Lanotte '95

*Senior Instructor*  
University of Colorado  
at Colorado Springs  
*Curriculum Consultant*  
NASA Aeronautics Research Mission  
Directorate and Challenger Center  
for Space Science Education

To April Lanotte, limits are non-existent, especially when they're applied to her profession.

At the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS), Ms. Lanotte works as a senior instructor for the UCCSTeach program and instructs science and math majors through educational pedagogy courses. In addition to her work at UCCS, Ms. Lanotte is an educational specialist for NASA-Langley Research Center. In this role, she develops and edits aeronautics curriculum and guides teacher professional development and outreach.

### Jennifer L. Kopar '94

*Director, Volunteer Resources*  
Allegheny General Hospital

For more than 30 years, Jennifer L. Kopar has organized and mobilized thousands of volunteers for Allegheny General Hospital (AGH).

"The foundational, well-rounded approach to education at La Roche helped me succeed in my professional and personal life in so many ways," Ms. Lanotte said. "I never felt limited by one degree, or one focus, but was instead encouraged to be a whole person."

Since 2008, she has been a member of the M.I.T. Network of Educators in Science and Technology and was elected to the board of directors in 2013. Ms. Lanotte also serves as a guiding member of the Colorado Department of Education's STEM Think Tank.

Ms. Lanotte, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature from La Roche in 1995, said the College had a profound impact on her life, especially the diverse student body.

She said, "For a small-town girl like me, it was eye-opening to spend time with new friends whose lives were so incredibly different and often difficult. We were the same and different at the same time. I will never forget what I learned about the world by being a part of theirs."



### Tedd (Marefka) Trabert '96

*Senior Director of Human Resources  
and Operations*  
Health Choice Network of Florida

La Roche laid the groundwork for Tedd (Marefka) Trabert's career path, but his own ambition helped him to become a leader at work and in his community.

Mr. Trabert works as senior director of human resources and operations for Health Choice Network of Florida, a national network of 44 federally qualified community health centers and community mental health centers. He also is responsible for the human resources management of a Medicaid Provider insuring approximately 125,000 people in the state of Florida.

"La Roche firmly embedded in me the drive to look outside the box and do more for my community," Mr. Trabert said. "I have taken the opportunity to strive for more at each job."

Mr. Trabert serves on the board of directors for The American Society for Health Care Human Resources Administration of the American Hospital Association and was elected to a two-year term for the Community Affairs Action Board in Wilton Manors, Fla. He is chair of the Workplace Wellness Committee for the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade. Mr. Trabert also was a committee member for the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce HR and Business Education Committee.



### Sharon Scheidemantle '86

*Broker of Record, Realtor*  
Achieve Realty

As broker of record for Achieve Realty, Sharon Scheidemantle supervises more than 40 agents on a daily basis.

In this position, Ms. Scheidemantle provides leadership and training opportunities. She also lists, sells and leases both residential and commercial properties throughout Western Pennsylvania.

Active in her community, Ms. Scheidemantle has served on the board of directors for the Realtor's Association of Metro Pittsburgh and the board of directors for Friends of Pine Community Parks. Previously she was president of the Women's Council for the Builder's Association of Metro Pittsburgh and was named a Pennsylvania Top 50 Women in Business in 2008. Presently she is active in the Rich-Mar Rotary Club and Mars/Seven Fields Lions Club.

A graduate of La Roche's Master's in Human Resources Management program, Ms. Scheidemantle said she continues to use the knowledge she acquired as a student.

"Although I have never worked in the human resources world, I use the skills and knowledge that I gained through the program every day in the real estate industry," she explained. "The Statistics and Organizational Development courses, in particular, contribute to my success in real estate."



### Christine J. Spadafor '79

*President and CEO*  
SpadaforClay Group Inc.  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
St. Jude's Ranch for Children

Christine J. Spadafor is president, chief executive officer and founder of SpadaforClay Group Inc., a global consulting firm.

She has a proven track record of optimizing performance through leadership of enterprise-wide strategy development, operational improvements and corporate restructurings in small to large companies. An accomplished executive, Ms. Spadafor also serves on the board of directors of Boyd Gaming Corporation, a NYSE publicly traded company.

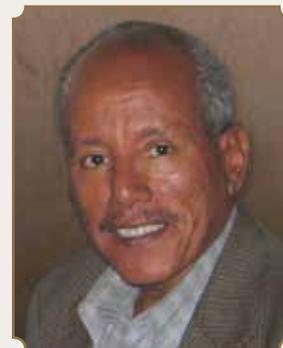
Ms. Spadafor has held various positions throughout her career. She was a partner in three international management consulting firms, is a registered nurse and published author, was a corporate

*CELEBRATE LA ROCHE!*  
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS CEREMONY 2014



attorney, and served as an advisor on environmental issues for the United Nations in China. In 2008, the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association named Ms. Spadafor as one of the top 20 U.S. female attorneys with exceptional business expertise.

Currently, Ms. Spadafor serves as chief executive officer of St. Jude's Ranch for Children, a nonprofit in Boulder City, Nev., serving abused, abandoned and homeless children. Under her leadership, the Ranch achieved a remarkable financial and operational turnaround after nearing bankruptcy, and was selected as Nonprofit of the Year 2012-2013 by the Southern Nevada Business Press. The Ranch's turnaround story developed into a case study co-authored by Ms. Spadafor and is taught in the MBA curriculum at Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, where Ms. Spadafor participates in the Alan Smith Visiting Executive Program in the Entrepreneurship in the Social Sector and Strategic Leadership programs.



Kessete Teweldebrhan '91

*Anesthesia Educator*  
College of Nursing and  
Health Technologies

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

After graduating from La Roche with a nursing degree in 1991, he returned to Ethiopia, his residence country, to educate nurse anesthetists and help decrease mortality and morbidity rates, especially among women and children. A professional nurse, midwife and nurse anesthetist, Mr. Teweldebrhan was one of few health professionals who returned to Ethiopia after earning American professional licenses. Mr. Teweldebrhan continued to work in Ethiopia until he was deported to Eritrea because of his Eritrean ethnic origin in 1998. He, his daughter and his son became refugees and were separated from his wife and his other son. His family eventually reunited in Eritrea five months later.

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

During his 31 years of professional service in Ethiopia and as founder and director of the School of Anesthesia in Ethiopia, he has helped to produce 186 nurse anesthetists, who covered approximately 96 percent of all anesthesia services throughout Ethiopia until the time of his deportation.

# ALUMNI RETURN FOR HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2014

A weekend full of reunions and athletic events offered the chance for nearly 200 alumni to reconnect and reflect on their years as La Roche College students.



## MEN'S SOCCER GAME AND LUNCHEON

Alumni and current students competed in the men's soccer game at the Alpha School Field across from campus on Saturday, April 12. Thirty-three people registered for the game.



## ACADEMIC REUNIONS: NURSING AND EDUCATION

This year, the College invited nursing, nurse anesthesia and education graduates to reunite and reflect with other alumni and faculty. More than 40 nursing graduates, 21 nurse anesthetists and 42 education alumni returned to campus.



## 5K ON CAMPUS

Runners registered to break a sweat in a 5K race on the final day of Homecoming Weekend. Held on campus, the event offered challenges for all fitness levels and explored some of the best features of the La Roche campus.



## GENERAL ALUMNI RECEPTION AND DINNER

Alumni and their guests gathered for dinner and drinks at the General Alumni Reception and Dinner in the College Center Square on Saturday, April 12. The event invited all alumni to reconnect with former classmates, faculty and administration.



## INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI REUNION

International alumni raised \$8,250 and presented a check to President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D. The money will support the Pacem In Terris fund and provide scholarships for future students coming from conflict, post-conflict and developing nations.



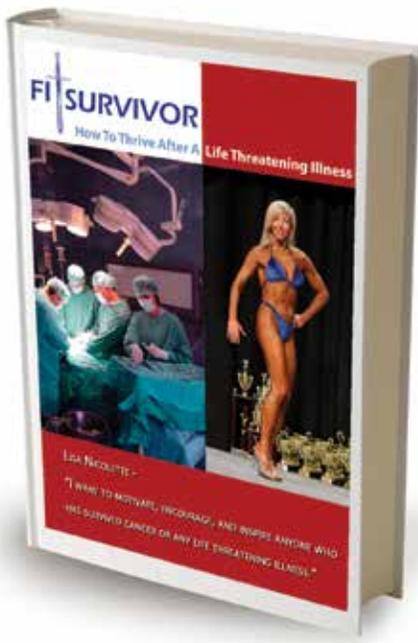
## AN AFTERNOON WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Presented by the La Roche Student Government Association, this family-friendly event offered crafts, games and an egg hunt for alumni and their children in the College Center Square on Sunday, April 13.

# ALUMNI Bookshelf



La Roche alumni are experts in the art of story telling. Using their expertise and life experience, graduates of all backgrounds and disciplines have authored or edited books for both scholars and general audiences. From cancer survival and the global economy, to witchcraft and World War I, these latest books offer unique and compelling narratives.



## FITSURVIVOR: How to Thrive After a Life Threatening Illness

- LISA NICOLETTE '97

**C**ancer never arrives at an opportune time, but sometimes its timing can be downright cruel. Consider Lisa Nicolette, former bodybuilder and author of the eBook “Fitsurvivor: How to Thrive After a Life Threatening Illness.”

Ms. Nicolette, a 1997 psychology graduate, is a startling physical specimen. Photographs of Ms. Nicolette’s bodybuilding career reveal a statuesque woman, uniformly bronzed and prominently showcasing muscles that some people aren’t even aware they have.

In December 2007, she was training for her first serious bodybuilding competition when she felt a lump on her right breast. Soon after, Ms. Nicolette was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her scheduled date for surgery was in the same month that she was supposed to make her bodybuilding debut.

“When I was diagnosed with cancer, I went to the gym and just went completely nuts,” Ms. Nicolette said. “I trained harder and heavier than I ever did because I didn’t know if I’d survive the surgery.”

After her surgery, a lumpectomy and removal of five lymph nodes, Ms. Nicolette began radiation treatments. During radiation, doctors recommend that patients not lift anything more than 20 pounds. Ms. Nicolette, who routinely deadlifted more than 100 pounds, neglected this advice and continued her routine. By 2010, following two years of training through exhaustion caused by radiation treatment, Ms. Nicolette was “in the best shape of her life.”

She finally made her debut at the 2010 Mid Atlantic Grand Prix and finished

fourth. She competed three more times after that, last in 2012.

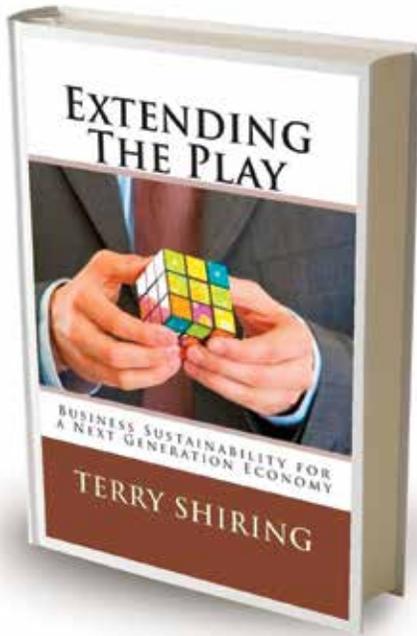
Post-bodybuilding, Ms. Nicolette has focused her remarkable energy on motivating people who find themselves in a similar situation as she was in 2007.

In “Fitsurvivor,” she offers her personal insight into the life of a cancer survivor and prominently uses images to depict how she and other ailing people can overcome adversity and achieve success.

“I got the idea for the book because I started to go around and give lectures for cancer support groups,” Ms. Nicolette said. “I went around giving lectures to cancer patients to get to the gym, and I got a lot of positive feedback.”

In addition to her eBook, Ms. Nicolette runs [fitsurvivor.com](http://fitsurvivor.com), where she reaches out to cancer patients, survivors, and military veterans, whom she calls “Wounded Warriors,” in an effort to motivate them to continue to follow their dreams.

“I wanted to write a book that would motivate people across the board,” she said. “Just because you have cancer doesn’t mean you have to give up on your dreams. If I can do it, so can you.”



**EXTENDING THE PLAY:**  
Business Sustainability  
for a Next Generation  
Economy

– TERRY SHIRING '00

**W**ithin the next decade, the global economy is due for a significant change as emerging markets begin to overtake traditional Western leaders.

In his book “Extending the Play: Business Sustainability for a Next Generation Economy,” business consultant Terry Shiring '00 aims to prepare students and young entrepreneurs for the imminent shift in global economic power and to take advantage of opportunities in emerging markets.

“The new economy is bent on not only setting your strategies to deliver experiences to your market, but how you are going to include the needs of a variety of cultures,” Mr. Shiring said. “It’s no longer business as usual.”

According to a 2011 report issued by World Bank, BRIC countries, Brazil, Russia, India and China, plus South Korea and Indonesia, will generate more than half of all global growth by 2025.

Mr. Shiring said that, with expansion into non-traditional markets, business owners have to be cognizant of other cultures, wants and needs, citing that “it’s not a one-size-fits-all consumer style anymore.”

But expansion into these emerging markets might be the best way for mid-size companies to grow without directly competing with technology giants such as Microsoft.

“As these companies [in emerging markets]

become more Westernized, a lot of the customers in these areas are going to become more technically savvy,” Mr. Shiring said. “They’re trying to expand into these areas because the cost of doing business is cheaper and there is a significant demand for technology and different services.”

After graduating from La Roche, Mr. Shiring obtained an MBA from Waynesburg University in 2004. In 2011, he opened his own consulting firm, Boardroom Global Consulting, which offers a variety of performance management and organizational techniques to help business owners efficiently and effectively expand their businesses.

“Extending the Play” is in many ways an extension of the services he provides at Boardroom Global Consulting.

“When I wrote my book, I tried to make it wide open enough that some of the strategies could be tailored down to meet small-cap companies or classrooms,” Mr. Shiring said. “If you are in the business world, at any level, this book would be a great asset.”

“Extending the Play” is available on Amazon.com.

**W**itchcraft has been depicted in a variety of ways throughout pop culture history.

Many stories of black magic are shared through literature, many through film or television. But whether the witches are from The Wizard of Oz or American Horror Story, they all have roots in folklore, much of which originates in Western Pennsylvania.

Thomas White, an archivist and La Roche College adjunct professor, has written eight books about historical ghost stories and folklore. In his latest book, “Witches of Pennsylvania: Occult History & Lore,” Mr. White uses a combination of archival information and oral history to chronicle the history of witchcraft and faith healing in Pennsylvania.

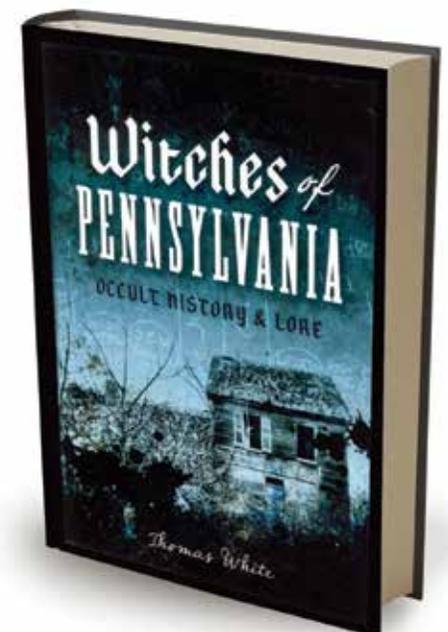
**WITCHES OF PENNSYLVANIA:**  
Occult History & Lore

– THOMAS WHITE '97

“Pennsylvania is at the crossroads of all kinds of folklores that spread across the country,” Mr. White said. “A huge percentage of folklore funnels through Western Pennsylvania and spreads out around the country.”

The saturation of folkloric tradition in Western Pennsylvania is the result of its historically strong German and Dutch population.

*Continued on next page*



*Continued from page 32*

“When the Germans came over, they had less of a distinction between science and mysticism,” Mr. White explained. “What they didn’t understand they attributed to magic.”

Because of their strong religious beliefs, the German settlers regularly attributed misfortune to black magic.

“Witchcraft is at the end of the spectrum of folk healing,” Mr. White said. “At one end is the folk healer, the powwower or braucher. At the other end is witchcraft. Witches cause harm.”

Mr. White added that these early Pennsylvanians rarely actually saw witches performing witchcraft, relying instead on “sympathetic magic” to explain what they considered unexplainable. “Say, for instance, one of their milk cows dried out,”

he said. “They would assume that a witch cast a spell on that cow and, somewhere miles away, was wringing that cow’s milk out of a rag into a bucket.”

Pennsylvania even had a witch trial in 1683, which was presided by the proprietor of the Pennsylvania Colony, William Penn.

“Witchcraft in English society was looked down upon as superstitious,” Mr. White said. “Penn knew that convicting someone of being a witch would cause panic, so he convicted her of condoning witchcraft and gave her the equivalent of six months probation.”

The lack of state-supported witch-hunts did little to dissuade the early Pennsylvanians’ belief in witchcraft, however.

Witchcraft has surfaced in popular media several times in the 20th century. Hex

murders in Pennsylvania, where one powwower killed another powwower, brought negative publicity to the Pennsylvania Dutch in the 1930s and ‘40s before World War II tempered the craze. The Satanic Panic of the 1980s reintroduced witches and satanic cults into American mainstream culture.

Today, talks of witchcraft survive through urban legends. But practicing witches are few and far between, although they are not quite extinct.

“They continue to practice today much like they had in the past,” Mr. White explained. “They view their work as anthropological. They’re not sure why it works, but it has some impact much of the time.”

Mr. White’s ninth book, “Supernatural Lore of Pennsylvania: Ghosts, Monsters and Miracles,” will be released in August.

## Every day, La Roche College Archivist Elizabeth Williams surrounds herself with old photographs, historical records, important artifacts and vestiges of the past.

It only makes sense for Ms. Williams to want to delve deeper into history, which is what she does in her first book, “Pittsburgh in World War I: Arsenal of the Allies.” Published by the History Press, the book explores Pittsburgh’s contributions to the Allied Nations in World War I.

“One aspect that struck me the most while writing this book was how much the life of every Pittsburgher was touched by the war,” Ms. Williams said. “The city was a huge industrial center, which supplied the Allied Nations with weaponry and steel even before the United States entered the war.”

With more than 250 mills and factories, Pittsburgh transformed from the Smoky City into the Arsenal of the Allies, producing half of the steel and much of the ammunition during the Great War.

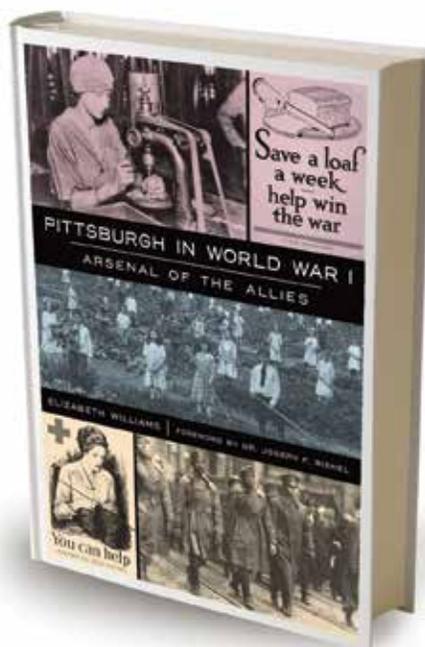
But Ms. Williams examines what Pittsburgh contributed in addition to steel: 60,000 men went to war, and women flocked to the front lines as nurses. One of the first gas masks on the western front was developed at the Mellon Institute, while

the city’s large Red Cross provided tireless support on the homefront.

Ms. Williams, who holds a bachelor’s degree in history from La Roche and a master’s in public history from Duquesne University, said to write “Pittsburgh in World War I,” she relied heavily on primary sources, such as newspaper articles and first-person accounts. She also visited archives throughout Pittsburgh and used recent historical books and articles for her research.

“I had heard about Pittsburgh’s role during the second world war and beyond,” Ms. Williams explained. “I was curious to see what part Pittsburgh played in the first. When I couldn’t find any modern books about our city’s contributions, I decided to write one. I felt that it was an important part of Pittsburgh’s story.”

A major part of Pittsburgh’s story included the steel industry, Ms. Williams added. “I was born in the mid-1980s at the end of Pittsburgh’s steel era. I’ve watched the city completely transform in my lifetime. It’s a city steeped in its past,” she said.



### PITTSBURGH IN WORLD WAR I: Arsenal of the Allies

— ELIZABETH WILLIAMS '07

# CLASS NOTES

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

**Melissa (Blythe) Altman '02** and her family joined Maryknoll Lay Missioners and moved to San Salvador, El Salvador in January 2014. She and her husband, Peter, recently completed Spanish language school and are currently looking to serve poor communities through literacy, gang prevention and conflict resolution.



**Dana Brandi '07** married Aaron Rakes on Sept. 20, 2013. Ms. Brandi is the former president of La Roche's executive board of the alumni association.

**Christopher Churilla '06** is moving to Monterey, Calif. to teach fifth grade at Bay View Academy and continue his zoo career at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Mr. Churilla previously worked for Shaler Area School District and the Pittsburgh Zoo.

**Teresa M. DeSousa HRM '96** opened K9 Resorts Daycare & Luxury Hotel, a daycare and boarding facility for dogs in Madison, N.J., in December 2013. Previously Ms. DeSousa was the director of human resources at Compensation Solutions, a human resources organization based in Wayne, N.J.

**Ashley Ferrari '12** has worked for Weatherford Engineered Chemistry in Leetsdale, Pa., since Sept. 17, 2012.

**Amelia (Millie) Guentner '70** retired after 42 years of teaching at-risk youth in June 2013. She is now learning to quilt and will attend a quilting cruise this month. In 2013, she attended a quilting class on Mackinac Island.



**Louise Hall '78** created an art piece, "Religion Poisons Everything," which was selected as one of 25 exhibits in the Form, Not Function: Quilt Art at the Carnegie exhibition in New Albany,

Ind. The show will run until July 12 at the Carnegie Center for Art & History. Ms. Hall's work was selected from 302 entrants submitted by 120 artists. Inspired by Christopher Hitchens, the quilt is a social commentary compiled from paper, various fabrics and threads, and is machine quilted with some hand stitching.

**Melanie Highberger '12** recently joined Hospitality Furnishings and Design (HFD) in Zelenople, Pa. as an interior designer for the southeast territory. Ms. Highberger graduated from La Roche's interior design program with a dual major in psychology.

**Matthew Hooks '05** was promoted to vice president of benefits and compensation at GENCO Product Lifecycle Logistics, based in O'Hara Township, Pa. Mr. Hooks graduated from La Roche's Leadership and Administrative Development (LEAD) Program. He manages strategic relationships with group benefits providers and is responsible for GENCO's payroll processing and compensation structure.



**Marc Hutchinson '93** currently serves as the director and counselor at North Way Counseling Services and specializes in adoption, autism, attention deficit, opposition defiance, depression and marriage counseling. A counselor and a sociology adjunct professor at La Roche, Mr. Hutchinson worked in the field of human services since 1989. He serves at North Way Christian Community and resides in the North Hills with his wife, Lisa, and their two daughters. In 2009, he became an elder of North Way Christian Community.

**Jennifer Rosenberg Houck '96** and her husband, John Michael Houck, welcomed the birth of their son, Timothy Charles Houck, on March 22, 2014.

**Michelle Johnson '06** and her husband, Jason, will celebrate the first birthday of their daughter, Makynsley Grace, on Aug. 5.

**Karen (Hughes) Kersting '79** has pursued several philanthropic endeavors while running her own interior design studio in New Orleans, La. In January, she was included in an online article by nola.com, which chronicled the efforts to restore PT-305 at the National WWII Museum. Ms. Kersting, along with a team of volunteers, has spent the past several years working to restore the boat for a re-launch in Spring 2015.

Ms. Kersting also participated as a designer and model of recycled clothing for the annual Bridge House/Grace House Fashion Show, a fundraiser that supports the outreach and drug counseling efforts of BH/GH.

Earlier this spring, she chaired the Events Committee for the literary prizes awarded by the New Orleans Chapter of the Women's National Book Association, where she also serves as treasurer. This month, she will complete her year as president of the Rotary Club of Carrollton.

**Linda Klingman HRM '00** now lives on Hilton Head Island. She works as a human resources manager for Moss Creek, a private community with two island nature preserves, two golf courses, five pools, eight tennis courts, a marina, fitness center and clubhouse on 1,000 acres.



**Joanna (Glass) Lewis '05** married Matthew Creegan at the Hulihe'e Palace in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii on Oct. 19, 2013. Ms. Lewis is a graduate of the English: Language & Literature Program.



**April Spagnolo** joined Distinctly U as a lead designer in January 2014. She earned a Bachelor of Science in interior design at La Roche and is an NKBA Certified Kitchen Designer. She is working toward becoming a Certified Bath Designer and an NCIDQ certified designer. Distinctly U Kitchen and Bath Design Center and Showroom is located in Millvale, Pa.

**Julie (Panzino) Tabaka '92** is now an account manager for TrueSense Marketing. She lives in the Franklin Park area of Pittsburgh with her husband, Joe, and their three children.

**Melissa Vrable '07** married Scott Manny at Stokesay Castle in Reading, Pa. on Sunday, May 4, 2014.

**Derek Yohn '11**, at the age of 22, became the youngest clinical manager in the history of PinnacleHealth System, a leading health care system in central Pennsylvania. He currently serves on various councils and committees leading the entire health care system, such as: Nursing System Leadership, Quality Committee, and Special Care Committee (ICU-focused care and issues across the system's four hospitals). Previously he worked as a staff nurse in the intensive care unit at the Community General Campus and received the Novice Nurse of the Year Award in May 2011.

## SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES!

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

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

*Submissions may be edited for length and content.*

**Joshua Litvik '10** graduated this spring from the University of Pittsburgh with a master's degree in public administration, with a focus on public and nonprofit management.

**Dan Pasqua '10** accepted a full-time position as an applications analyst with Management Science Associates in February 2014.

**Suzi (Thomchick) Shotter '08** and her husband, Jason, welcomed the birth of twin girls, Danica Jayne and Natalia Joy, on Jan. 19, 2014. Danica weighed 4 lbs, 13 oz., and Natalia weighed 5 lbs.

# SAVE *the* DATE!

MONDAY, SEPT. 22 2014



Benefiting La Roche College Athletics  
Wildwood Golf Club | Allison Park, PA

No matter when you attended La Roche, the Annual Fund was always there to support you.

Today's students need that same support. Your donation to the Annual Fund makes a private education affordable by providing scholarships, technology upgrades, academic programming and athletic equipment for current students.

*Make your impact today.*

Visit [laroche.edu/donation](http://laroche.edu/donation) to give to the La Roche College Annual Fund.

**CONTACT US:**

412-536-1152  
[elizabeth.smith@laroche.edu](mailto:elizabeth.smith@laroche.edu)





9000 Babcock Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

---

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit #884

---

# STAY CONNECTED!

[laroche.edu](http://laroche.edu) | [facebook.com/larochecollege](https://facebook.com/larochecollege) | [twitter.com/larochecollege](https://twitter.com/larochecollege)

