



**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT**



## **RIJAD KONJHODZIC '98, Ph.D.**

***Chief of Operations***

**Alea Genetic Center**

A graduate of La Roche College's biology and chemistry programs, Rijad Konjhodzic '98 is the chief of operations for Alea Genetic Center, a molecular biology center.

Previously he was the director of forensic medicine and genetic testing for the Department of Human Genetics at the Clinical Center Sarajevo. In this position Dr. Konjhodzic designed and conducted genetic experiments in diagnostic

and research for clinical genetics, oncogenetics and forensic genetics.

"I was fortunate that my field of study has experienced a worldwide expansion," he said. "Genetics has been growing and gave us who are involved the opportunity to grow with it."

Dr. Konjhodzic's previous experience includes working as the Clinical Center's chief of Human Genetics Division and DNA lab chief for the Department of Microbiology. He also has served as the DNA lab coordinator and DNA team leader for ICMP.

"Being one of the people to help design an algorithm for DNA-led identification, and designing procedures for that purpose, has been my greatest professional accomplishment. My work brings rewards each day, but nothing can quite measure up to that," he stated.

Dr. Konjhodzic said the aftermath of the Bosnian war presented an opportunity to use advancing science as a way of tackling post-conflict issues, particularly the problem of missing persons.

"It is only fair to say that I owe my career to two things: La Roche College, where I had first-class education during one of the most perilous times for my country; and a host of my missing countrymen, whose tragedy was both a motivation and obligation for my scientific endeavor," he said.

