

# Connected

the La Roche College Magazine | SPRING • SUMMER 2013



50<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY EDITION  
LA ROCHE COLLEGE

1963 - 2013

# A Message from the President



This is a very special year for La Roche College as we celebrate 50 years of education and service.

Since 1963, when the Sisters of Divine Providence founded La Roche as a college for women religious, we have conferred degrees upon nearly 12,000 graduates and have a current enrollment of 1,465, including 272 international students.

Much has changed on campus over those 50 years. We are co-educational, with modern on-campus housing. The college's first building, the Wright Library, has been renovated and remains a great resource center for both the campus and local communities. Our classroom buildings boast state-of-the-art technology. The Magdalen Chapel and our Campus Ministry programs are the heart of campus spiritual life and humanitarian volunteer efforts. The Kerr Fitness Center's Scott Lang Court and the John Arnold Sr. Memorial Field routinely produce championship basketball and baseball teams. And the Zappala College Center is always bustling with formal and informal gatherings of students, faculty, staff and community groups.

La Roche continues to receive national recognition for its quality academic and student-life programs, as well as for its commitment to global education. Recently, the Open Doors Report, published annually by the Institute of International Education, named La Roche to this year's list of top 25 baccalaureate colleges hosting international students. International students from 36 different countries make up about 20 percent of our current study body.

Yes, La Roche has come a long way since its earliest days, but none of this growth would have been possible without the support of our loyal alumni and friends.

In fact, La Roche's alumni are among our greatest blessings and are the true legacy of the College.

This special jubilee edition of *Connected* is dedicated to our alumni and focuses on the newly established La Roche College Distinguished Alumni Circle. As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, we are inducting 50 accomplished graduates as inaugural members of the Circle. The 50 inductees exemplify the fundamental values of La Roche College's mission of preparing students to be leaders in a constantly changing global society.

La Roche is honored to recognize these outstanding graduates who have achieved success in their professional lives and contributed in such meaningful ways to their communities. It is both gratifying and humbling to think that their La Roche education provided a foundation for such impressive accomplishments.

I hope you enjoy reading the profiles of the 50 Distinguished Alumni in this edition. I think you will agree that their accomplishments and contributions are inspiring.

As the Distinguished Alumni Circle grows with the College in the coming years, it will continue to give testimony to the significant contributions our alumni make to their professions, their communities and to the legacy of La Roche.

With pride and humility, we look back at all that our graduates have accomplished. And with great anticipation and a renewed sense of hope, we look forward to our next half century of growth.

Sincerely,

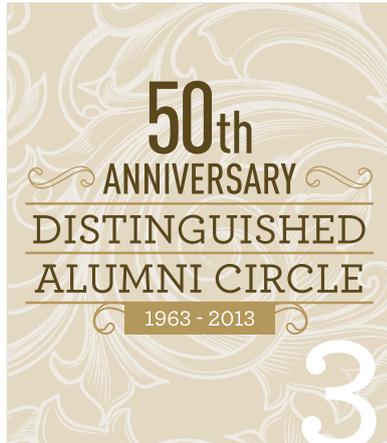
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Candace Introcaso". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

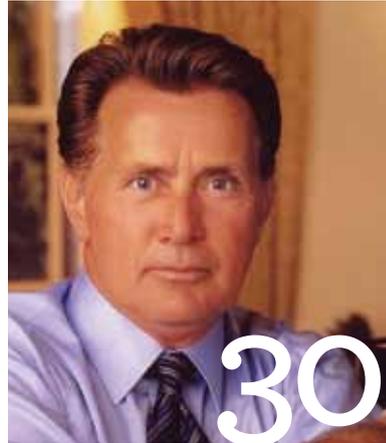
# Connected

the La Roche College Magazine  
SPRING • SUMMER 2013

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or (412) 536-1085.

The La Roche College magazine, Connected, is published twice a year by the Department 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.



In conjunction with its 50th anniversary, La Roche College has established the Distinguished Alumni Circle to honor La Roche graduates for their outstanding professional success and significant dedication to community service.

*This year's 50 awardees share more in common than a La Roche College degree. Some have gone on to be company directors and vice presidents. Others are accomplished doctors, teachers and award-winning writers. From the generous philanthropist to the neighborhood volunteer, all are leaders whose lives reflect a strong commitment to the values embodied in the College's mission.*

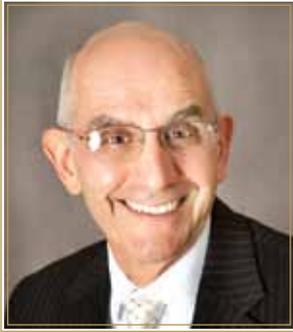


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## Raymond Amelio M.S. '86, SPHR

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*Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer, Fragasso Financial Advisors*



Raymond Amelio has displayed a strong commitment to serving southwestern Pennsylvania. He served on the Veterans Leadership Program board for 24 years and was chairman for five years. From 1992 to 1994, Mr. Amelio also served as board chairman of the North Hills YMCA.

He now works as vice president and chief marketing officer for Fragasso Financial Advisors, where he handles all advertising, public relations, charitable event sponsorships and client appreciation activity. Mr. Amelio also has worked as an adjunct professor at La Roche, Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham University and Duquesne University.

In the human resources community, Mr. Amelio has served on the board of the Pittsburgh Human Resources Association (PHRA), as a member of the HR Leadership Forum and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD), serving as president in the early 90s.

Outside of work, he has volunteered as a business plan coach for Carrick High School and Urban Pathways Charter School's Entrepreneurship Youth Program.

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## Tammy Andreyko M.S. '01, Ed.D.

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*Assistant Superintendent for Academic Advancement  
North Allegheny School District*



Dr. Tammy Andreyko has enjoyed a distinguished career in education.

Currently she serves as the assistant superintendent for academic advancement for the North Allegheny School District. There she is responsible for curriculum oversight, professional development, online learning, comprehensive planning, academic technology and the development of the North Allegheny Cyber Academy and STEM program.

In 1997, she began her career as an English teacher for Chesapeake Public Schools in Virginia. She worked as assistant principal and principal of North Allegheny's Ingomar Middle School. After her commissioning, she then served as the assistant superintendent for curriculum at North Allegheny School District.

In 2006, the Pennsylvania Middle School Association selected Dr. Andreyko as Administrator of the Year. Three years later, the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals and MetLife named her Pennsylvania Middle Level Principal of the Year. Dr. Andreyko also received the Horace Mann Program for Educators Scholarship in 2004.

"La Roche College is a very special place," she said. "Although I graduated in 2001, I still feel as connected to La Roche today as I was when I was a student."

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## Sister Kathleen Angel, CDP '68, Ph.D.

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*Trustee, La Roche College*

*Director, Sisters of Divine Providence at St. Clare's Villa*

*Retired College Professor*



Award-winning professor Sister Kathleen Angel attended La Roche College at the beginning of its existence.

For 44 years, Sister Kathleen taught in the Pittsburgh, Omaha and Western North Dakota dioceses. She received the Excellence in Teaching Award from Belleview College in Nebraska and the Teaching Award for Postsecondary Education from the Bismarck/Mandan Chamber of Commerce. In North Dakota, she volunteered for St. Alexius Hospital and the Volunteer Caregivers Exchange, an agency funded by the United Way.

Sister Kathleen now serves as the director for the Sisters of Divine Providence at St. Clare's Villa, an assisted living facility in Alton, Ill. She is responsible for tracking the medical needs of retired Sisters of Divine Providence, scheduling their doctor appointments and supplying or arranging transportation.

At La Roche, she earned the Women of Providence Award and currently serves on the board of trustees.

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## Jennifer Bennett '97, Ph.D.

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*Assistant Professor of Biology, Otterbein University*



Some graduates of La Roche become professors, researchers or mentors. La Roche alumna Jennifer Bennett decided to become all of these.

As an assistant professor of biology at Otterbein University, Dr. Bennett teaches courses in microbiology, cell biology and other subjects supporting the department of biology and earth science and the biochemistry and molecular biology program.

Dr. Bennett also mentors undergraduate students in independent research. She runs a microbial genetics research laboratory, which addresses questions in bacterial signaling and development. Her undergraduate students have won regional, national and international awards for their work conducted in her lab.

Dr. Bennett currently collaborates with two Otterbein University colleagues in a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning project. The American Society for Microbiology recently selected her to serve as a mentor and webinar leader.

"I attribute my successes to many mentors and experiences throughout my life," Dr. Bennett said. "But I am who I am today, in large part, because of my experiences at La Roche College."

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## Godfrey Biravanga '01, CPA

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*Vice President and Audit Function Manager, PNC Bank*



Godfrey Biravanga is a successful accountant and active community servant.

Currently he works for PNC Bank as a vice president and audit function manager. He is part of the PNC Internal Audit, an independent risk assessment and control evaluation function. Mr. Biravanga's audit responsibilities focus on PNC capital markets' businesses, asset and liability management and market risk management functions. Previously Mr. Biravanga worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers in their assurance function.

As a certified public accountant, he is involved with the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) and is a member of the Financial Institutions Committee. In 2012, Mr. Biravanga was named to the 40 Under 40: PICPA Members to Watch Class of 2012. His community service activities include PNC's Grow Up Great Program and various U.S. Rwandan Diaspora activities, such as the One Dollar Campaign, which raises funds to construct houses for Rwandan orphans whose parents were killed during the genocide.

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## Sister Michele Bisbey, CDP '71, Ph.D.

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*Professor of Religious Studies*

*Ketteler Endowed Chair of Theology, La Roche College*



La Roche alumna, former trustee and faculty member Sister Michele Bisbey has played an important role in the College's history.

"I have lived through and contributed to the many iterations of La Roche College," Sister Michele said. "We keep getting better and better for the world. I'm grateful to be part of that heritage."

Through her professional work, Sister Michele embodies the College's legacy. At La Roche, she is the division chair of humanities, a professor of religious studies and holds the Ketteler Endowed Chair of Theology. In November 2011, the Irish Voice Newspaper named her to its list of 2012 Irish Education 100, which recognizes leading educators of Irish heritage.

"As a full-time employee of La Roche College, I am privileged to share the mission and charism of the Sisters of Divine Providence in my everyday work," she said.

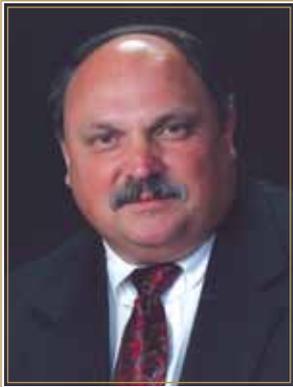
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## Robert Blosat '81, M.S. '83

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*Senior Vice President, Physician Services Division*

*Vice President, Physician Development, UPMC*



Robert W. Blosat currently works as the senior vice president of clinical operations in the Physician Services Division and corporate vice president of physician development at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC).

As senior vice president, he provides oversight for the UPMC employed physician groups. Mr. Blosat also serves as the president of Fayette Physician Network. In his role as vice president for physician development, Mr. Blosat provides strategy and oversight for a variety of UPMC joint ventures, clinical initiatives and programs, including: physician acquisitions, physician and resident recruitment and retention, urgent care and primary care delivery.

Since 1999, Mr. Blosat has held several positions in the UPMC Physicians Services Division, including director of special projects; administrator of clinical operations; and vice president of clinical support services.

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## Linda Harvey Burkley '87, M.A.

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*President, Ardis Communications, LLC*

*Instructor, Susquehanna University*



Linda Burkley believes La Roche helped her to thrive personally and academically.

Ms. Burkley is president of Ardis Communications, LLC, where she writes and designs creative collateral and works with clients to develop branding strategies and social media relations. Since 2007, she has been a faculty member at Susquehanna University.

Outside of work, Ms. Burkley devotes time to her community. "Everyone dies, but not everyone lives," she explained. "Experiencing the world by giving back to it through charitable service and volunteer work is a wonderful opportunity to really live and truly make a difference."

Ms. Burkley said La Roche College provided comfort in times of tragedy and heartbreak, especially after the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger explosion. "That evening, a group of students from surrounding dorms gathered in our room to watch President Ronald Reagan's speech," she explained. "It was a defining moment of my experience at La Roche. I was among other people who cared about the world and about each other. They were willing to come together and support each other when necessary."

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## Dr. Amarilys Cortijo '71, M.D.

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*Medical Director, Mt. Hope Family Practice*

*Medical Director, ECHO Free Clinic*



Dr. Amarilys Cortijo's achievements represent two qualities: kindness and compassion.

Dr. Cortijo is the medical director of Mt. Hope Family Practice, an ambulatory health care center in the Bronx that provides primary and mental health care to people of all ages and backgrounds. Additionally, she has worked for the past 10 years as the medical director of the ECHO Free Clinic, a joint project of the Institute for Family Health and the students of The Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University in the Bronx. In Manhattan, she directs the New York City Free Clinic. Both clinics provide free medical care, social services and health education to uninsured patients.

Dr. Cortijo also is a member of the community advisory board to the Clinical and Translational Research Institute of New York University and the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

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## Diane Cox '83 MSN '87, Ph.D.

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*Retired*

*Administrator,*

*Office of Family Health, Maricopa County Department of Public Health*

*Past Nursing Division Chairperson, La Roche College*



Diane Cox's professional nursing practice has positively impacted the lives of others.

Dr. Cox was the administrator of the Office of Family Health in Phoenix, Ariz. (Maricopa County Department of Public Health), which promotes and protects the health of women and children. Dr. Cox directed and oversaw all program development, grants and contracts, human resources, quality assurance, finance, information systems and community relations. Under her leadership, the Office of Family Health underwent significant growth, due to the implementation of new programs and the expansion of existing programs.

Now retired, Dr. Cox serves as a member of the Program Services Committee for the Arizona chapter of March of Dimes, where she participates in implementing a community grants program and helps to make positive changes in perinatal health.

"My most pervasive memory is the La Roche community of high caliber and supportive faculty, caring staff and committed students," Dr. Cox said.

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## Anne Crawford M.S. '85

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*Medicare Compliance Officer, Highmark, Inc.*



Anne Crawford's nursing background helped her to build a career in today's corporate health care environment.

As Highmark's Medicare compliance officer, Ms. Crawford provides consultation, analytic support, and ensures compliance with federal and state regulations, CMS guidance and governing standards for all Medicare Advantage and Medicare prescription drug programs.

She established two political action committees during her career: the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association and the Pennsylvania Homecare Association. A Medicare compliance expert, Ms. Crawford has presented at several Health Care Compliance Association conferences.

Ms. Crawford served as board president of Sojourner House and implemented Sojourner House MOMS, a program that provides independent housing and support services for homeless, single and dual-diagnosed women in recovery and their dependent children. For this effort, she was awarded the Jefferson Champion Award for Public Service.

Her past awards include the La Roche College Distinguished Nurse Leader Award and the Pennsylvania Nurses Association's Legislative Award.

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## Deborah Davison MSHS '90

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*CRNA Program Director*  
Allegheny Valley Hospital/La Roche College School of Anesthesia



Deborah Davison is the program director for the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) program at Allegheny Valley Hospital/La Roche College School of Nurse Anesthesia at Allegheny General Hospital.

Her primary responsibilities involve program administration, along with didactic and clinical instruction in the art and science of anesthesia.

Ms. Davison said she hopes to have had a positive impact on the 250-plus students who graduated under her mentorship.

Over the past two decades, Ms. Davison said she has enjoyed working with devoted colleagues from La Roche College. "I have had the honor to work with a great group of individuals, namely: Dr. Don Fujito, Dr. Robert McBride, Dr. Shinil Cho, Richard Laux, Dr. Linda Stumpf, Dr. Charlotte Stahl and Dr. Rosemary McCarthy," she said. "In addition to their knowledge, their character and integrity make me proud to be associated with them. They have been very supportive of me over the years, and I hope to continue this relationship for many years to come."

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## Eric Ferguson '95, M.A.

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*President and Founder, Metanoia Missions International*



Feeding the hungry. Saving children. Housing the poor. These endeavors are only three of Eric Ferguson's many accomplishments.

Mr. Ferguson is the president and founder of Metanoia Missions International, a nonprofit organization that transforms nations through humanitarian aid and the establishment of various community service centers. Under Mr. Ferguson's leadership, Metanoia Missions International has established an orphanage, 18 feeding centers, two schools, monthly medical outreaches, humanitarian aid distribution, micro-business start-ups and oversees 11 churches.

"To be able to save children from life-threatening situations and provide them with a safe, nurturing environment is incredibly rewarding," Mr. Ferguson said.

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## Jill L. Ferguson '92, M.A.

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*Award-Winning Writer, Editor, Public Speaker,  
Consultant, Educator and Business Owner*



Jill L. Ferguson wears many hats as a La Roche graduate: Award-winning writer. Editor. Public speaker. Consultant. Business owner.

For 12 years, Ms. Ferguson worked for the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as the chair of general education, assessment coordinator and a professor of literature, creative writing and communication. She spent 11 years teaching in Notre Dame de Namur University's School of Business and Management. Recently she worked as chief of staff at Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the regional accreditors for California, Hawaii and the Pacific Rim. Ms. Ferguson is the author of three books: "Women are Changing the Corporate Landscape: Rules for Cultivating Leadership Excellence," "Raise

Rules for Women," and "Sometimes Art Can't Save You."

In 2000, Ms. Ferguson established the Sister Rita Yeasted Scholarship, awarded annually to four La Roche students majoring in English or communications.

"I enjoyed the close-working relationships I had with my professors, Sister Rita in particular," Ms. Ferguson said. "La Roche is a great place to forge lasting bonds with fellow students, staff and faculty."

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## Sister Maria Fest, CDP '65, D.A.

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*Trustee, La Roche College*

*Treasurer and Member of Provincial Leadership Team  
Sisters of Divine Providence (Marie de la Roche Province)*



After earning a bachelor's in biology from La Roche in 1965, Sister Maria obtained a master's in chemistry at the University of Notre Dame and her doctorate from Lehigh University. Her dissertation was the basis for La Roche's current master of health sciences program.

Sister Maria was a teacher and principal at Divine Providence Academy and executive director of Providence Connections, Inc.

At La Roche, she has been the director of financial aid, a professor of health sciences and now serves on the board of trustees.

She has been the Sisters of Divine Providence leadership liaison for the Founders' Scholarship and the Divine Providence Scholarship and has received the Alumni Achievement Award, the President's Award and the Woman of Providence Award.

Sister Maria now serves as assistant to the Provincial for the Sisters of Divine Providence, Marie de la Roche Province, canonical treasurer and provincial councilor for finance, property and human resources.

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## Brian Franks '95

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*Vice President, Creative Marketing, American Eagle Outfitters*

*Co-owner, HOUSE 15143*



Brian Franks' creativity has led to a notable 17-year career with American Eagle Outfitters (AEO) and a co-owned business.

In 1996, he joined American Eagle as a graphic designer and was responsible for the design of all printed materials and store experience. Since then, Mr. Franks has worked as the company's art director and executive creative director. He has influenced the company brand through graphic design, advertising media, brand identity, marketing strategy and creative direction. Currently as vice president of creative marketing, Mr. Franks oversees all creative direction and ongoing creative marketing efforts for the AEO brand.

He also co-owns HOUSE 15143, a home goods and design store located in Sewickley, Pa. He creates custom framed art with his wife, Danielle, and business partners, Kristin and Kevin Bordeau.

Mr. Franks said his La Roche professors helped him transform from an artist to a graphic designer and visual problem solver. "George Founds and Michelle Tsouris were both influential teachers who helped change my perspective," he said.

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## Nancy Furbee '88 M.S. '91

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*Owner, Furbee and Associates, LLC*



As a successful human resources professional, Nancy Furbee achieved her lifelong dream of establishing her own business.

Currently she is owner of the human resources consulting firm, Furbee and Associates, LLC ([furbeeconsulting.com](http://furbeeconsulting.com)), which specializes in leadership development, executive coaching and group facilitation.

Ms. Furbee also is the facilitator of the Women's Nonprofit CEO Leadership Forum, where she shares her executive development experience with female leaders in western Pennsylvania.

"My graduate degree from La Roche was instrumental in my career achievements," she said. "The many relationships I maintained and strengthened after graduation were key to my success."

Ms. Furbee said that her education in training and development prepared her to advance in the corporate world, where she moved from a human resource generalist to a vice president. She added that her education also influenced her personal volunteer efforts, which include teaching others to become outdoor enthusiasts.

Ms. Furbee still connects with former La Roche classmates. "To this day, I am close friends with a number of my classmates," she explained. "We often take a trip down memory lane and remember the good times and many laughs we shared."

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## Sister Linda Gaupin, CDP '70, Ph.D.

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*Director of Liturgy, St. John Vianney Parish*



Sister Linda Gaupin is the director of liturgy at St. John Vianney Parish in Orlando, Fla. She prepares all of the liturgical rites of the Church and the liturgical seasons for the parish's faithful. She also is responsible for the formation and preparation of the liturgical ministers, ongoing liturgical formation for the parish and liturgical environment for worship space. In addition, Sister Linda oversees baptismal preparation.

After graduating from La Roche, Sister Linda pursued advanced degrees in both liturgy and catechesis, which led to a doctorate from the Catholic University of America. She also worked as associate director of liturgy at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Throughout the years, she has published numerous articles and books on sacramental catechesis for use in parishes.

"During my time at La Roche, most of the students were from religious communities," Sister Linda said. "Since then, I have enjoyed meeting many of these people who have excelled in their profession as I traveled in the United States."

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## James Getz Jr. '96

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*Trustee, La Roche College*

*Senior Vice President, Federated Securities, Inc.*



For Jaime Getz, graduating with a liberal arts degree led to a successful 16-year career with Federated Investors.

“To be able to excel in reading, writing and conversing has helped me immensely throughout my career,” he said. “And I owe a lot of that to La Roche College.”

As senior vice president for Federated Securities, Inc., Mr. Getz is responsible for sales to broker clients on the east coast of Florida and the Caribbean. The former history major said his La Roche professors prepared him for the world of business.

“From the teachings of Monsignor Kerr, Dr. Ed Brett and numerous professors, the lessons have been invaluable to do well in the sales environment,” he added.

Outside of work, Mr. Getz coaches the soccer teams of his two children.

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## Greg Gibilisco '01, M.A.

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*Director of Visual Design, MAYA Design*



Greg Gibilisco continues to build upon his education and experience as a graphic designer.

Mr. Gibilisco is director of visual design at MAYA Design, a company that integrates information and technology into satisfying user experiences. MAYA Design has worked with a range of Fortune 500 companies, start-ups and nonprofits to design innovative products that improve the interactions between people and information. Mr. Gibilisco manages the visual design discipline within the company. The group employs visual and industrial designers, game designers, architects and filmmakers. Mr. Gibilisco also works as a hands-on practitioner.

Previously Mr. Gibilisco worked for Mellon Financial, where he was part of a team responsible for art direction of traditional marketing communications. This helped to transform the company from a retail bank to a global financial services company. At BNY Mellon, he led a team responsible for launching the brand and visual identity system. Mr. Gibilisco also worked as president of the Pittsburgh chapter of AIGA, the professional association for design.

Mr. Gibilisco met his wife, Kristi Gibilisco (formerly Kasievich), at La Roche, and Father Peter Horton officiated their wedding ceremony.

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## Phyllis Hartman M.S. '90

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*Owner and President, PGHR Consulting, Inc.*



Pursuing a master's degree later proved to be a smart and sound decision for Phyllis Hartman.

Ms. Hartman, now an adjunct instructor for La Roche College's human resources management program, said the personalized attention from La Roche faculty was the key to her success. "I wasn't sure I could be successful," she said. "The caring, individual attention I received kept me going when I confronted challenges."

Currently she works as the founder and president of PGHR Consulting, Inc., providing human resources consulting services to a wide range of businesses.

Previously Ms. Hartman served as a board member, officer and president of PHRA, the Pittsburgh chapter of Society for HR Management (SHRM). She has been an active leader at the Pennsylvania State SHRM and Northeast Region levels. She was accepted as a member of the SHRM national Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility Expert Panel in 2013. Ms. Hartman co-authored the book "Never Get Lost Again: Navigating Your HR Career."

Ms. Hartman was elected to the Homeless Children's Education Fund's board of trustees and currently serves as vice chair.

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## Yvonne Hennigan '80, Ed.D.

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*President and CEO, VivoQuest, Inc.*



Yvonne Hennigan joined the field of tissue engineering/regenerative medicine and created a company to meet the educational needs of this emerging science.

As president and CEO of VivoQuest, Inc., a regenerative medicine curriculum company, Dr. Hennigan develops and writes the curricula for adult stem cell regenerative medicine used in middle schools, high schools and universities. She also is a grade four faith formation catechist in the religious education program at St. Alexis parish in Wexford, Pa. She recently returned from living in Italy, where she was the CEO and headmistress of Marymount International School of Rome.

"I will always have many fond memories of President Monsignor William Kerr," Dr. Hennigan said. "One of my greatest memories of La Roche College is my friendship with Mary Beth Fetchko, which endures to this present day."

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## Kevin Hiles '83, CPA, CRSP

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*Vice President, Finance, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer  
Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh*



Kevin Hiles entered La Roche College uncertain about a career and left as a successful accountant.

In 1981, Mr. Hiles was still a student when he landed his first accounting job with Penstan Supply, Inc. after meeting the company's treasurer and part-owner at a gas station. Later he went on to work for Parkvale Savings, Mellon Bank, Pitt-Des Moines Steel, Society/Key Bank and First Union. He is now vice president, finance, treasurer and chief financial officer for the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

Thirty years after graduation, Mr. Hiles still credits his La Roche professors for his success, particularly the late Sister Mary Thomas Kadyszewski. "I enjoyed her a great deal," he said. "Her passion for math spilled over to her many students, myself included."

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## Kathryn Jolley '81, MBA, ASID

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*Vice Chair, Trustee, La Roche College Board of Trustees*

*Principal, DRS Architects, Inc.*



Kathryn Jolley has forged a successful career in the competitive field of interior design.

As a principal of DRS Architects, Inc., Ms. Jolley is responsible for the oversight of the firm's interior design projects, staff, marketing and business development.

Despite the challenge of raising two children while attending college, Ms. Jolley graduated from La Roche within four years. "La Roche was there for me when I needed a chance," Ms. Jolley said. "Giving back to an institution that had such a positive effect on me is just the right thing to do."

To give back, Ms. Jolley returned as an adjunct interior design professor and served on the interior design advisory board, which she also chaired. She has mentored and hired interior design students and currently serves as vice chair on the La Roche board of trustees. Additionally, she and her husband, Greg Madej, have endowed an interior design scholarship.

"It feels like I've come full circle, and that feeling is a good one. I've gained so much from every experience associated with my college," she said.

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## Yohani Kayinamura '04, Ph.D.

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*Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Daytona State College*

*President and Founder, Umuryango Children's Network*



At La Roche College, Yohani Kayinamura yearned to make a difference in the world.

“My first year at La Roche College was like one of those dreams you do not want to wake up from,” he explained. “Through my Christian belief and the inspiration from many great friends I made at the college and its neighborhood, especially the late Monsignor Kerr, I was ignited with a burning desire to make a small difference in somebody’s life.”

This desire led Dr. Kayinamura to adopt a homeless child during his sophomore year at La Roche. The adoption resulted in the Umuryango Children’s Network, a nonprofit organization that seeks to help Rwandan street children transform from isolated outcasts to productive citizens.

Dr. Kayinamura, who teaches chemistry at Daytona State College, said La Roche College was his home away from home. “The presence of so many smart, international students made La Roche College a rare multicultural community that was so perfect for a 21st century young learner,” he explained. “I cannot recall a single week that went by without a rich cultural or national celebration. Having been always interested in learning about people and other cultures, La Roche College was my true door to the world.”

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## Emil M. Kuhar '78

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*Retired*

*Owner, Emil Kuhar Visual Communications*



Emil Kuhar says La Roche prepared him for the small-business world and helped him achieve success as owner of his graphic design firm.

Before the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis in 2005, Mr. Kuhar worked as the owner, photographer and designer for Emil Kuhar Visual Communications. To succeed in these roles, Mr. Kuhar said he utilized a skill he learned as a La Roche student: communication. Working directly with clients, Mr. Kuhar provided print media and private and commercial photography services. “The photo and design skills that were taught and applied at La Roche proved essential to my success as a small-business owner,” he said.

An active volunteer, Mr. Kuhar has designed t-shirts, brochures and newsletters for charitable groups, and fundraises for the Greensburg Multiple Sclerosis Support Group. He said, “Volunteering to the best of one’s ability is a reward in itself.”

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## Patricia Liebman '82, RN

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*Executive Vice President*  
Integrated Delivery System, Provider Division, Highmark, Inc.



Patricia Liebman's professional work impacts thousands of people within the region.

As executive vice president of Highmark, Inc.'s Integrated Delivery System, Provider Division, Ms. Liebman collaborates with hospitals, physicians and health insurance companies to improve the quality of patient care.

She said she remembers the La Roche community as warm and supportive. "I had special needs, and everybody at La Roche was welcoming and willing to help me in any way," she said. "The level of support and help was just outstanding."

Ms. Liebman said the women in that supportive atmosphere were inspiring role models. "The one strong memory I have of all those years is the women, particularly the nuns who dedicated their lives to education. They were role models and early mentors, and I learned leadership from observing the tremendous skills of these extraordinary women," she added.

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## Angela Longo '89

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*Trustee, La Roche College*  
*Director of Public Relations and Organizational Advancement, Renewal, Inc.*



After being one of the first women in her family to earn a college degree, Angela Longo continued to thrive.

Ms. Longo currently serves as director of public relations and organizational advancement for Renewal, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting individuals in the criminal justice system and their return to society as productive citizens.

Previously Ms. Longo worked as vice president of philanthropic programs at National City Bank of Pennsylvania, where she managed the bank's corporate giving programs which included foundation grants, tax credit programs, financial and in-kind donations, underwriting and sponsorships to the nonprofit sector.

Her role outside of work demonstrates a strong dedication to her community. She has assisted various nonprofit organizations in enhancing their fundraising programs, including The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, Ronald McDonald Charities, The Watson Institute, Pennsylvania Women Work, Family House, Traveler's Aid of Pittsburgh and Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. She is a member of the La Roche board of trustees.

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## Rose Marie Manley '90, CTP

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*Treasurer, Allegheny Technologies, Inc.*



As a nontraditional student at La Roche, Rose Marie Manley attended classes in the evening while working full time.

That challenge, in the end, was worth the while: Ms. Manley is now treasurer of Allegheny Technologies Incorporated (ATI), one of the largest and most diversified specialty metal producers in the world.

Her career began in the accounting department of Rockwell International Corporation in 1981. She then moved to the treasury department, where she managed daily global cash positioning for 10 years before joining ATI as a senior cash manager in 1997. Ms. Manley is now an active member of both the local chapter and national Association for Financial Professionals.

“I found La Roche to be extremely welcoming and cognizant of the needs of nontraditional students,” Ms. Manley said.

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## Carol Marsiglio '75

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*Retired*

*Director of Social Services, Passavant Hospital*

*Adjunct Professor, La Roche College*

*Director, North Suburban Adult Services*



For 20 years, Carol Marsiglio has served the needs of both children and adults. As director of social services at Passavant Hospital from 1983 to 1990, she initiated and managed the hospital's first cancer support group, in collaboration with the Cancer Caring Center.

“As a midlife returning student, my passion was to improve senior citizens' lives with a socialization program,” Ms. Marsiglio explained. “Sister Colette Baran (VSC, Vincentian), my sociology professor, approved, and the Northern Area YWCA provided the legitimacy for it. Northway Mall provided a conference room for weekly meetings. It ran for the required weeks to satisfy the internship requirement and attracted a steady audience.”

Ms. Marsiglio's successful internship resulted in a paid position as North Suburban Adult Service's first director in Bellevue.

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## Sister Kathleen Matz, CDP '74, M.A.

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*Associate Director*

Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, Archdiocese of Detroit



Sister Kathleen Matz is the associate director of the office of evangelization and catechesis for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

As a representative and consultant to the Directors of Religious Education in the northwest region of the Archdiocese of Detroit, she oversees catechetical and ministerial formation and certification, sacramental preparation and adult faith formation. Sister Kathleen also provides ongoing information and support for catechetical leaders in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

As a professional mentor, she is involved with the Directors of Religious Education, youth ministers, liturgical musicians and Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) Facilitators and Christian Service Coordinators.

She also presents catechetical topics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary and in Archdiocese of Detroit parishes. A liturgical dancer, Sister Kathleen coordinates groups of local praise dancers.

“My liturgical worship experience at La Roche College was very significant to me,” she explained. “Liturgies at the dorm were vibrant and provided an opportunity for quality worship and community building. The singing was dynamic, and the structure of reflection evenings generated faith sharing, communal prayer and gospel witness.”

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## Christopher Meyer '86

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*President, CD Meyer, Inc.*



For 25 years, Christopher Meyer has remained current in the ever-changing world of graphic design.

In 1988, he opened CD Meyer, Inc., a full-service multimedia development company. As president, Mr. Meyer oversees all business operations. He also acts as the creative director for various multimedia projects, including: web site development, touch screen educational kiosk programs, digital signage and video and print projects.

“I love helping clients solve problems, creating effective and well-designed messages and maintaining professional relationships,” he said.

Mr. Meyer said his alma mater prepared him for both the academic and creative aspects of his professional career. “I was challenged in many ways by professors and peers,” he explained. “I am grateful for their part in preparing me for the future.”

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## Mike Mlinac '77, MBA, CFP®

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*Trustee, La Roche College*

*Chief Financial Officer, University of North Texas Foundation, Inc.*



For more than 30 years, Mike Mlinac has flourished in the financial services industry.

After graduating from La Roche, Mr. Mlinac joined Ernst & Young as a CPA, then Pitt-Des Moines Corp. After earning an MBA from Harvard University's Graduate School of Business, Mr. Mlinac was a senior executive for Fidelity Investments for 17 years and established a private family office, Mlinac Management, LLC. He currently serves as chief financial officer of the University of North Texas Foundation, Inc.

Dedicated to community service, Mr. Mlinac has served on the boards of Metroport Meals on Wheels, Metroport Rotary Charities and the Harvard Business School Club of Fort Worth, in addition to several corporate and advisory boards.

Mr. Mlinac, who joined the La Roche College board of trustees in 2012, said his college experience offered an opportunity for great personal growth. "The nurturing environment, encouragement from faculty and administrators, and support of friends and classmates helped me develop the confidence to grow and take on new challenges," he said. "In many respects, the seeds of my subsequent personal and professional success were first sown at La Roche."

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## Brian Moore '94

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*Executive Digital Creative Director and Partner, Smith Brothers Agency*



As a graphic designer, Brian Moore appreciates the importance of life's smallest details.

Mr. Moore works as executive digital creative director and partner of Smith Brothers Agency, where he oversees all digital creative work and helps clients to tell creative stories in digital space.

"I still get the same rush today that I did when I was a junior designer just starting out," Mr. Moore explained. "It's not just a job to me. It's a lifestyle."

Mr. Moore recalls La Roche Professor George Founds telling one of his classes: "Look around because in five years, only one or two of you will be in the creative field."

This statement still influences him today. "That stuck with me," he added. "It's what pushes me to be the best."

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## C. Kurt Mulzet '75, J.D.

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*Senior Attorney, Jones, Gregg, Creehan & Gerace, LLP*

*Founding Member, La Roche College Alumni Association Board*



Kurt Mulzet devotes most of his time to his career and family but is a strong advocate of community service.

“I try to give back to and support my profession,” said Mr. Mulzet, who now works at the downtown Pittsburgh law firm of Jones, Gregg, Creehan & Gerace, LLP. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Allegheny County Bar Association. Mr. Mulzet also volunteers as a duty officer for the professional ethics committee, which advises lawyers on ethical issues. He often volunteers as a pro bono lawyer to represent victims of abuse. Beyond legal service, he has served as an officer for the La Roche Alumni Association and an active board member of Ross Township Civil Service Commission.

“When I attended La Roche, the bricks and mortar were nothing to brag about. The buildings have improved dramatically since, but the people are still the foundation,” Mr. Mulzet said. “I have special memories of La Roche College, which are shared regularly with the people who helped to create them.”

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## Col. Judith Patton '86, Ph.D., FACHE

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*Management Consultant and Executive Vice President, Eagle Performance*

*Citizen Airman, U.S. Air Force Reserve*



Judith Patton does more for the world by doing more for her country.

Col. Patton is self-employed as a management consultant and executive vice president at Eagle Performance, a service disabled veteran-owned small business. For 31 years, she has served as a citizen airman in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Currently Col. Patton is the individual mobilization augmentee to the director of the Medical Service Corps at the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General in Falls Church, Va.

She has attained the rank of colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and is board certified in health care management as a fellow of American College of Healthcare Executives. Throughout her career, she has cared for sick and wounded military members across the world and considers this to be her greatest professional accomplishment.

Col. Patton said she has fond memories of her La Roche professors, particularly Sister Rita Yeasted and Dr. Dorothy Saladiak. “Sister Rita Yeasted always seemed to give the students her undivided attention,” Col. Patton said. “I found that I was especially attracted to her professionalism and quick wit.”

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## Nicole Pearsall '03, DVM

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*Owner and Veterinarian, Penn-Ohio Veterinary Services*



Nicole Pearsall's veterinary practice, co-owned with her husband, Richard, has grown to over 2,500 clients within three years.

Penn-Ohio Veterinary Services is a cutting-edge practice that offers a wide range of services, including: basic and advanced small animal medicine and surgical procedures, preventative medicine, endoscopy, radiography, ultrasonography, full in-house laboratory and superior dentistry services.

After her undergraduate work at La Roche, Dr. Pearsall graduated with a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2007. Outside of work, she works with local animal shelters to help stray and homeless animals and has organized multiple pet owner education seminars. Dr. Pearsall also has mentored high school and college students who aspire to be future veterinarians.

"I am forever grateful to La Roche College, and most importantly, the science department faculty for helping me to achieve my dreams by helping me get accepted to veterinary school," Dr. Pearsall said. "The professors I had at La Roche truly cared about our success and did a fabulous job of leading us in the right direction."

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## Richard H. Pearsall '03, M.S.

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*Owner and Practice Manager, Penn-Ohio Veterinary Services*



For a successful career, Richard H. Pearsall combined a love for animals and an aptitude for biological science.

Mr. Pearsall and his wife, Nicole, started Penn-Ohio Veterinary Services in 2009, which was nominated for the Best of the Best Veterinary Practice for three consecutive years. Among his wide range of responsibilities, Mr. Pearsall assists the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) with interpreting patient's blood work and radiographs.

Prior to the opening of Penn-Ohio, he worked as a high school science teacher. Mr. Pearsall is a certified Veterinary Nutritional Advocate and volunteers for local shelters to help stray animals. He earned his master's in biological sciences from Duquesne University in 2005. In the future, he wants to attend Purdue University to become a Certified Practice Manager and start his own veterinary consulting business.

"Before I graduated, the La Roche science department threw me a personal party for the work I did as the director of ChemSolve," Mr. Pearsall said. "It was and will always have special meaning to me. I could not believe the amount of respect that I and the other professors had for each other."

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## Capt. Cynthia Piccirilli '79, M.D.

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*Neurosurgeon, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth*

*Captain and Department Head of Neurosurgery, U.S. Navy*



Throughout her career, Capt. Cynthia Piccirilli has touched many lives.

Since 1995, Capt. Piccirilli has worked as a staff neurosurgeon at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) and treats patients of all ages and acuity of illness. She currently serves as the department head of neurosurgery. During her career, she has been the neurosurgery advisor to the surgeon general of the Navy and served a term as president of the medical staff at NMCP.

Her patients include active duty and retired military members and their families. "It has been my distinct privilege to share in the lives of my patients and their families, as they journey through illness, recovery,

disability and at times, death," she said.

To Capt. Piccirilli, La Roche was a family experience. "I lived with a number of my professors, since I was a young religious sister when I attended La Roche," she explained. "My professors were deeply interested in the success of their students, and they wanted us to reach our full potentials."

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## Steven Pohl '81

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*Trustee, La Roche College*

*Vice President, Financial Planning and Analysis, Novelis, Inc.*



Steven Pohl has lived and worked in Mexico, France and Switzerland and has traveled to more than 50 countries to achieve professional success.

Mr. Pohl now works as vice president of financial planning and analysis at Novelis, Inc., an \$11 billion manufacturer of rolled aluminum products. His responsibilities include long-range planning, management reporting and analysis of the company's performance.

His community service has impacted the lives of many children. In the past, Mr. Pohl served as a Sunday school teacher and a youth fellowship leader. He is currently the community service project coordinator for Cub Scout Pack

1050 of Sandy Springs, Ga. Mr. Pohl also serves as a trustee at La Roche.

"My special memory of La Roche is my work study job in the College's business office," Mr. Pohl said. "I learned as much there, if not more, as I did in the classroom."

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## Ronald Radwanski '77

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*Gallery Director and Artist in Residence, ilume GALLERIE*



Artist Ronald Radwanski contributes to the community through his profession.

As the gallery director of ilume GALLERIE in Dallas, Texas, Mr. Radwanski manages and promotes 18 world-class artists in the media of fine art, sculpture, photography and jewelry. He has created more than 26 benefit shows and encourages the public to enroll in classes taught by the gallery artists. The gallery also donates art to local and national nonprofit organizations. As an artist in residence at ilume, Mr. Radwanski lives and paints there.

“My first day at La Roche, I was wide-eyed and eager to learn, having just a bit of design experience from a year of study at The Art Institute of Pittsburgh,” he said. “I found the faculty just as eager to make the personal and positive learning experience happen.”

Mr. Radwanski added that his graduation from the College in 1977 is a cherished memory because his entire family attended the ceremony.

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## J. Scott Robinette '88, J.D.

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*Deputy Secretary,*  
Safety and Labor Management Relations,  
Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry



Some people would say J. Scott Robinette found an abundance of good fortune at La Roche: Two roles in a Neil Simon play. A successful career. Even his future wife, Barbara.

“Not only did the members of the English department teach us how to write and appreciate literature, they also fixed us up,” Mr. Robinette said.

The same La Roche professors who brought Mr. Robinette and his wife together later attended their wedding. “Dr. Dorothy Saladiak read a poem at our wedding,” he explained. “Sister Rita Yeasted sang.”

Mr. Robinette currently works as the deputy secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry’s Safety and Labor Relations Division, supervising bureaus that enforce safety laws and state labor laws, mediate collective bargaining disputes and determine medical disability related to Social Security disability benefits. He previously worked as a criminal prosecutor for 18 years.

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## Jean-Pierre Rwigema '03, DMD, DDS

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*Doctor, Surgery Resident in Oral, Maxillofacial Surgery*  
UCLA Harbor Medical Center and Kaiser Permanente



Dr. Jean-Pierre Rwigema found inspiration for his profession in a personal and familiar place: home.

Dr. Rwigema is now a surgery resident in oral and maxillofacial surgery at UCLA Harbor Medical Center, where he also teaches. Originally from Rwanda, Dr. Rwigema said he strives to eventually provide treatment to people living in disadvantaged areas.

“Oral maxillofacial surgeons are in short supply, especially in underprivileged and small communities,” he explained. “In Rwanda, where I was born and grew up, there is no formal training in that field. As a result, there are many untreated conditions. I train so that in the near future, I can be instrumental in the health care of those people in remote areas without access.”

A former Pacem In Terris student, Dr. Rwigema said La Roche provided him with an invaluable experience. “It is the only place I had to enjoy living in a multicultural environment for four years and foster relationships,” he said.

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## Mark Sipper '82, J.D.

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*Founder, Sipper's Perfect Espresso*  
*Adjunct Professor, La Roche College*  
*Arbitrator*



Mark Sipper, founder of Sipper's Perfect Espresso, proves there is no limit to what a La Roche alum can accomplish.

Mr. Sipper works as the regional distributor for Lavazza Espresso Point Coffee and is an arbitrator for the Better Business Bureau of Western Pennsylvania. Recently he was invited to become an arbitrator for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Although his Pennsylvania attorney's license remains active, he does not currently practice law. He is happily married and the father of a daughter and son.

For more than 10 years, Mr. Sipper has worked as a La Roche adjunct professor, a position he said makes him feel proud. “The opportunity enables me to share my experience from the U.S. House of Representatives, two public corporations, the first liaison to Uzbekistan for the American Bar Association Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative, and as an entrepreneur with current students,” he explained.

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## Bryson W. Thornton '04

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*Director, Global Communications & Culture  
Burger King Worldwide, Inc.*



Like so many La Roche graduates, Bryson W. Thornton is an effective leader in both his community and profession. Mr. Thornton has worked with some of the world's most iconic brands, including Heinz, FedEx, Milk-Bone, Meow Mix, Star-Kist, Del Monte and now Burger King.

As director of global communications and culture for Burger King Worldwide, Mr. Thornton serves as chief communications counsel for all internal and external communications activities, including corporate public relations, financial communications, media relations, issues management and employee branding.

He has been recognized as one of PRWeek Magazine's 40 Under 40 and PR News Magazine's 15 to Watch. As a matter of personal passion, he remains an active leader in professional and volunteer-based organizations. He has served in leadership positions on the La Roche College Alumni Association board of directors and for the Pittsburgh and Miami chapters of the Public Relations Society of America.

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## Thomas White '97, M.A.

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*Archivist and Curator of Special Collections, Duquesne University  
Adjunct History Professor, Duquesne University and La Roche College*



La Roche alum Thomas White has established himself as a historian, professor and author.

Mr. White is an archivist and curator of special collections at Duquesne University, where he also works as an adjunct professor. For nearly 15 years, Mr. White has chronicled and preserved Pennsylvania's folklore, legends and obscure history. He has written seven books on the legends and history of this state, including: "Legends and Lore of Western Pennsylvania," "Forgotten Tales of Pittsburgh," "Ghosts of Southwestern Pennsylvania," "Forgotten Tales of Pennsylvania," "Gangs and Outlaws of Western Pennsylvania" (co-authored with Michael Hassett) and "Forgotten Tales of Philadelphia" (co-authored with Edward White).

At La Roche, where he now teaches as an adjunct professor, Mr. White said he always enjoyed Dr. Ed Brett's history classes. "He and the other professors always made time for students, and they were real mentors," he added. "I think that the authentic desire to help students succeed is one of the things that sets La Roche apart from many other places."

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## Debra Wolf '85 MSN '02, Ph.D.

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*Associate Professor of Nursing, Chatham University*

*Consultant, Independent Healthcare Informatics*



Debra Wolf's degree led to her established career in nursing and health care.

The associate nursing professor, also an Independent Healthcare Informatics consultant, works closely with students enrolled in the DNP program at Chatham University, vendors of innovative technology and health care organizations to integrate technology using change theory and process redesign.

"You will be surprised how successful one can be and how others will grow to respect you for your drive, vision and enthusiasm," Dr. Wolf said. "Offering one's time and talents to the community fills a void in your heart that no other paid accomplishment can do."

She added that commencement was gratifying. "Having my children and husband present to share the accomplishments was extremely fulfilling, for I knew I was setting an example and planting seeds that would influence scholarly growth in all my children," she said.

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## Nancey Wyant '84 M.S. '87, Ph.D.

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*Dean, Johnson School of Business, Hodges University*



After being the first member of her family to earn a bachelor's degree, Dr. Nancey Wyant furthered her ambitions by attending La Roche for a master's in human resources management.

"I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today if I had not completed my master's degree at La Roche," Dr. Wyant said.

La Roche, she explained, helped her to further her career, which later resulted in an advanced degree and a career in the education field. As the dean of the Johnson School of Business at Hodges University, Dr. Wyant is responsible for the supervision of undergraduate and graduate-level programs.

"I believe anyone can be anything they want to be, if they are willing to do whatever it takes," Dr. Wyant said. "There is, however, no better success or reward than helping others achieve their goals through education."

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## Sister Rita Yeasted, SFCC '68, Ph.D.

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*Chair of English Department*

*Professor of English, La Roche College*



English Professor and Department Chair Sister Rita Yeasted has served her alma mater for five decades.

Sister Rita teaches a variety of English courses, including freshman composition, senior seminar, literature and professional writing classes. Recently she published “JON: John Oliver Nelson and the Movement for Power in the Church,” a biography of the Pittsburgh-born founder of Kirkridge, a Poconos retreat center. She serves as president of the Western Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English. In August, she will begin a two-year term of service as an international communication coordinator for the Sisters of Christian Community, her religious community.

“Over my five decades of affiliation with La Roche College, I have rejoiced at its flowering from a fledging Sister Formation college to a college that embraces students from all over the world,” Sister Rita said. “It is an exciting place to come to every day.”

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## George T. Zaffuto M.S. '85

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*Vice President for Administrative Services, La Roche College*

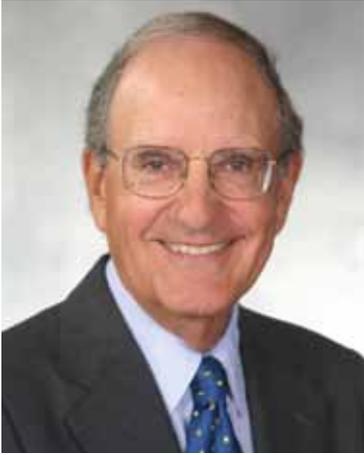


George Zaffuto has been a key member of the La Roche community for 23 years.

Mr. Zaffuto's career began in 1989, when he was hired as La Roche College's director of human resources. In 2000, he was promoted to executive director of human resources and facilities management. Mr. Zaffuto now works as vice president for administrative services and oversees the College's human resources, facilities management, public safety, book store and vending services. In addition to a master's degree in human resources management, Mr. Zaffuto also received a post-baccalaureate certificate in facility management from La Roche in 2006.

“The most special memory I have about La Roche College occurred in May 2009 during the College's graduation ceremony,” Mr. Zaffuto said. “I was honored and privileged to present my daughter, Hillary, with her bachelor's degree diploma from La Roche. I often think about how unique it was to be able to hand my own daughter her college diploma, from a college that I also had graduated from years earlier.”

## George Mitchell Receives La Roche College Peace Medal



**F**ormer U.S. Senator George J. Mitchell is the inaugural recipient of the La Roche College Peace Medal, in recognition of his work as Special Envoy for Northern Ireland and Special Envoy for Middle East Peace.

“Senator Mitchell has spent his life in service to the United States and to advancing the cause of peace in conflict-ridden areas of the world,” said Sister Candace Introcaso,

CDP, Ph.D., president of La Roche College. “It is appropriate for La Roche to recognize his exemplary service and dedication, as well as his strong support of higher education.”

**“The La Roche Peace Medal will be a lasting tribute to distinguished leaders who share and exemplify the mission of La Roche College.”** - Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.

Mr. Mitchell served as independent chairman of the Northern Ireland Peace Talks which led to the 1998 Good Friday Agreement that became a framework for peace after decades of conflict in Northern Ireland. He also served as chairman of an international fact-finding committee on violence in the Middle East in 2000-2001. The committee’s recommendation, widely known as The Mitchell Report, was endorsed by the U.S., the European Union and many other governments.

Mr. Mitchell, who represented Maine in the U.S. Senate from 1980 to 1995, is the founder of the Mitchell Institute in Portland, Maine, whose mission is to increase the likelihood that young people from every community in Maine will aspire to, pursue and achieve a college education.

“The La Roche Peace Medal will be a lasting tribute to distinguished leaders who share and exemplify the mission of La Roche College: to educate and empower future leaders to promote justice and peace in a constantly changing global society,” Sister Candace said. “As the inaugural recipient, Senator Mitchell will be an inspiration to the students, as well as the entire La Roche community for years to come.”

## La Roche College Hosts New York Times Columnist Nicholas Kristof

**T**wo-time Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof visited La Roche College to present a thought-provoking discussion titled, “A Call to Action: Encouraging Young People to Join the ‘World’s Fight’ & Take on a Cause Larger than Themselves.”

**“We believe that his values resonate with our students, the broader La Roche community and anyone who wants to make a difference in the world.”**

- Howard Ishiyama, Ph.D.

A seasoned journalist, Mr. Kristof has lived on four continents, reported on six and has traveled to 140 countries and all 50 states. Often called a “reporter’s reporter,” he is known for his focus on global health, poverty and gender issues. Mr. Kristof



has brought broad attention to human rights issues in Darfur and the Congo and has raised awareness on human trafficking and the oppression of women worldwide. A reporter, columnist and book author, Mr. Kristof has won two Pulitzer Prizes and been nominated for six.

Mr. Kristof and his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, were the first married couple to win a Pulitzer in journalism, for their coverage of China’s

Tiananmen Square democracy movement. Together, they wrote “China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power” and “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide.”

“We chose Nicholas Kristof as a presenter because of his interest in covering global issues involving peace and social justice, as well as the compassion that he shows on these subjects,” said Howard Ishiyama, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and academic dean. “We believe that his values resonate with our students, the broader La Roche community and anyone who wants to make a difference in the world.”

## Martin Sheen to Deliver 2013 Commencement Address



**A**ward-winning actor, social activist and humanitarian Martin Sheen will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters and deliver the commencement address to the 48th graduating class on Saturday, May 4.

“In this 50th anniversary year, we are especially aware of the values and mission that define the College,” said Sister Candace Introcaso,

CDP, Ph.D., president of La Roche College. “The causes that Martin Sheen has been dedicated to mirror the long-established mission of La Roche: educating future leaders who work for mercy, compassion, generosity and justice.”

***“We believe Mr. Sheen has a strong message to share with La Roche graduates about the importance of commitment and service on behalf of global humanitarian causes.”*** - Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.

Best known for the more than 100 roles throughout his distinguished acting career, Mr. Sheen has used his celebrity status to speak out on issues of peace and justice. For decades, he has been an activist on issues such as: the alleviation of poverty and homelessness, the fair treatment of immigrants, the eradication of nuclear weapons, and the end of the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars.

“We believe Mr. Sheen has a strong message to share with La Roche graduates about the importance of commitment and service on behalf of global humanitarian causes,” Sister Candace said. “He also can relate to today’s college students since he enrolled as a student at the National University of Ireland at Galway just a few years ago.”

## Local Artist Spotlights College’s Campus in New Painting

**P**ittsburgh artist Linda Barnicott has captured the campus in a vibrant new portrait. Ms. Barnicott’s career began in 1989 after winning the hearts of many Pittsburghers with her now-famous work, “Meet Me Under Kaufmann’s Clock,” which is a tribute to downtown holiday shopping. Throughout her career, she has depicted several other Pittsburgh landmarks, including Kennywood Park, Sand Castle Water Park and Idlewild Park. In the fall of 2012, the renowned artist toured the La Roche campus to generate inspiration for the new portrait of the College.



Linda Barnicott painting the La Roche campus in her studio at home.

“This is a beautiful campus with so many choices to develop a painting,” Ms. Barnicott said, citing the John J. Wright Library as the most inspiring campus landmark. “I love the new statue of Joan of Arc, whose example gives strength and hope to students.”

The portrait highlights the College’s past and present, with Providence Heights as the backdrop and members of the current La Roche community serving as the painting’s subjects. While touring the campus, Ms. Barnicott gathered La Roche students to add the presence of real people, a technique she said gives each piece of art its own personality.

Limited edition prints of the portrait will be available for purchase through the College book store. Giftware items, such as ornaments, magnets and notecards also will be offered.

# Dear Alumni,



**L**a Roche College's 50th anniversary has been both an exciting and busy year. It has been a year of reflection and a year of celebration. But more importantly, it has been a year that has recognized the true legacy of La Roche: our alumni.

As this year's 50 Distinguished Alumni prove, La Roche

graduates are a tremendous source of talent. It is my goal to continue celebrating that talent through alumni programming and various initiatives. With such a diverse alumni population, there are so many different ways to reconnect with each other. Future programs include alumni travel and vacation opportunities, athletic reunions for women's volleyball, softball and men's soccer, and academic reunions, including one for all nursing alumni in 2014.

Since a great number of our alumni live and work outside of Pittsburgh, our programs are not limited to the local community. The first Florida alumni event was held in Fort Lauderdale where we hope to develop an alumni chapter, and our Washington, D.C. chapter is alive and well, with an upcoming event on Saturday, May 18. Within the next year, we also hope to launch alumni chapters in New York City and Philadelphia.

The greatest challenge I face is maintaining updated contact information. If you haven't received an email from me within the last month, please send me your current contact information so that I can inform you of future events. Likewise, be sure to notify me of your new mailing address if and when you move. We have so much planned, and we don't want you to miss any opportunities to enhance ties with your alma mater.

*Best Regards,*

**Gina Battaglia Miller '77**

*Director of Alumni Relations*

gina.miller@laroche.edu

(412) 536-1085



*Pictured left to right: Vincent Bradley '76, William Horvath '85, Bob Ladesic representing his father Robert Ladesic '76, Daniel Swalga '75, Donald Rendulic '77, Carol (Caughlan) Schullely '78 - Statistician, Margaret Baltz '77 - Statistician, Coach John Pasquinelli and Assistant Coach Tom Pikur.*

## Men's Basketball Reunion Celebrates 39 Years of Collegiate-Level Sports

**M**ore than 60 former men's basketball players returned to campus to celebrate La Roche College basketball on Jan. 26. Alumni traveled from Georgia, Florida, Maryland, New York and Eastern Pennsylvania for this commemorative event, which included a reunion luncheon and a formal ceremony. The College paid special tribute to the 1974-75 men's basketball players, La Roche's first-ever collegiate conference-level team. Each member of the 1974-75 team received a certificate award.



## Drive with Pride: Order a La Roche College Specialty License Plate

**W**e are now accepting orders for official La Roche College Pennsylvania license plates. Each plate is custom-made by the Department of Corrections and will replace the one currently displayed on the back of your vehicle. All orders must be processed through the Office of Alumni Relations. To order your specialty license plate, visit [laroche.edu/license](http://laroche.edu/license).

## Stay connected with La Roche Via Social Media

Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/alumniirc](http://facebook.com/alumniirc), or join the following groups on LinkedIn: La Roche College Alumni and La Roche College Career Development.

# *A Community* IN SERVICE

Students and Faculty Promote Peace  
and Justice at La Roche and Beyond



## **A**t a College that promotes a commitment to social responsibility, members of the La Roche community often ask themselves a familiar and important question: How can I do more for the world?

Conveniently the Office of Mission and Service provides an answer: volunteer work.

La Roche faculty, staff and students can participate in a wide range of service learning projects, from bingo with the Sisters at the Divine Providence Motherhouse to natural disaster recovery.

Director of Mission and Service Sister Elena Almendarez, CDP, said service learning offers a broad view of the world. “When you see what other people are living with,” she said, “your own personal struggles are put into perspective. You see a different part of the world – you’re exposed to a different reality.”

Volunteers witness a different world every Tuesday evening when they partner with Operation Save-a-Life, an Allegheny County Community Human Services outreach that works exclusively with homeless and low-income people. Distributing food, water, blankets and socks, the group travels nearly two miles on Pittsburgh’s North Side to deliver basic supplies to the poor.

According to Sister Elena, Operation Save-a-Life directly exposes students to the harsh reality of the region’s poor and less fortunate. “It’s really an eye-opener because a lot of our folks haven’t really had that experience. This is a way to meet people face to face and hear their stories,” she said.

Pet therapy is another frequent service activity. Volunteers take rabbits to various assisted living facilities, including Cumberland Crossing Manor near UPMC Passavant and Metowers in Bellevue. Residents have the opportunity to touch the animals, which are trained to remain calm and docile. These peaceful encounters are especially helpful to children at Pressley Ridge School For Autism in Emsworth, who can interact with the animals without pressure. “A lot of Autistic kids have a very hard time with any social interaction,” Sister Elena said. “The animals are totally nonjudgmental. Sometimes it takes a lot of courage, for a child who is afraid, to touch an animal.”

Incorporated into the College’s La Roche Experience program, service learning also allows students to examine social issues. “They reflect on why these problems exist in the world and the systemic reason people are challenged in this way,” Sister Elena said. “They ask themselves, ‘Why does

homelessness exist in such an affluent society?’ They also see if what they’re learning in their studies at La Roche can be applied to improve the situation.”

Other service learning activities acknowledge children, the disabled, the environment and issues of health care and human rights. The group visits children at the Providence Family Support Center, along with The Gatehouse and Fithian House, two residences sponsored by the Spina Bifida Association.

“All of these activities give individuals the opportunity to be recognized, for people to help them and for our students to give them their attention and time,” Sister Elena explained.



*Jung Kim, a volunteer from La Roche College, digs up a piece of debris as she and other students spend their spring break cleaning up Hurricane Sandy rubble in Union Beach, N.J.*

That recognition, however, is not limited to the local community. Every spring semester, volunteers travel to a select location for Alternative Spring Break. This year from March 1 to 8, the group partnered with Americorps to assist an area devastated by Hurricane Sandy: Union Beach, N.J. Projects included the demolition and construction of houses, food preparation, outdoor cleanup and organizing supplies and donations.

“Volunteering is a way to promote justice and peace,” Sister Elena said. “Don’t ever think you don’t make a difference.”

For more information about the Office of Mission and Service, contact Sister Elena Almendarez at [elena.almendarez@laroche.edu](mailto:elena.almendarez@laroche.edu), or visit [intranet.laroche.edu/missionservice](http://intranet.laroche.edu/missionservice).

*At left: Volunteers from La Roche College clean up Hurricane Sandy wreckage on Brook Avenue in Union Beach, N.J.*

BY BECKY JESKEY '11 | PHOTOS: THE STAR-LEDGER, NEWARK, N.J.



# Make A Difference

## *New Global Development and Humanitarian Aid Training Program at La Roche Will Prepare Students to Assist in Global Emergencies*

**H**urricanes in Haiti. Earthquakes in Japan. Flooding in the Philippines. Every year, natural disasters affect millions of people across the globe. Although many people want to help countries in crisis, those who make the biggest impact are professionals with specialized training in the humanitarian aid field.

“Oxfam will advertise for volunteers to go to a country where there has been a recent emergency, get 1,000 applicants and take almost no one,” explained Jeff Ritter, Ph.D., department chair of communication, media and technology and coordinator of the film, video and media program at La Roche College. “Applicants want to do something good but give no indication that they can survive in this type of environment.”

To this end, La Roche College will introduce a Global Development and Humanitarian Aid Training Program in June

and July of 2013. The two-week program will bring together students from all over the world to take part in training simulations and classroom work designed to prepare them for entry into the field of humanitarian and emergency aid.

“We believe that it is essential for humanitarian aid workers to not only understand the crisis that has happened, but the types of issues that they will face as a result,” Dr. Ritter explained. “We want to provide practical, skill-based training that can prepare them for working in this context. Our goal is to create team builders and problem solvers.”

La Roche is partnering with RedR UK to bring this training to the United States. RedR UK is an international disaster relief charity that trains aid workers and provides skilled professionals to humanitarian programs worldwide. In addition to RedR UK training, students will have access to

the practical experience and knowledge of local and regional experts in disaster relief and humanitarian aid, such as Global Links and Brother's Brother. The course also includes a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit USAID and other institutions that specialize in the humanitarian aid field.

"The field is growing, not because there are more emergencies than before, but because the world is dedicating more resources to dealing with these crises," Dr. Ritter said. "If you spend money right when something happens, you get more accomplished. It costs more later to ameliorate problems."

***"It's a well-paying, growing field, but it also is dangerous, risky, scary and guaranteed to worry parents."***

- Jeff Ritter, Ph.D.

Dr. Ritter first came up with the idea for the global development course while working in Kosovo. He then attended a RedR UK course in essentials of humanitarian practice and a conference in Geneva, Switzerland, to learn more about this growing field. "There is a real need for more workers," he said. "But what I noticed at the conference was that all of the big players in the field wanted to see some standardizing training—a common set of principles and skills among workers."

"The International Red Cross, for example, said that they would rather have a small-business owner as a volunteer instead of someone with a master's in development. The small-business owner is more likely to be flexible, collaborative and have the ability to improvise. It really struck me that this was something we could do at La Roche," he added.

"The conference that Dr. Ritter attended really gave us the encouragement to proceed," said Astrid Kersten, Ph.D., professor of management at La Roche College, who helped to create the new course. "Our program has been developed based on the standards and guidelines from that conference."

According to Dr. Kersten, the program will benefit students by providing them with comprehensive introductory training in humanitarian aid that covers both conceptual material and applied experiences. "For example, humanitarian aid workers must be familiar with the basic organizational framework used to deliver aid; the international legal structure that regulates human rights, access, refugees, aid provisions and more; the ethics of humanitarian aid work and so on," she explained. "Our program aims to train students in those areas while also providing them with realistic case, group and situational

experiences that mimic some of the challenges experienced in the field."

Both Dr. Ritter and Dr. Kersten have shared their expertise overseas in different ways. Dr. Ritter has been to Kosovo three times, as well as Liberia and Rwanda, where he provided training for 40 local teachers. "On my last trip to Kosovo, I did a video project for a Dutch NGO (non-governmental organization) on entrepreneurs and small businesses in the Balkans, which allowed me to learn about other aspects of development work," he said. "I also taught a course on media and democracy to university students during one of my trips, which interested them greatly as they had never learned about free speech in media before."

Dr. Kersten has provided conflict training and diversity training for corporations and community groups in the U.S., Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden. She was recently on sabbatical in the Solomon Islands, where she worked on issues relating to violence against women and children. Her accomplishments thus far include grant writing, the establishment of a junior youth group, a martial arts self-defense program for girls, a women's circle that focuses on the issue of domestic violence and a radio program on peaceful parenting.

While humanitarian aid work is rewarding, it is not for everyone. For this reason, the College will be very selective in the 28 students it chooses for the first global development class. "We expect that this program will interest two different types of people: those who have graduated college and are still looking for a career path that requires this type of very specific training, and professionals who are looking for a new direction—those who have skills that will be useful in the humanitarian aid field and want to transfer those skills to a new career path," said Dr. Ritter.

***"Humanitarian aid workers must be familiar with the basic organizational framework used to deliver aid."*** - Astrid Kersten, Ph.D.

"This program is for mature people with serious attitudes," he added. "It's a well-paying, growing field, but it also is dangerous, risky, scary and guaranteed to worry parents."

For more information about the Global Development and Humanitarian Aid Training Program, visit [laroche.edu/humanitarian](http://laroche.edu/humanitarian) or contact Dr. Ritter at [humanitarianaid@laroche.edu](mailto:humanitarianaid@laroche.edu) or 412-536-1027.

BY: VANESSA ORR

## La Roche to Offer Bachelor of Science Degree in Biochemistry

The La Roche chemistry department has revamped its undergraduate curriculum and will launch a B.S. Biochemistry program in the fall of 2013.

Designed for students with an interest in biological sciences, the program will offer the starting point for a career in today's biotechnology sector and prepare students for graduate studies and admission to medical, veterinary, dental or pharmacy professional schools.

"The program will give students a solid biochemical foundation for understanding the human body, how our bodies work and what causes disease states," said Rebecca Bozym, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry director. Students will gain that foundation through the program's chemistry-based curriculum and the addition of the new Physical Biochemistry course. To expose students to the techniques used in today's research labs, the College also will implement a new Biochemistry II Lab for students in the second semester of the program.

The execution of a second biochemistry lab, Dr. Bozym said, is essential for La Roche to keep up with modern research. "Looking at how research is oriented these days and how the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is funding everything, most of the grants are toward the biomedical sciences," she said. Keeping pace with today's ever-changing scientific methods will



aid the La Roche chemistry department in accomplishing an important goal: leading students to established and successful careers. Don Fujito, Ph.D., professor and chair of chemistry, said the advantage of a biochemistry degree is that it allows students to enter other sectors of chemistry.

"Within the overall discipline, the two fundamental degree programs can touch upon everything new in the field," Dr. Fujito said. "This is an ideal program for premedical and pre-pharmaceutical students."

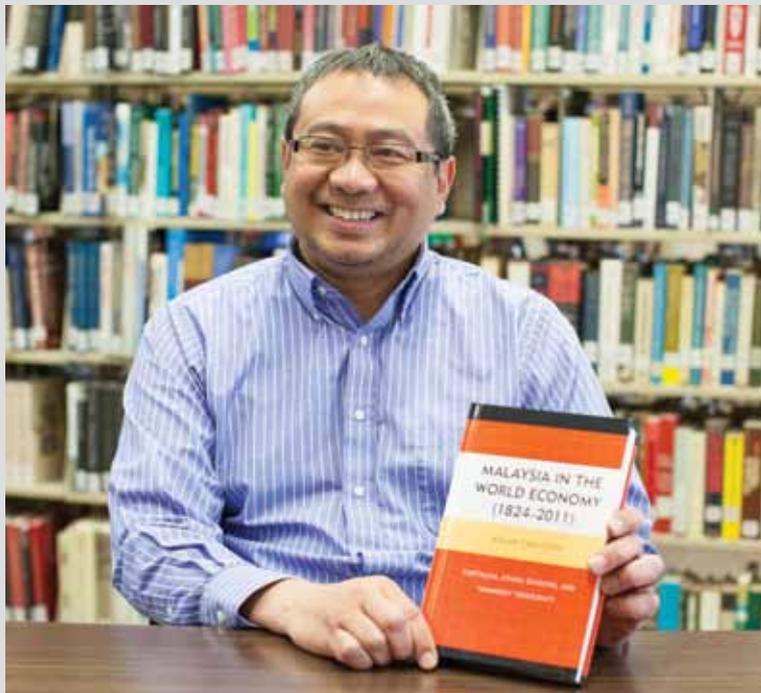


PHOTO: CAITLIN THOMAS '09

## Professor Azlan Tajuddin, Ph.D., Earns Praise for Latest Book

Dr. Azlan Tajuddin, associate professor and sociology department chair, received critical acclaim for his new book, "Malaysia in the World Economy (1824-2011): Capitalism, Ethnic Divisions, and 'Managed' Democracy."

Dr. Tajuddin's work was well-received by scholars and researchers in the field of political economy, who regard his book as both original and thought-provoking. The book critically analyzes the relationship between capitalist development and political economic culture. Using Malaysia as a case study, Dr. Tajuddin explores why the industrial development of a post-colonial society rarely entails democratization of its political system. "Malaysia in the World Economy" examines why persistent social inequalities, ethnic polarization and the decline of democracy continue to plague Malaysia's multicultural society, despite its rapid industrialization.

The book is available online at [rowman.com](http://rowman.com).

## John J. Wright Library Receives Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) recently awarded the John J. Wright Library the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf, a collection of resources that will introduce the public to Muslim heritage and history.

The John J. Wright Library was one of 842 libraries and state humanities councils selected to receive the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf, which includes a 25-book collection, along with three films and a one-year subscription to Oxford Islamic Studies Online. All awarded libraries are eligible for additional grant opportunities.

John J. Wright Library Director LaVerne Collins, who applied for the grant in the summer of 2012, said the Bookshelf aligns with La Roche College's strong global commitment and dedication to cross-cultural understanding.



PHOTO: CAITLIN THOMAS '09

“The Muslim Journeys Bookshelf is an ideal fit for both the library and the College,” Ms. Collins said. “The large number of Muslim students and our domestic students might use this opportunity to foster understanding and lifelong learning – both by attending the library’s programming and reading the wonderful books.”

Presented by NEH and the American Library Association (ALA), the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf is a project of Bridging Cultures, an initiative that promotes an understanding and shared respect for the world’s diverse cultures and faiths. The Bookshelf focuses on five themes: American stories, connected histories, literary reflections, pathways of faith and points of view.

The collection will be available to all visitors to the library. La Roche College faculty also will use the materials for history, political science, literature, religious studies, criminal justice and international business courses.

PHOTO: ASTRID KERSTEN, Ph.D.



Sixteen Days of Activism Parade in the Solomon Islands.

## Dr. Astrid Kersten Writes Grant to Empower Women in the Solomon Islands

Astrid Kersten, Ph.D., SPHR, GPHR, professor of management at La Roche College, recently wrote and secured a grant supporting women empowerment in one of the world’s most oppressive countries.

Last semester, Dr. Kersten used her sabbatical leave to perform four months of service to the Baha’i Faith community in the Solomon Islands, a country in the South Pacific where two out of three women experience violence. After devoting more than one month to writing a successful 40-page proposal, Dr. Kersten secured a grant through the UN Women Pacific Regional Ending Violence Against Women Fund, which will support three years of training and outreach to battle domestic violence in a country plagued by gender inequality.

**“Going to the Solomon Islands as an academic meant that my highly specialized skills had no value there whatsoever.”**

- Astrid Kersten, Ph.D.

To promote social change during her visit, Dr. Kersten found creative ways to adapt and connect with the women. She established a relationship through open discussion, social events and arts and crafts. “Going to the Solomon Islands as an academic meant that my highly specialized skills had no value there whatsoever,” she said. “However, as long as one is open, flexible and willing to see what is actually needed, and then do that, one can be of service.”



*Pictured left to right: Irish consul Noel Kilkenny, Sister Michele Bisbey and Voice/Irish Education 100 publisher, Niall O'Dowd.*

## Sister Michele Bisbey Named to Prestigious Irish Education 100 List

**S**ister Michele Bisbey, CDP, Ph.D., professor of religious studies and Ketteler Endowed Chair of Theology at La Roche College, was named to the Irish Voice Newspaper's 2012 Irish Education 100. The list recognizes leading figures of Irish heritage across the nation.

"The award is a tribute to my parents, particularly my mother, Eileen Quinn Bisbey, who was born in Lurgan in County Armagh," Sister Michele said. "We were raised to value our heritage and our faith. My parents believed that the way to secure peace and justice was through education."

Father Thomas Schaefer, associate vice president for academic affairs at La Roche College, nominated Sister Michele for this honor. "In addition to being Irish, Sister Michele is a wonderful educator," Father Schaefer said. "When you look at who has been honored with this award in past years, they all excel in educational contributions and in terms of social and personal outreach. Sister Michele is exceptional in all of these areas. Her heritage is important to her, as is her work with foster parenting, her devotion to students and education and her faith. She has it all."

Sister Michele was recognized in a special edition issue of the Irish Voice newspaper and was featured in a replica digital edition on [irisheducation100.com](http://irisheducation100.com).

## Beyond Borders

**T**his spring, two Study Abroad+Study USA (SA+SUSA) courses allowed students to broaden their horizons by moving beyond them. SA+SUSA, established in 2009, offers students a cross-cultural experience domestically or abroad at little or no cost.



### La Roche Experience in Guatemala

"Wealth is not only in the form of possessions, but also in the human spirit." These aren't the words of a famous philosopher or a well-known author. They didn't appear in a fortune cookie or an inspirational book. They are the reflection of La Roche College student Eric Miller who participated in this year's mission trip to Guatemala.

"I have been to third world countries before but never in indigenous areas," he said. "My eyes were opened."

This eye-opening experience included a visit to Patzún and service work with an orphanage, hospital and school. Led by instructors Philip Miller, Ph.D., and Jane Arnold, the trip related service learning to diversity, conflict resolution and economic justice. Students comforted patients at a private hospital in the Guatemalan highlands; renovated a small house; and worked with preschool students.

Dr. Miller said students not only served the underprivileged – they also befriended them. "There is no better soil than friendship, in which one can plant the seeds that grow into peace and justice," he said.



### Sports Entertainment & Marketing in Ireland

Ten La Roche students traveled to the Republic of Ireland under the guidance of Jean Forti, Ph.D., professor of human resources management, and Study Abroad Coordinator Nicole Kubit.

Students received a commemorative stained glass sculpture from the Lord Mayor of County Kerry and also visited the

Dunbrody Famine Ship & Irish Emigrant Experience and Visitor Centre in New Ross, an attraction that features a re-enactment of an emigrant vessel and the deplorable conditions the Irish people faced when crossing the Atlantic in the 1840s.

"Students gained an understanding of the trials and tribulations of the Irish people," Dr. Forti said.

That newfound understanding resonated with junior Jamal Blackwell. "This experience taught me that people struggle all over the world," he said. "I learned to be thankful for what I have."



Mark Cancilla '11, Andrew Graham '11 and Max Tilley (senior, graphic design) look over a design piece displayed at the art exhibition. Top right: Kevin Rupert (senior, graphic design) accepts the Best of Show award from Howard Ishiyama Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and academic dean.

## Positive Space Celebrates 20 Years of Creativity

This year's Positive Space art showcase highlighted a concept that has driven La Roche College's annual student art exhibit for two decades: creativity.

Student innovation has adorned the College campus every year since 1993, when former La Roche professor Rosemary Gold created Positive Space as a venue for design students to display their artwork. Since then, the show has grown to an annual exhibition that presents more than 150 works submitted by La Roche students who have completed a minimum of one art or design-related course.

The 2013 competition, which received more than 200 submissions, displayed an assortment of artwork in the following categories: 3-D modeling, drawing and painting, illustration, integrated branding, interior design, packaging, photography, web and multimedia, typography and miscellaneous.

"This is the only time during the year that the La Roche community, family and friends of the students, and professionals get to see student work," said Neha Agarwal, department chair of the La Roche graphic design department. "These students are designers, and they're artists. They make things for the world to interact with, and this exhibit allows the world to interact with their work. It gives students the validity of whether their work was effective or ineffective."

Senior graphic design student Kevin Rupert learned that his design for "Madchen Branding," a brand of home improvement tools designed specifically for women, was more than effective when he won Best of Show, the competition's highest honor. An outside panel of judges, comprised of professional Pittsburgh artists, evaluated the submissions and ranked each piece for a first, second or third-place cash prize.

**"These students are designers,  
and they're artists.  
They make things  
for the world to interact with."**

- Neha Agarwal, department chair, La Roche graphic design dept.

In honor of the show's 20th anniversary, the College invited design alumni to submit artwork that represented their interpretation of the number 20, which was displayed on opening night. The La Roche Design Division also unveiled its new website, [designatlaroche.com](http://designatlaroche.com), prior to this year's awards ceremony.

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



*In the foreground: Matt Puwalowski and Kenzie O'Connor (Seniors, Graphic Design) assembling their project, "Wishful Planting," which focused on a person's personal and social interaction with the environment.*

## PARK(ing) Day Encourages Creativity, Collaboration Among Design Students

**W**hat is a parking spot? For most La Roche College students, it's a place to ditch a car before rushing off to class. But for La Roche interior design and graphic design students, these outdoor spaces provided the opportunity to encourage people to think more critically about themselves and about the world.

Last semester, students from Professor Miranda Hall's Graphic Design Packaging and Environments class collaborated with Dr. Nicole Bieak Kreidler's Interior Design III class to participate in PARK(ing) Day, an annual worldwide event where artists, designers and citizens transform parking spots into temporary public parks. Taking this concept one step further, the classes tackled social issues within six 18 x 10 parking spaces. Students constructed the spaces from the ground up, providing everything from the concept to the signage, walls, seating and displays.

"This seemed like the perfect small-scale project for students to get to know each other's skills," explained Dr. Kreidler, associate professor and chair of the interior design department. "Many students were used to designing a project on paper and then translating it into a computer model. They never had the opportunity to put together a full-scale, real-life version of their idea."

This team concept proved to be a learning experience for both groups of students, who were combined into six groups, each

with two interior design students and two graphic design students. "Once we started the project, I could see how everyone contributed to creating what we call branded environments—and it turned out to be a lot of fun," said Brittany Jamison, a senior graphic design student.

In one project called Release Your True Colors, a parking space was filled with black balloons, and students were asked to consider a negative thought they had about themselves. Students threw darts at the balloons, which were filled with colored paint to release these negative thoughts. Afterward, they reflected on their experiences and left a positive note

on the wall. They were also given an origami balloon that had a colorful, positive message inside.

Kayla Benton, a fourth-year interior design student who worked on the True Colors concept, appreciated the feedback that the PARK(ing) Day project provided. "I really enjoyed seeing people interact and respond to our projects. Sometimes when you post your work in an art gallery, you don't get to see if people really understand the whole process," she explained. "It was neat to see that they understood what we were trying to do."



*A sample of the PARK(ing) Day projects: "Pinwheels for Peace" (left) and (right) posters presented in a space designed to make visitors aware of their own carbon footprint based on their lifestyles and daily activities.*

More than 100 people visited the parking spaces and provided positive feedback on the students' projects. "The response was actually overwhelming. We didn't expect so much to come from it," Professor Hall said. "Students not only gained information, but inspiration."

So much inspiration, in fact, that the two classes teamed up this semester to work on a second project for ModCloth, an online women's fashion retailer. The professors also plan to bring their students together to participate in PARK(ing) Day next semester.

BY: VANESSA ORR



*Pictured: Jessica Pitts '14*

### Lady Redhawks Win AMCC Conference Championship and Advance to NCAA Tournament

The Lady Redhawks were named AMCC Conference Champions for the third consecutive year after a 63-58 win over Penn State Behrend. The team set a new school record for most wins in a season (24) and had an appearance in the AMCC Regular Season, Tournament Championship and NCAA Tournament.

Despite a 73-43 loss to DePauw in the NCAA Tournament, Head Coach Kam Gissendanner said the team enjoyed a strong season and the new school record for most wins in a season (24). “Night in and night out, these girls overcame adversity. They are a talented group of fighters,” she said. “To accomplish what we did this year with seven and eight girls is to be commended.” Jessica Pitts earned AMCC Player of the Year and was named to the AMCC All-Conference First Team. Casie Cygan was named to the All-Conference First Team, and Amanda Garland was selected for All-Conference Third Team. Both Ms. Pitts and Ms. Cygan surpassed 1,000 career points this season.

### Men’s Basketball Team Wins Second AMCC Conference Regular Season Championship

The men’s basketball team won its second AMCC Conference Regular Season Championship and reached the ECAC Tournament Semifinals for the second straight season. The Redhawks suffered an 82-71 Semifinal loss to Albright College but enjoyed a 17-11 (14-4) record overall this past season.

“All 15 players believed in each other and committed to playing on the defensive end,” said Andrew Bott, assistant men’s basketball coach. “In October, we all started a journey together, and we embraced it all and had a season that made us proud.”

Joel McIntosh became the eleventh Redhawk to register 1,000 career points, and David Jackson became the third player in the program’s history to surpass 600 rebounds. Both Mr. McIntosh and Mr. Jackson were named AMCC All-Conference Second Team Performers.



*Pictured: David Jackson '14*

### Golf Team Places Second in AMCC Conference Championship

The men’s golf team carded a 636 and finished second in the AMCC Conference Championship. Kevin Loutsenhizer was the tournament runner-up with an eight-over par 152 (78,74). Jared Vetica (80, 77) and Nolan Shank (78, 84) both performed well in their first conference championships to finish fifth and tied for sixth.

PHOTOS: JIBRAN MUSHTAQ '11



*Pictured: Melanie Ward '13*

### Women's Tennis Team Qualifies for NCAA Tournament

**A**fter winning its first-ever AMCC Championship and defeating seven-time defending champion Penn State Behrend 5-4, the women's tennis team earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament in May of 2013. The win against Penn State Behrend broke the La Roche women's tennis record for most wins in a season (10) and most consecutive wins (8) and gave La Roche College Athletics its fourth AMCC Championship in the past three years.

Melanie Ward and Doria Shima made school history when they were named to the AMCC All-Conference First Team. Ms. Ward was the second Lady Redhawk to be named AMCC Conference Player of the Week this season and the fourth in the past two years. Aaron Wilf also won this season's AMCC Women's Tennis Coach of the Year.

### Athletic Hall of Fame Welcomes Class of 2013

- John Arnold Sr. and Family (*Honorary Inductee*)
- Bryan Barto (*Men's Basketball/Golf, 1994-1998*)
- Casey Byerly (*Softball, 1999-2003*)
- Roy Dean (*Men's Basketball, 1975-1977*)
- Chrystal Delgado (*Softball, 2001-2005*)
- Damian Hall (*Men's Basketball, 1996-2000*)
- Lindsay Talbot (*Women's Soccer, 2000-2004*)
- Marcess Williams (*Men's Basketball, 1998-2002*)

### Moreschi Wins AMCC Player of the Year, Golebie and Ferraco Named to All-Conference Team

**T**hree Lady Redhawk soccer players were rewarded for their fine play during the 2012 season. Bethanie Moreschi was named Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Co-Player of the Year and First Team All-Conference, and Katherine Golebie and Nicole Ferraco received Third Team All-Conference honors.

Ms. Moreschi led the conference in goals and ranked in the top two in points. She ended the season with 16 goals and two assists and finished her career as La Roche's second leading scorer with 68 goals. Ms. Golebie anchored a Lady Redhawks' defense that ranked third in the AMCC in goals allowed (1.3 per game) and finished the season with four consecutive shutouts. She also ranked among the school's all-time leaders in games played. Ms. Ferraco finished the season with two goals and four assists.



*Pictured: Ryan Luffey '15*

### Redhawks Advance to Sixth AMCC Semifinals and Appear in First-ever ECAC Tournament

**A** terrific season earned the men's soccer team a bid to its first-ever ECAC Tournament, where they fell to conference rival Penn State Behrend 3-0. The team also broke La Roche's record for most conference wins in a season and advanced to its sixth AMCC Tournament semifinals.

Bryan Weimerskirch was named an AMCC All-Conference First Team performer, Ryan Luffey was named to the All-Conference Second Team and Tyler Irwin was a Third Team honoree.

# ~ THEN AND NOW ~



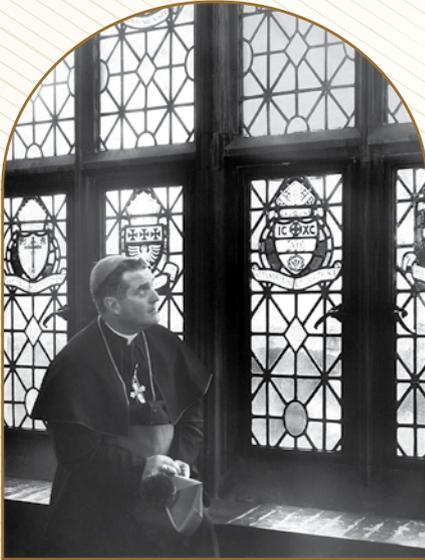
TOP PHOTO:  
CIRCA 1960: SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE PROPERTY

BOTTOM PHOTO:  
SITE OF THE LA ROCHE COLLEGE CAMPUS TODAY



PHOTO: JIBRAN MUSHTAQ '11

# ~ THROUGH THE YEARS ~



In 1967, The John J. Wright Library was named in honor of Most Reverend John J. Wright, Bishop of Pittsburgh.



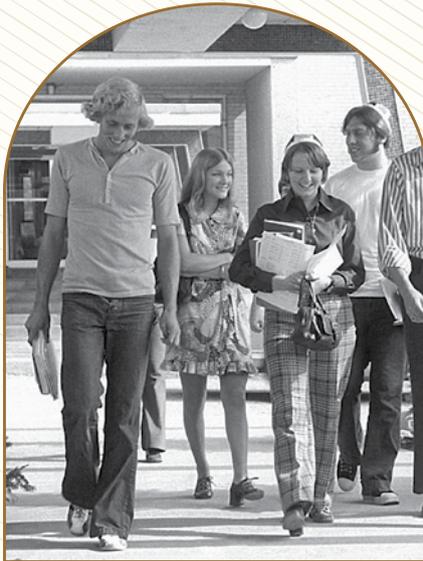
Upon completion of the Wright Library in 1967, the books from the original Providence House library were transported by basket across a long line of Sisters and friends to the new library.



Formerly a women's college, La Roche College was co-educational by the 1970's.



In the early 1970's, the biology lab was located in the basement of Ketteler Hall.



Students walk from the entrance of Academic Hall. (1972) Freshman were required to wear red and white felt beanies.



The steel structure forms the foundation for the Magdalen Chapel. (1989)



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