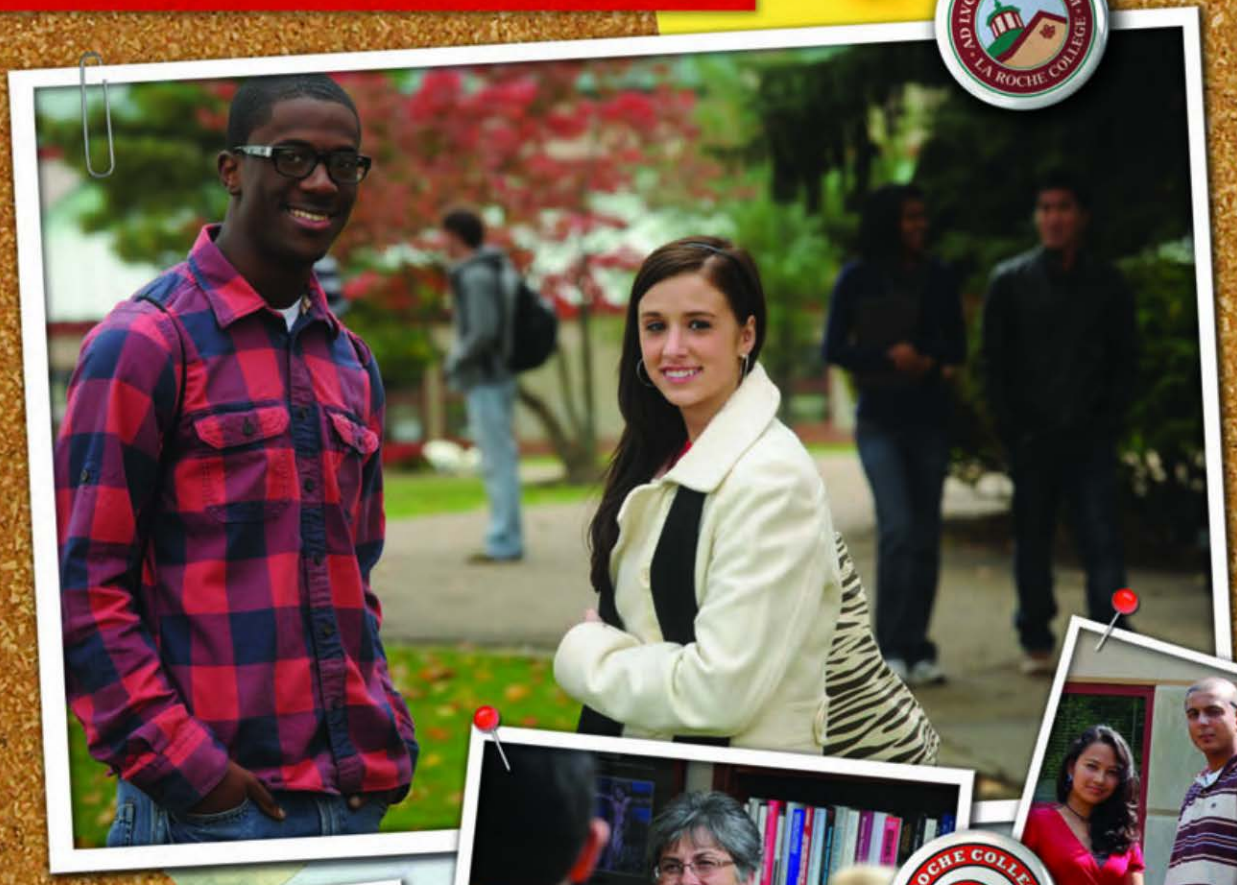
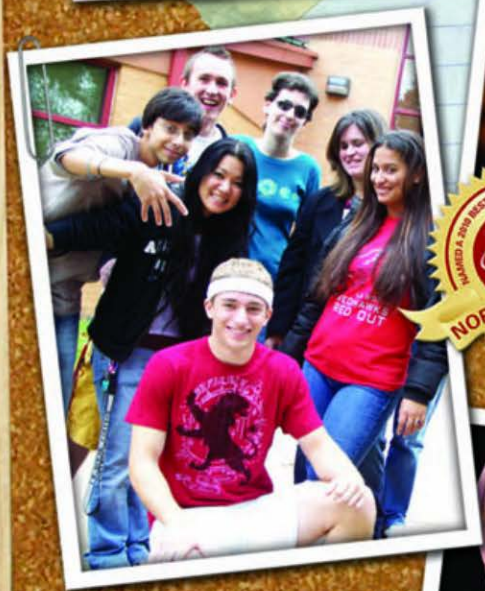
LA ROCHE

MAGAZINE • FALL 2009



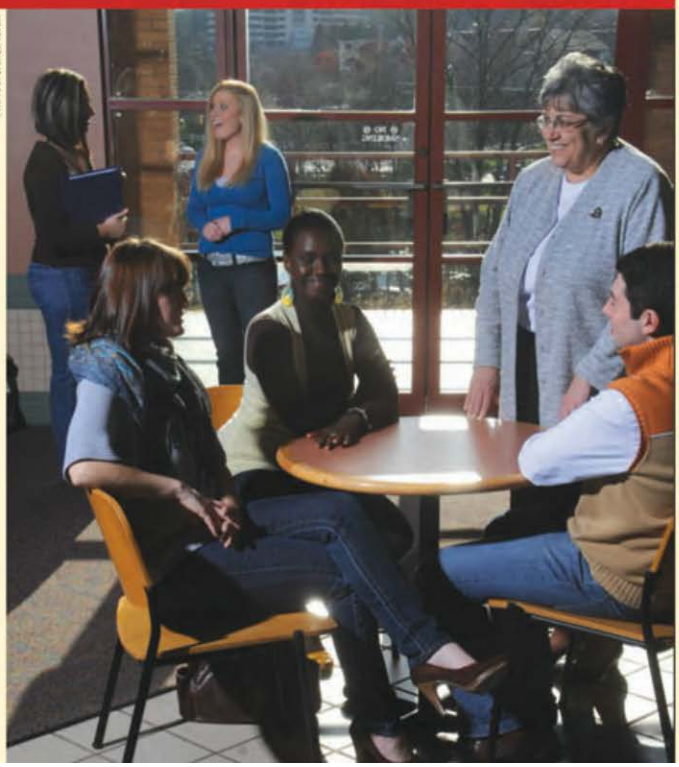


Five Years Later:

Looking Back, Looking Forward

From the President

PHOTOS: JAMES KRUCK



There are days when it seems like only yesterday that I returned to La Roche. Then there are days, mostly during budget deliberations, when I can't believe that it has been "only" five years since I began my presidency here at the College. A lot has happened in those years, and a lot of people have contributed to the progress that La Roche has made during that period. We have seen many changes – new programs, new facilities, and new recognitions, including our ongoing designation by the Princeton Review as one of the best colleges in the Northeast. These accomplishments have been the result of the effort and involvement of all segments of the La Roche community – faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends – and I consider myself fortunate to be representing such a talented and committed group of individuals.

Throughout the past five years, one of the best things about being president has been and still remains the wonderful things that I hear about our alumni when I am out and about in the community. Now numbering nearly 11,000, our alumni are an impressive group. They are writing books, earning Ph.D.s, advancing in their careers, serving their communities, raising families, and making their presence felt in countless ways that demonstrate the mission and values of their alma mater. A day seldom goes by without my hearing some word of praise or admiration for one or more of our alumni. Getting to know so many of our alumni has been, without question, one of the most rewarding aspects of being president.

Another truly wonderful part of the job is the opportunity to meet and interact with our current students. They, too, are an impressive group. As you will read later in the magazine, some of our students spent the summer distinguishing themselves and the College in a variety of ways – from helping children in Africa, to interning on Capitol Hill with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, to studying in Dubai as one of only eight students nationally to receive a William Jefferson Clinton Scholarship. These are just a few examples of the caliber of students that we have here at the College – students who have the talent, ability and the desire to make a difference in the world. They are part of an ever-growing group of individuals who, like our alumni, came to La Roche because they found it to be a community that shared a commitment to helping create a better world. When they graduate, they will join the ranks of our alumni who demonstrate that commitment every day in their lives.

I am honored to be your president and I look forward to continuing to work with you as we build on the achievements and progress of all those who have gone before. As I look back over the past five years, and as I look ahead to the years to come, I am more convinced than ever that the world needs La Roche College, and that with your help and involvement, we are well on our way to reaching our goal of being the best college ***for*** the world.

Sister Candace Introcaso

Sister Candace Introcaso CDP, Ph.D.
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La Roche College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, founded and sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, fosters global citizenship and creates a community of scholars from the region, the nation and around the world. The College integrates liberal arts and professional education in creative ways, empowering all members of our community to become lifelong learners, achieve success in their chosen careers and promote justice and peace in a constantly changing global society. La Roche College Magazine tells some of the College's many stories and provides a forum for discussion about issues of the day on which La Roche people are making an impact. La Roche College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, place of origin or status as a veteran. La Roche College Magazine is published by the Office of Public Relations.

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La Roche Adds JV Teams

This year was a busy one for La Roche Athletics as a whole. Besides working on all of the necessary steps to add a men's varsity lacrosse team to the repertoire of sports the college currently offers, two new junior varsity programs also were added to the mix.

La Roche added a JV program for both men's basketball and baseball this year, and according to Director of Athletics Jim Tinkey, he hopes to add junior varsity teams in men's and women's soccer, women's basketball and softball.

"It benefits the players because we can be more receptive to 'walk-on' athletes – those who are interested in playing a varsity sport but were not necessarily recruited by the coaching staff."

- Jim Tinkey

"We decided to add these programs in order to expand our rosters and to recruit more athletes," Tinkey said, noting that the benefits are two-fold.

"It benefits the players because we can be more receptive to 'walk-on' athletes – those who are interested in playing a varsity sport but were not necessarily recruited by the coaching staff," he said. "From the coaches' perspectives, it allows them the opportunity to take a look at some athletes that otherwise might not be kept on a varsity roster. They can give athletes the opportunity to develop their skills, practice with the team, and play a limited schedule."

Tinkey added that the JV programs are also a good way for the college's assistant coaches to develop their coaching skills, as well.

Soccer Coaching Staff Named

David Day, La Roche's assistant dean for Student Development, was recently named the new head men's soccer coach for the 2009-2010 season.

Day, a native of Cambridge, England, played soccer for club and school teams in Holland and Germany before coming to the United States. He obtained his bachelor's degree in speech communication from Edinboro University (Edinboro, Pa.) in 1999 and his master's degree in education with a focus in higher education management from the University of Pittsburgh in 2004.

Pictured left to right: Damon Maracinni, David Day and Ed Pupich.

Day served as assistant varsity and head junior varsity coach at McKeesport Area High School from 2003-2006, helping the team to its most successful period in school history. He also served as head coach of the Penn State Greater Allegheny club team from 2000 to 2004, and as soccer coach/instructor of the National Youth Sports Program hosted at the campus, from 2002 to 2004.

Ed Pupich is joining Day this year as assistant men's soccer coach. Prior to La Roche, Pupich served as the varsity head coach at McKeesport Area High School from 2003-2006. McKeesport enjoyed its most wins in school history throughout that four-year period and saw several players move on to have successful college playing careers.

Pupich graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2000 with a degree in political science and earned his master's in teaching from the University of Pittsburgh in 2001. Pupich currently teaches world history in the McKeesport Area School District.

Serving as strength and conditioning coach is Damon Maracinni, a volunteer from Pittsburgh's South Hills.

Robinson, Russell Named NCAA Conference Participants

Two student-athletes represented La Roche at the 2009 National Student-Athlete Development Conference, sponsored by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. **Edna Robinson** and **John Russell** attended the conference, which took place May 24 to 27 in Orlando, Fla., at the Walt Disney World Coronado Spring Resort. The conference was open to all student-athletes at NCAA member institutions, and the agenda featured speakers on a variety of topics, including energy management, personal branding, attention control and financial responsibility.

Robinson is a sophomore from Youngstown, Ohio, and is a member of the volleyball team. Russell is a sophomore from Apollo, Pa., and is a member of the baseball team.

La Roche Adds Men's Lacrosse

Lacrosse, a sport that's been steadily gaining in popularity in western Pennsylvania, is coming to La Roche College as a varsity sport in fall 2010. Athletic Director Jim Tinkey has announced the addition of men's lacrosse coach Anthony Stamatopoulos, whose job is to build a team that will be ready to play next year.

Stamatopoulos comes to La Roche from Robert Morris University in Moon Township, Pa., where he served as director of operations – assistant coach. Prior to that, he was the head coach at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh.

"Building a program from the ground up is a great opportunity," he said. "Lacrosse is gaining in popularity because it combines skills from every sport."

La Roche is part of the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference in NCAA Division III. During the next two years, in addition to men's lacrosse, La Roche is exploring the feasibility of introducing women's lacrosse, Tinkey said.

"We've done some research, and we found that lacrosse is something prospective students want to play at the college level," Tinkey said, adding that "we would need approximately 20 student athletes on our men's lacrosse roster for the 2010-11 season."

During the coming academic year, Tinkey said the college will evaluate locations for practice and playing fields. For more information about the program, interested people should call the Athletics Office at 412-536-1001.

Editor's Note: Watch for more on Coach Stamatopoulos in our next issue.

Avolio Wins AMCC Faculty Representative Award

Recent La Roche graduate and standout pitcher **Phillip Avolio** was named the 2009 AMCC Faculty Representative Award winner for this year. The award is given every year to the top academic student-athlete in the AMCC. Avolio graduated in the spring 2009 with a 3.9 GPA and was an active member in the La Roche Community, as well as pitcher and captain of the baseball team.

Faculty & Staff News

by Colleen Pelc

Professor Takes on Teaching Assignment in Liberia

In July, more than 65 teachers and teaching staff from Liberian universities came together to improve their research, writing and teaching skills. Through a special program, hosted by SPARK, Jeff Ritter, Ph.D., professor, Communication, Media & Technology, taught one of the courses.

Providing support to those in post-conflict regions, SPARK is a non-governmental organization based in Amsterdam. Dr. Ritter first heard about SPARK from Pacem in Terris graduate Dritan Shala from Kosovo, who believed that Ritter's teaching methods would fit in well with the organization's mission. For two summers in a row, Dr. Ritter visited Kosovo to teach through SPARK. When he saw the posting for Liberia, he jumped at that opportunity, too.

"I taught a class called 'The Active Learning Classroom,' which is basically [describing] the types of teaching techniques we use here [in the United States] at most levels of education – multi-sensory, group collaboration, student-created materials and process writing," he said.

"My class was originally going to be on using technology in teaching, but SPARK thought that since there was so little technology to really use there, it would be better to do something broader on teaching." Dr. Ritter noted that 40 people attended his class; originally it was to be only university faculty, but there were teachers of all levels who attended.

> *"I gained more experience teaching and living in a developing country. There are great opportunities for professors in any field to see the world and help learning everywhere by training teachers.*
>
> *- Jeff Ritter, Ph.D.*

He said that besides having the opportunity to share his teaching expertise with the other faculty members, he enjoyed meeting people in Liberia and taking in the sights, including motorcycle shops, food stores, and computer and electronic stores.

"I particularly enjoyed one day when we had finished the planned class and I asked [the students] if they had any questions about computers. They all had so many questions because very few had ever had access to a computer, and they wanted to know everything about them. I hope they will have some next year," he said.

Despite the initial jet lag and culture shock, Dr. Ritter said that his positive experiences far outweigh any adjustments and inconveniences, including only

Jeff Ritter, first row, far right, with his students, and in middle, top picture.

sporadic electricity, no running water in the city and no computers at the University – all of which he encountered while in Liberia.

"I gained more experience teaching and living in a developing country. There are great opportunities for professors in any field to see the world and help learning everywhere by training teachers. It is probably one of the things that I enjoy best," he said.

Dr. Ritter said that he believes that SPARK will offer this program again next year and he hopes to be a part of it.

"I would be happy to go back. The second time anywhere is like a completely different place. Rather than seeing things for the first time, you are seeing change," he added.

Sustainable Interdisciplinary Studies Minor Added

Recent statistics have shown that many students today are drawn to colleges and universities that provide a course of study on sustainability. Now, students who are interested in learning how to meet the environmental needs of today, without compromising the needs of tomorrow, will benefit from the recently added Sustainable Interdisciplinary Studies (SIS) minor at La Roche.

> *"This minor crosses boundaries to show that sustainability and environmental justice are part of every discipline – from literature to sociology to interior design and beyond,"* - *Azlan Tajuddin, Ph.D.*

The 21-credit SIS minor provides students the opportunity to study the principles of and engage in the practices of environmental justice. It was designed by professors Josh Bellin, Ph.D., associate professor, English; Nicole Bieak Kreidler, M.S., assistant professor and chair, Interior Design; and Azlan Tajuddin, Ph.D., assistant professor, sociology.

"This minor crosses boundaries to show that sustainability and environmental justice are part of every discipline – from literature to sociology to interior design and beyond," Dr. Tajuddin said.

Students will have the opportunity to examine real-world problems, integrating information from their major field and a variety of disciplines to address the most important environmental issues of the present and the future. For instance, students may become involved in calculating a company's greenhouse gas emissions and exploring how to lower them. No matter their major, students will see how sustainability relates to their area of study.

To learn more about this new minor currently being offering to incoming students, contact Mary Ellen Adams, faculty secretary, at **412-536-1184** or e-mail: **maryellen.adams@laroche.edu**.

Adjunct Faculty Member and Alum Creates Book for HR Professionals

Sometimes, you have to take care of your own, and Phyllis Hartman, MS '90, SPHR, decided to do just that. Together with colleague Nancy Glube, Hartman realized that human resources professionals – who offer advice and guidance to others every day – rarely gain guidance for their own career paths. After some research, the two found that very few books were written regarding this subject, so they took on the challenge and filled that gap with their recently published book titled, "Never Get Lost Again: Navigating Your HR Career."

Hartman, a La Roche College adjunct faculty member and a graduate of the college's Human Resource Management master's degree program, and Glube regularly discussed the world of human resources with colleagues. They came upon the idea of writing a resource book for their peers when they saw one didn't exist.

Phyllis Hartman and her book.

"We decided to write a book that would combine practical advice, tips, experiences and success stories of HR professionals who have journeyed to their desired destinations," Hartman said. "We also wanted to recognize roadblocks and barriers, and even prepare these people to consider how they might deal with career derailment."

The book took approximately two years to complete, from concept to printing. Following its completion, Hartman donated a copy to La Roche President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., for use in the college's John J. Wright Library because "it was important to give back" to La Roche College.

"I owe a lot to the College. My continued involvement with La Roche and my fellow alumni has allowed me to establish and maintain a huge network of HR peers, which is critical to success in any career and particularly HR. Now, as a teacher, I have been able to grow my networks more, to learn from my students, and to give back to the profession," she said.

Hartman hopes that their book serves as a great resource to any HR professional, as well as others in a wide variety of careers.

"I hope it helps people both inside HR or those considering the HR path, as well as managers who want to understand HR professionals and how they can work with and support them. Ultimately, I hope it inspires people to grow and to consider following Nancy and I in one of the most interesting and exciting careers in today's world of work," she added.

For information about the book and how to obtain a copy, interested people may contact the La Roche College Office of Graduate Studies & Adult Education at **412-536-1262** or visit Hartman's website at **www.pghrconsulting.com**.

Students Fill Summer with Adventure

Student Experiences Service and Strife in Tanzania

Josh Litvik, a La Roche senior majoring in psychology with minors in sociology and gender studies, does not have your typical "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" story. While many of his peers were working summer jobs and enjoying a break from schoolwork, Josh was getting his shots, raising money, and preparing for a 22-hour flight and seven-week service mission trip to Moshi, Tanzania.

Josh arrived in Moshi, located in the Kilimanjaro region of northern Tanzania, in late May at the Cross-Cultural Solutions (CCS) home base. CCS is the international volunteering organization through which his trip was planned. He and 24 other volunteers from around the world arrived at approximately the same time, and each volunteer was given a placement ahead of time as to where they would work – within orphanages, HIV/AIDS clinics, schools or hospitals.

"I was placed at a juvenile detention center," Josh said. "I was surprised at first because I did not know a detention center was even a possible placement. I was also nervous because I had no idea what to expect. I was afraid I would not be accepted at the center by the children and that they would be tough, rough and violent. Thankfully, what I imagined was the exact opposite of what was reality."

Children at the center ranged in age from 10 to 16; the majority are male. The detention center is where children are placed while they await upcoming court dates and sentencing. Unfortunately, court dates are almost always postponed or forgotten, so many of the children are there longer than they should be, Josh noted. The children's "crimes" ranged from school truancy to gambling and stealing. Josh was touched most by the story of 12-year-old Kelvin, who was there for murder.

"He was fighting with a boy and kicked him in the stomach, causing internal injuries leading to death. Both his parents and the victim's parents say it was an accident, but the government placed him at the center. He has been there for almost a year," Josh said.

Children like Kelvin relied on Josh to keep their spirits up. He taught them informally, played games with them and helped them to create art projects. He said he quickly learned the importance of showing up to the center on a regular basis and how much it affected the children.

"If no volunteer is at the detention center, the children are kept locked in their bedrooms, so I tried to spend as much time as possible at the center. Whenever the children heard me unlock their door, they would always scream, 'Josh!' and get really excited. I would literally be tackled by the boys as they hugged me," he said.

The children even took to calling him "rafaki" or "friend," a name that meant a lot to Josh, especially as he worked hard to improve the children's living conditions.

"Malaria is an issue in Tanzania, and the children had no nets and no screens on their windows, only bars. So, I took photos of the bedrooms and of the children and asked friends back home to sponsor a net for each child. Within a few days all of the nets had sponsors, and I was able to purchase a net for each bed," Josh said. "I have never seen happier children than when they saw me carrying in the mosquito nets. They kept saying 'Thank you, rafaki' repeatedly."

Josh also was able to experience time away from the center, too. He hiked to two waterfalls, saw how coffee is made, swam in hot springs supplied by underground natural springs, went on a five-day safari, visited the Olduvai Gorge (known as "The Cradle of Mankind"), and even climbed 9,000 feet of Mount Kilimanjaro. He said the trip truly was a life-changing experience, both for him and the children he met there.

"The experience really opens your eyes and forces you to view things differently. The children at the detention center grabbed hold of my heart and refuse to let go. Every day I think about them and miss them so much," he said. "I think it is so important for others to expose themselves to a different culture. Not a one- or two-week vacation, but really submerge yourself in someone else's world for a long period of time."

He said that he also felt that by being a student at a culturally diverse college like La Roche, he was well-prepared for much of what he experienced while abroad.

"One of the things I love about La Roche is the diversity and the amount of countries represented here. I think going to Tanzania after having been exposed to different cultures helped me to adapt and understand better," he said.

To learn more about Cross-Cultural Solutions, the international volunteering program that helped Josh experience Tanzania, please visit **www.crossculturalsolutions.org**

By Colleen Pelc

Dalila, at right, and Congresswoman Holmes Norton

La Roche Student Interns on Capitol Hill

Most college students go home for the summer and work minimum-wage jobs while trying to squeeze in summertime fun. Dalila Scott, a La Roche College senior, spent her summer proposing legislative bills, participating in educational forums and working as the chair of the mock transportation committee on Capitol Hill. It all took place during her internship with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) in the office of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.).

The CBCF internship program, started in 1986, is an intensive nine-week session that provides college undergraduates a behind-the-scenes look at the democratic process. The internship provides free housing at George Washington University, a stipend, one overnight business trip and weekly forums with Congressional Black Caucus members.

> *"This is definitely setting the stage for a career in government. Attending La Roche [College] has helped me in every aspect of my life – spiritually, academically and professionally.* - Dalila Scott

Each intern also is required to participate in a simulated "Congress" called Congress in Action. Interns are assigned to be Democrats or Republicans, regardless of their personal affiliation, and each party also has a majority leader, majority whip and committee chairs on particular issues. In the Congress, Dalila is a Republican and the Transportation & Infrastructure chair.

"This is definitely setting the stage for a career in government," she said. "Attending La Roche [College] has helped me in every aspect of my life – spiritually, academically and professionally. As a community service volunteer, I have gained a love for public service and, ultimately, that is working for Congress is all about. Academically, the courses that La Roche offers are among the best across the country."

Dalila currently is assisting the communications director in editing and writing press releases, writing public service announcements and researching pieces that Congresswoman Norton will be able to use at public events and interviews. She focuses on issues pertaining to healthcare reform and transportation.

"Overall, Capitol Hill is so dynamic," Dalila said. "I am networking and meeting new people every day."

She is a native of Southeast Washington, D.C., and graduated from Duke Ellington School of the Arts there. At La Roche, she is majoring in communication, media & technology with a minor in history. She serves as a resident assistant and is on the women's cross country team. She is the daughter of Lee and Joanne Scott, also of Southeast Washington, D.C.

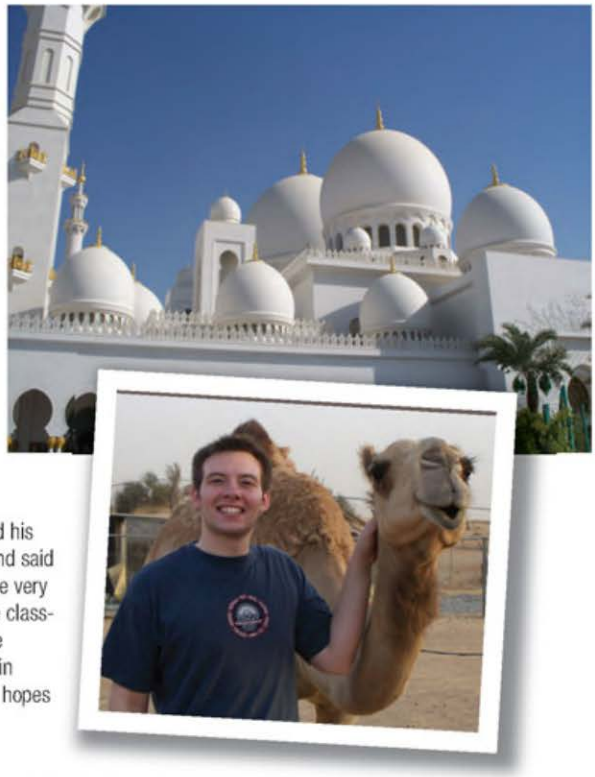
By Samantha Bond

La Roche Student Receives the William Jefferson Clinton Scholarship to Study in Dubai

La Roche College David A. Carey was awarded the William Jefferson Clinton Scholarship this summer, which provided him a 100 percent tuition waiver to study at American University in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Only eight students across the United States were awarded this scholarship. David, a senior National Security Studies (NSS) major at La Roche, arrived in Dubai in early May and came home at the end of June. His scholarship covered courses in Arabic language and culture – two areas of study that will help him as he pursues an NSS career. The scholarship also provided housing for him at the university.

In order to be considered for the WJC scholarship, David was, among other things, expected to demonstrate "exemplary academic achievement" and have at least a 3.0 grade point average, as well as show an interest in being exposed to Arab and Islamic cultures for the first time.

American University is located in Dubai, one of the seven emirates in the United Arab Emirates. It is a private, non-sectarian institution of higher learning that was founded in 1995 and serves UAE national and international students. David said he was most surprised at how "western" the people in Dubai were, as evidenced by the upscale malls that had "every store and brand you can imagine." His group visited the country of Oman and city of Abu Dhabi, the latter of which he found to be more rigid in culture. He noticed that the locals carried an obvious level of power.



"You understand that if you offend a native countryman, you can be sent packing," he said. "I felt guarded at times, but overall I enjoyed my time and believe I'm on the right career path."

David first became interested in national security after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and finds the NSS program at La Roche both challenging and rewarding. During his experience, he expanded his Arabic language skills and said the courses he took were very challenging, as were the classes on Arabic culture. He remains very interested in Middle East studies and hopes to work one day as a government analyst.

"I hope to possibly pursue an Arab or Islamic studies program and possibly teach about the Middle East some day," he said.

David is a 2006 graduate of North Hills High School. He is the son of David and Deloris Carey of West View, Pa.

By Samantha Bond

La Roche Student Earns Spot with Secret Service

La Roche College student and Carrick, Pa., graduate Jennifer Haney spent her summer interviewing for a position with the Secret Service. In September, she reported for duty as a trainee with the Uniform Division of the Secret Service. In that division, Jenn would work in the first line of defense for the President of the United States. This division also covers the White House, the Foreign Missions Branch or the Naval Observatory for the vice president.

Jenn had to undergo a series of tests and in-depth interviews as part of the hiring process. Following several application steps, she was asked to take a polygraph test. If she didn't pass it, her hopes of achieving a position on the force would be over, she said. Although nervous, she said she passed the test and heard from the recruiter shortly afterward to tell her she had the job.

PHOTO: PAMELA WIGLEY

"I was very excited but very nervous," she said of hearing that she was hired. The recruiter told her that she would train for 12 weeks in Georgia, which would end just before Thanksgiving, and then Jenn will spend another 13 weeks in Maryland before officially joining the Uniform Division.

Jenn's interest in law enforcement and forensics began during high school, but she wasn't sure if she wanted to go into the veterinary or forensics field. During summer 2004 and her junior year at Carrick, Jenn participated in La Roche's CSI Camp, a three-credit course designed for high school students entering their junior or senior year. In the course, students investigated simulated crime scenes, analyzed biological and chemical evidence, solved a mock crime and presented their findings to an audience.

"The instructors were great," she said. "It was completely hands-on. I would recommend taking this course if it's offered, because you learn so much and can decide when or if you want to pursue a career in this field."

When she enrolled at La Roche, she majored in chemistry and forensics but found that she favored the legal aspect of forensics. She became a criminal justice major with a chemistry minor. Because she had to go to the Secret Service training, Jenn did not return to La Roche this year to finish her degree, but she is hopeful that she will be able to finish online in the near future. Upon successful completion of her Secret Service training, she will be assigned to regular duty and will focus on obtaining her degree from La Roche, she said.

"The course down here [Georgia] is very tough, with the school work, fighting and shooting, but I am holding my own, so I am proud of myself," she wrote in an e-mail recently. She said she's looking forward to graduating from the first phase of training in November and getting to see her family for the holidays.

Jenn is the daughter of Larry and Doris Haney of Mount Oliver. Her sister, Alyssa, is a student at Carrick High School.

By Pamela Wigley

PHOTO: PAMELA WIGLEY

Student Welcomes Visitors During G-20 Summit

Ghazwan Almoazen, a senior who has designed his own integrated marketing communications major at La Roche, had the opportunity to see firsthand how marketing outreach can help a regional program become more visible. Ghazwan was one of a number of international people who was videotaped welcoming people from their home countries to Pittsburgh during the G-20 Summit at the end of September.

> *"I was proud to be part of the effort to welcome guests and, as we sometimes say at La Roche, I really was 'rooted in Pittsburgh and reaching out to the world.'"* - Ghazwan Almoazen

Ghazwan had done an internship focusing on social media at the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce in Moon Township, Pa., and was invited by his supervisor, Sally Haas, to attend a G-20 planning meeting. There, he met Bill Flanagan, executive vice president, corporate relations, for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. Ghazwan offered to be a translator for Saudi guests who might be in town for the summit, and his offer led to being asked to participate in a special welcome video.

"I was contacted after that meeting and asked if I would videotape a message for the G-20 guests," he said. "I just said my name, where I was from, what I do here in Pittsburgh and then a brief welcome in Arabic." He took the opportunity in his message to say he was a student at La Roche.

The edited video was ready to go at the end of August, which is when Ghazwan was invited to its premiere in the Xplorion Lobby of the Regional Enterprise Tower in Pittsburgh. The video aired there and, later, on the outdoor screen at Theater Square in the Cultural District, on monitors at the Pittsburgh International Airport, on YouTube and on Flickr.

"It was a great experience," said Ghazwan, who is due to graduate in 2010 and who also completed an internship in media research at the law firm Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl in Pittsburgh. "I was proud to be part of the effort to welcome guests and, as we sometimes say at La Roche, I really was 'rooted in Pittsburgh and reaching out to the world.'"

By Pamela Wigley

Profile: Sister Mary Kenneth Kearns

The Woman Behind Our College

By Pamela Wigley

At the end of her career with La Roche College, Sister Mary Kenneth Kearns was the archivist, in charge of logging history. Throughout her life, she was making it.

Born appropriately on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1908, in Wilkinsburg, Sister Mary Kenneth packed several lifetimes into the one she was given. She entered the Community of the Sisters of Divine Providence in August 1923 and died on June 7, 1984, after a long and distinguished life of service. She served as provincial director from 1956 to 1959 and also as the general consultor for the order in Rome from 1959-1970. Despite earning what some may have viewed as lofty titles, Sister Mary Kenneth was not one to dwell on status, according to those who knew and worked with her.

"She was a visionary," recalls current La Roche College Archivist Sister Louise Kovalovsky. "She was tenacious – undaunted in her endeavor to found a college specifically for sisters in initial formation, i.e. postulants, novices and young professed sisters."

Her pursuit of that goal led to the establishment of La Roche College. In fact, when she first approached the Diocese of Pittsburgh in the early 1960s about forming a college for the education of women religious, she was discouraged from pursuing the idea. At her funeral mass, the late Bishop John McDowell remembered the challenge at the time: the Pittsburgh Diocese believed there were already enough colleges from which the Sisters of Divine Providence could choose. Sister Mary Kenneth had a different opinion.

"I was told to establish rigid rules that would make it impossible for such colleges to appear in this Diocese," Bishop McDowell said at that time. "Five very strict rules were devised governing the establishment of new colleges … no new colleges would start in this Diocese unless these conditions could be fulfilled."

Sister Mary Kenneth reviewed the rules at Bishop McDowell's office. She read them and left his office without a word, a scene he recalled in his remarks at her funeral mass. He said he felt terrible about not being able to help her, but he believed his hands were tied. He did not hear from Sister Mary Kenneth again … until several months later when she appeared at his office.

"We're ready to go!" she said, holding the paperwork that outlined how she had met the regulations outlined in the Diocese's new college establishment rules. Within weeks, the charter for La Roche College was issued.

La Roche College opened its doors in 1963 with 173 day students and 70 Saturday students, all of them women religious. It was Sister Mary Kenneth's wish to name the college after Mother Marie de la Roche, the foundress of the order of the Sisters of Divine Providence. The offices and library were located in Providence Heights, the building that sits majestically above the pond along Babcock Boulevard. Classrooms were located in Ketteler Hall, and the college offered degrees in biology, English, history and math. The first graduating class of seven Sisters of Divine Providence graduated in 1965.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LA ROCHE ARCHIVES

Sister Mary Kenneth did not rest upon achieving this great dream. She continued to help La Roche College grow and adapt to changing times, including the acceptance of lay women as students in 1965 and opening its doors to men at the end of that decade. Following her stint in Rome, Sister Mary Kenneth returned to Pittsburgh and became La Roche's first full-time director of financial aid in 1972. In 1978 she began her role as the college archivist, a position in which she served until she fell ill and resigned in January 1984. That summer, she passed.

"La Roche owes a debt of gratitude to Sister Mary Kenneth Kearns, not only for her personal contribution over the past 13 years, but for her daring vision of the future on behalf of higher education," noted the program at her burial mass.

She accomplished many great things in her life, a life of giving to others. As she was remembered by the Sisters of Divine Providence at her funeral:

"Among her sisters and her friends, she will be remembered as a simple yet profound witness to the Providence of God."

Pictured left to right, (bottom row) Elizabeth, Bill, Carol, Victoria, (top row) Carolyn and Christina Shields.

Continuing the Tradition:

Daughters Follow in Family Footsteps at La Roche

by Colleen Pelc • Photos by James Knox

When Carol Konzier of Shaler Township was deciding what college to attend upon graduation from Shaler High School in 1975, she never would have guessed how La Roche College would not only be at the center of her life for the next four years, but how it also would become the center of her whole family's life more than 34 years later.

The past …

After high school graduation, Carol was looking for a college that offered three main features: accounting courses (including real estate); an easy and uncomplicated commute; and classes in the German and Austrian language of her ancestors. She found them all at La Roche College.

"La Roche seemed to be the perfect fit for me," she said.

Carol enjoyed her time spent at La Roche and said that her college years had a big influence on her life.

"La Roche was a very calming atmosphere, very conducive to learning and very much a family atmosphere, something that I was very comfortable with," Carol said.

"Also at that time, as it does now, La Roche had a very diverse community that was another attraction to me. I can remember meeting students from Puerto Rico and Vietnam," she said.

While attending La Roche, Carol met Bill Shields, who was working in sales and earning his degree at another college. Their courtship blossomed, and in 1983 the couple married and eventually had four beautiful daughters. Bill wanted to find a way to continue his education while maintaining a full-time job, so he began looking for a school that offered business courses in the evening. He didn't have to look further than Carol's alma mater.

"La Roche fit my needs perfectly. I could continue to work, be with my family and earn my degree at night," he said. "One of the main attractions for me at La Roche was the ability to not only take evening courses, but also be taught by a professional teaching staff that was part of the business community."

After graduating from La Roche in 1979, Carol applied her accounting skills to a job at a local savings and loan in Pittsburgh. While attending La Roche, Bill was a sales representative for Neville Chemical Corporation and later for Calgon Corporation in Pittsburgh.

Despite busy lives outside the home, family was front and center for both Carol and Bill. With four daughters at home, marriage and their children became top priorities.

As the girls grew, La Roche College kept finding a way into the Shields family's lives. There was summer German language camp for elementary school children that the Shields girls attended on the campus. Each December the entire family visited the college for the annual Festival of Lights celebration. For many reasons, La Roche became a part of various activities in the family.

The present …

It wasn't long before talks about life beyond high school became dinner table conversation. The family discussed where their two oldest daughters, Carolyn and Christina, would attend college. Both looked at a number of colleges, but they always came back to La Roche as the place they wanted to attend.

"Carolyn and Christina's decision to attend La Roche was ultimately their decision," Carol said. "Both had looked at different schools in the Pittsburgh area, as well as those a small distance away from home. However, there is no doubt that La Roche has been part of our family background for a number of years, and I think that affected their decisions."

Christina, at left, and Carolyn.

Carol said that besides living in the vicinity of "such a beautiful campus" and having the direct influence of "alumni parents," their daughters were influenced in other ways. Family ties again proved a strong link.

"The girls' aunts – Linda Konzier Willard and Debra Konzier Ketterer – as well as their uncle Russell Ketterer, are all graduates of La Roche," Carol said. "It came back to family time and time again!"

Carolyn, now a junior majoring in marketing and a resident assistant, said that she took all of these factors into consideration when she was choosing a college.

"I think that my parents influenced me quite a bit. Since they both attended the college, I had an idea of what I was getting into, and I had the opportunity to follow in their footsteps," Carolyn said.

"At La Roche, the opportunity to succeed is everywhere. You just need to know how to pursue it, and I believe that my parents took advantage of everything the college had to offer. I want to be like them."

Carolyn also was attracted to La Roche because of the small class sizes, the personalized education, and the same diverse community that her mother enjoyed.

"Every day I meet someone new and interesting who teaches me something about his or her culture that I didn't know before. It truly has made me a well-rounded individual and more aware of other cultures in the world," Carolyn said.

Christina, now a sophomore double-majoring in accounting/management with a minor in Spanish, agrees with Carolyn that knowing about the college ahead of time from family members really helped to make her decision to attend La Roche an easy one.

"I basically knew right away that La Roche was where I wanted to attend because of my exposure to the college and my familiarity with the area. I knew I wanted to attend a smaller college that was not far away from my home," Christina said. And although that close-to-home factor was important to Christina as a freshman when she commuted, getting involved on campus was also important to her. So, this semester she moved onto campus and became a Resident Assistant.

"Transitioning from high school to college can be a difficult experience. I felt La Roche made this transition as smooth as possible. For me, it immediately felt like a home away from home," she said.

The future …

As "the older sisters," Carolyn and Christina know what a major influence they currently have on their younger sisters at home, Victoria, 17, and Elizabeth, 16.

"I hope that I'm influencing them a good bit!" Carolyn said. "I would love for Victoria and Elizabeth to come to La Roche because I would want them to be known as individuals, which is exactly what La Roche College would give them an opportunity to do. I think they recognize how much Christina and I enjoy La Roche, and I hope they'll come to love it as much as we do."

Elizabeth, at left, and Victoria.

Elizabeth admits that she hasn't really thought too much about colleges, but Victoria does have her eye set on a few … and La Roche is on her list.

"Since Christina and Carolyn go there, I have been to the school many times. I am very familiar with La Roche already," Victoria said.

"One of the things I like about La Roche is the wide variety of clubs. While attending the Open House this summer, I learned that if there is not a club or activity that interests you, they are willing to help you organize your own," she said.

Elizabeth has already been on a number of college visits with her older sisters and also said "La Roche is a beautiful campus that feels like home."

Current plans include Carolyn continuing her studies and earning her MBA, possibly pursuing a career in sales. Christina is working towards a career in accounting and likely earning her CPA or her master's degree. Carol has been active in the real estate and property management industry for years, and Bill has been managing North American coating sales to the aluminum aerosol can and bottle industry for the German division of PPG Industries.

So, regardless of where the younger girls decide to go, the Shields family believes La Roche College will have a place in their future for many years to come.

Pittsburgh Police Scholarship

La Roche Creates Police Scholarship Program as Tribute to Fallen Officers

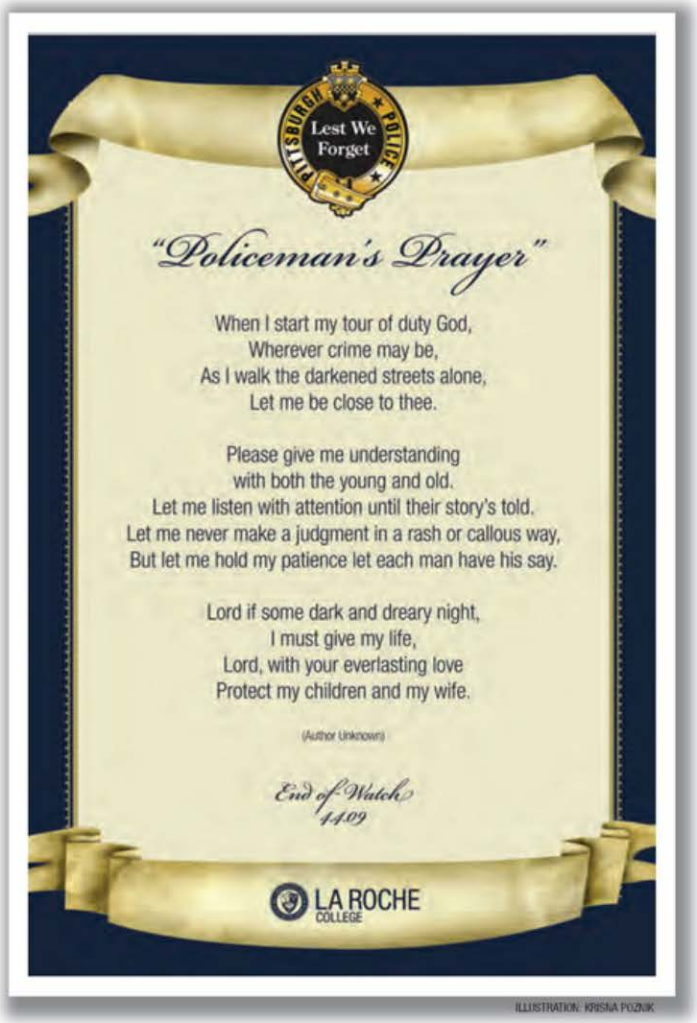


ILLUSTRATION: KRISNA POZNIK

This summer, La Roche College announced the creation of the City of Pittsburgh Police Scholarship Program to "recognize the hard work and dedication of the officers who put their lives on the line every day to keep Pittsburgh safe," according to College President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D. Robert Mitchell, a faculty member in the college's Department of Justice, Law & Security who also is a former FBI supervisory agent, presented City of Pittsburgh Chief of Police Nathan Harper with a letter of intent regarding the scholarship program in July.

"The tragic loss of Officers Kelly, Mayhle and Sciullo earlier this year was a sad reminder of the risks that police officers face every day as they work to serve and protect," Sister Candace said. "We are establishing this scholarship as a token of our gratitude to police officers everywhere and as a way to pay tribute to the three fallen Pittsburgh Police officers."

Through the program, one student per year will receive a $40,000 scholarship to La Roche College ($10,000 per year for four years) in any of the 50 majors offered. The scholarship program is open to all eligible dependents of current City of Pittsburgh Police officers. Applicants must meet standard eligibility requirements for admission to the College and will be selected by a committee, based on criteria that are part of our standard admissions process. College administration hopes to award the first scholarship to a student entering the fall 2009 class.

> *"The tragic loss of Officers Kelly, Mayhle and Sciullo earlier this year was a sad reminder of the risks that police officers face every day as they work to serve and protect,"* - *Sister Candace Introcaso*

"La Roche College is proud to be a part of the Pittsburgh region, and it is our sincere hope that this scholarship program will help your officers' families by providing an avenue of financial assistance that makes a college education possible, now and into the future," Sister Candace wrote to Chief Harper in the letter announcing the program.

Individuals who would like more information on this scholarship program may contact the La Roche Office of Admissions via e-mail at admissions@laroche.edu or by calling Bob Mitchell at 412-536-1191.

Facilities Management Institutes Recycling Effort

This September, a process more than three years in the making finally came to fruition when the College signed a new waste and recycling contract with Waste Management. Moving to this new contract was an important decision for the College, according to George Zaffuto, vice president of Administrative Services.

"Students, faculty and staff have been asking for a better waste management system with a better recycling program, and we have finally found that capability with Waste Management," Zaffuto said. "This is exciting for La Roche because it is a dramatic, comprehensive change for the College – and it's a change for the better."

The new large green receptacles that arrived on campus in early September are just the beginning of the College's long-term contract with Waste Management. Twice a week, a waste truck and a recycling truck have been arriving on campus to pick up the waste and recycled materials.

"We at Waste Management have really streamlined our services. One truck picks up all of the waste, while another picks up all of the recycled materials, which helps to reduces our carbon footprint, too," said Michael Albanese, a representative from Waste Management.

green LA ROCHE

LOGO DESIGN: KRISNA POZNIK

Through Waste Management's many different programs, like Lamp Tracker that recycles old fluorescent light bulbs and SHARPS that recycles used hypodermic needles, the College can do its part in so many areas to be more eco-friendly, besides just recycling materials that are normally recycled.Zaffuto also believes that this new contract will help La Roche be more attractive to potential students.

"A lot of students are used to seeing the recycling receptacles in their high schools and they look for colleges that are eco-friendly," he said. "Today, statistics show that many students are becoming involved in sustainability initiatives, and it's important to them to attend a college that cares about the environment. "During the next couple months, La Roche will have plenty of visible Waste Management containers placed around campus, and we will be making students, faculty and staff aware of what they should and shouldn't be recycling," Zaffuto said, noting that an e-blast will highlight recyclables and a complete list will be posted on the Administrative Services page on the La Roche Intranet.

Lights, Camera, Action!

Local ABC affiliate WTAE-TV visited the La Roche campus twice in the past few months to film commercials that promote the college and its services. The 30-second spots air on various network and cable outlets in the Pittsburgh area and highlight the many terrific opportunities available to La Roche students. Pictured here: Professor Don Fujito, Ph.D., biology, "instructs" a class while senior Adam Klickovich, a National Security Studies major, tells why he chose La Roche in a close-up testimonial.

Brick Walkway Completed

The engraved bricks have been installed in front of the John J. Wright Library, and it's now possible to order more. If you missed the first invitation to purchase a brick in honor or memory of a loved one, you can still order a personalized brick because the walkway will be expanded in the future, according to Annual Fund Director Kathleen Corcoran. "Through the brick walkway, you can leave your own lasting tribute to La Roche College," she said. To order bricks, go to **www.laroche.edu/bricks** or call **412-536-1088.**

Pictured left to right from bookcase: Jenna Meyers, Ghazwan Almoazen, Richelle Palarino, Sister Candace Introcaso, Michelle Rugema and Angela Wells.

Looking Back ... Looking Forward

Five years with new president brings many changes for La Roche

by Ken Service • Photos by James Knox

It was five years ago that Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., returned to La Roche College after a 13-year absence. When she left the College in 1991, she was serving as assistant to the vice president for student affairs. When she returned, it was to assume a new role as the College's seventh president. Much had changed in her life in the intervening years; she had earned her doctorate in higher education administration from The Claremont Graduate University in California; served as assistant vice president for academic affairs at Heritage College, located on the Yakima Indian reservation in Toppenish, Wash.; and had just left the post of vice president for planning and assessment at Barry University in Miami Shores, Fla., to take up the reins of leadership at La Roche.

And just as her life had changed during that time, so too had the College. "Among the first things I noticed after being away for a number of years were the obvious physical changes to the campus," Sister Candace said. "The new classroom building, with its state-of-the-art instructional technology, the fitness center, the new residence halls – all represented handsome additions to the campus landscape."

As noticeable as those physical changes were, what was even more apparent to Sister Candace were the essential elements of the College that had remained the same. "As new and different as these facilities were to the physical environment, it didn't take long to discover that they were just the latest material manifestations of a learning environment that had remained steadfast in its core values over the years," she said.

One aspect of that learning environment that Sister Candace feels is a key element of the College's success is the commitment to academic excellence. She points to a number of factors that contribute to La Roche's reputation of academic excellence, but believes one of the most essential is the quality of our faculty members.

"Not only are they recognized experts in their respective disciplines, with the publications and honors to prove it," Sister Candace said, "but they are also excellent teachers who care deeply about their students."

Those students themselves are another essential component of the College's academic excellence. "Our students bring life to the campus with their intellectual curiosity and their sense of exploration and discovery," she said.

But for Sister Candace, the real proof of the College's academic excellence is found in the alumni – the graduates who go forth into the world, where they continue to make their mark in their chosen careers and their success continues to reflect well on La Roche. "One of the most gratifying experiences I have had over my five years as president is to hear compliments about our graduates from area employers and others in the community," she said. "I never tire of it."

Seated, Kylie French, and left to right: Danis Watts, Erica Pitacciato, Bobby Jackson and Laron Mann.

Sister Candace has focused on retaining and enhancing that commitment to excellence during her leadership. In the five years since she became president, a number of noteworthy institutional milestones have occurred. Some highlights:

- Four years ago, La Roche enrolled the largest class of new students, and two years ago the 10,000th graduate was welcomed into the La Roche Alumni Association.
- Last year, the College celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Pacem in Terris program and its contributions to global peace and understanding.
- For the fifth year in a row, La Roche College has been named one of the best Northeastern colleges by the Princeton Review.
- In terms of academic programs, there has been considerable growth in online course offerings and in entire degrees being offered online.
- Faculty has developed a number of new academic programs that respond to market needs; among these are the National Security Studies major and the proposed master's degree in accounting.

Internationally, the College has built on its reputation as a college that supports students from all over the world and broadened its international student population beyond the Pacem in Terris program. La Roche has developed articulation agreements in China and South Korea, and has garnered support from a number of embassies for its ESL (English as a Second Language) program. There is ample proof that this international outreach is working well; this fall, the La Roche student body includes 182 international students from 41 countries and U.S. territories.

Whether they come from western Pennsylvania or western Africa, students continue to be at the core of what La Roche is all about as an educational institution of higher learning.

"Even a cursory look at our student body today would support our mission of building a community of scholars from the region, the nation and around the world," Sister Candace said.

She added that during the past five years, the College has seen growing institutional support for the student/athlete; a stronger, more active, highly

effective Student Government Association; enhancement of community service opportunities; and a broader focus on student development, moving away from a model of primarily providing entertainment for students through College Activities to a comprehensive approach to their overall growth with the emergence of a Center for Student Development.

In addition, the faculty and academic staff have developed a number of initiatives that support the recruitment and retention of students, including Beyond the Classroom: Study Abroad/Study USA, a program that will enable every La Roche student to have a study abroad opportunity as part of their regular tuition; and the La Roche Experience, a program that reflects the special elements of a La Roche education that embody the mission and values of the entire La Roche community and prepare graduates to make a difference in the world.

It is the La Roche community that, for Sister Candace, embodies all that is best about the College.

"The La Roche College community is one of the most compassionate communities I have ever experienced," she said. "There is overwhelming evidence that La Roche College is a place where values abound and actions support those values. These values sustain our earth, promote peace and justice in our world, and call us to work together effectively in furthering our mission."

The College's mission is clearly articulated in a new strategic plan for La Roche, developed under Sister Candace's leadership. The plan is a blueprint for the College's future as it moves towards the 50th anniversary of its founding in 2013. Undergirding that entire plan is what Sister Candace characterizes as a desire for La Roche to be "the best College for the world."

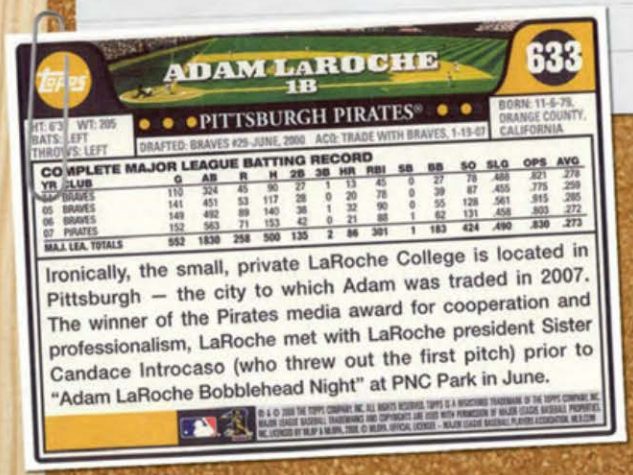
"In contrast to trying to be the best in the world, when our efforts are devoted to being the best for the world, we approach our tasks with an attitude of service and grace," Sister Candace said. "Our perspective widens as we are not thinking only of ourselves and our institution. La Roche College may never be seen in the higher education community as the best college in the world, but, in light of the way that our faculty, staff, students and alumni live out the College's mission in their lives, we certainly qualify as one of the best colleges for the world."

As Sister Candace begins her sixth year as president, she notes that she is constantly grateful for all of the good wishes and support that she receives from trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni and others in the community. She remains excited and confident about the progress that the College has made, the new initiatives that the College is pursuing, and what the future holds for La Roche. And although she can't know for certain what that future holds, there is one thing that she can say without hesitation: "It's good to be home again."

La Roche in the Majors

As you might imagine, a college president can encounter many surprises over a five-year period, and that has been true for Sister Candace, as well. One of the more pleasant surprises came as a result of some advertising that the College did in PNC Park, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates. This advertising has provided significant regional visibility for the College, and there is evidence of at least two students who made application to La Roche after attending a Pirate game and seeing the La Roche College name in bright lights beckoning them to apply.

But the real surprise came this spring, when La Roche College and Sister Candace were mentioned by name on the back side of the Topps Major League baseball card of Adam LaRoche. There are many things that a college president might anticipate, but ending up on a baseball card is not among them. In fact, the event was so unusual that the *Chronicle of Higher Education* published the story this summer, giving La Roche some unusual national attention.



Higher Education In Flight

Top: All higher education representatives at the air base. La Roche's certifying official for veterans, Chico Ficerai, is third from the left in the first row. Bottom: Sherri Aufman (left) and Hope Schiffgens.

La Roche College representatives participated in the Higher Education Flight on Aug. 27 at the 171st Air Refueling Wing (171 ARW) near Pittsburgh International Airport. Together with representatives from other colleges and universities, La Roche staff members from the Office of Graduate Studies & Adult Education (GS&AE) and the Registrar's Office participated in an aerial refueling mission.

The mission took place as a thank you to organizations involved in veterans education programs. Hope Schiffgens and Sherri Aufman from the Office of GS&AE, as well as Chico Ficerai of the Registrar's Office, attended on La Roche's behalf. Ficerai, a 28-year Air Force veteran herself, serves as the college's certifying official for veterans, which means that she helps them understand the benefits for which they qualify.

> *"This was a really terrific way for us to learn more about what they do and to build relationships. We are building a one-stop shop experience for our veterans, and this kind of interaction helps us to focus on more issues related to them."* – Hope Schiffgens

"It's a collaborative effort among Graduate Studies, the Registrar's Office and Student Accounts to help ensure our veterans are taken care of," she said. "With La Roche now part of the Yellow Ribbon Program and being named a military friendly college, we expect to see more veterans come to campus. Our job is to make the transition from service to college easier."

Following a briefing by Brig. Gen. Roy Uptegraff, the group watched a video, reviewed safety procedures and underwent a security screening before going up in a KC-135 aircraft on a refueling mission. About 20 participants boarded the KC-135, which met a C-17 cargo aircraft mid-air and refueled.

"This was a really terrific way for us to learn more about what they do and to build relationships," Schiffgens said. "We are building a one-stop shop experience for our veterans, and this kind of interaction helps us to focus on more issues related to them."

It was a bonus for the day, she said, that the group also met two La Roche alumni who now work at the 171 ARW – Col. Jerry Mangis and Dylan Lehmeier, as well as current La Roche student SSG Stephanie McElhaney, who works at the 171st in the Intelligence Office.

Class Notes

1960s

Sister Carol Tenerovich, CDP, BA '69, celebrated her 50th Jubilee of religious life this year.

1970s

Sister Dorothy Dolak, VSC, BA '70, is the new principal at Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy in Aspinwall, Pa. Sister Dorothy most recently served four years as the principal of Saint Sebastian Elementary School in Ross Township, Pa.

Ron Radwanski, BS '77, celebrated his 55th birthday this past summer, along with beginning his 10th year as a painter. To mark this milestone, Ron will launch a new collection this fall called "55," which will bring a new direction to his technique and use of color on canvas. The artist's work was featured in a four-page article in the June issue of the international online magazine, *Lifestyle*, Costa Blanca, Spain. Also, Ron's artwork is featured on the website of Art Source LA, www.artsourcela.com, which is a 25-year-old international fine art consulting group from Santa Monica, Calif., that specializes in the research, acquisition and presentation of artworks to the architectural, corporate and private collector. The Art Source LA website features nearly 400 accomplished artists in all types of media. Ron resides in Dallas.

1980s

Dory Adams, BA '88, in June launched a new weekly blog about the influence of imagery on writers and writing. "In This Light" can be found at www.doryadams.com. Upcoming topics include Appalachia, Abandoned Things in America and guest posts by Slovenian photojournalist Misko Kranjec and North Carolina photographer Tim Barnwell. Dory earned her MFA in writing from Vermont College in 1999. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Santa Fe Literary Review*, The Avery Anthology, Hamilton Stone Review, Blue Earth Review, Hobart, Slipstream, Forge, Word Riot, The Oklahoma Review, Common Ground Magazine, Shalla Magazine, and Paper Street. Her story, "Tests and Measurements," which appeared in Workers Write! Tales from the Clinic has recently been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Dory works in research at the University of Pittsburgh and has taught writing as adjunct faculty at Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, Pa.

Stephen Catt, MS '85, was named the executive director of workforce development at Butler County Community College. For the past 23 years, Stephen has been an administrator at BC3. He has a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Pittsburgh and resides in Butler, Pa.

Anita Ottobre, BS '84, was awarded a master of studies in law degree from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Law in May. This program is one of only seven in the nation. Anita is a staff nurse anesthetist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Pittsburgh and also has a private practice as an anesthetist.

Steven E. Pohl, BS '81, was elected to the Board of Trustees at La Roche College in October 2009. Steven is general auditor for PPG Industries, Inc.

Vivian H. Sims, BSN '80, was honored by the Black History Achievement Award Association for her achievement in the health care profession. Honorees received their awards at the annual banquet held by The Pastors Wives of the Churches of God in Christ's Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania on April 6. Vivian, who is now retired, worked as a medical/surgical nurse at Sewickley Valley Hospital, Sewickley, Pa., as a private duty nurse at various Pittsburgh hospitals, in New York City's Mount Sinai Hospital's pediatric unit, and the Visiting Nurses Association of Allegheny County (Pa.).

Donatelli Joins First National Bank

Ronald Donatelli, BS '81, in August was appointed to the position of senior vice president, director of asset based lending, at First National Bank, the largest subsidiary of F.N.B. Corporation.

He will oversee the bank's newly developed Business Credit Department that will service First National Bank's current footprint throughout Pennsylvania and northeastern Ohio. He brings an already extensive 28-year concentration in Asset Based Lending to the group. Previously, he served as senior vice president/regional manager – Midwest Group for RBS/Citizens Business Capital. In addition, he previously served as senior vice president, office manager for Bank of Tokyo, vice president for National Bank of Canada, and as account manager for Equibank.

Donatelli graduated magna cum laude from La Roche College in 1981, where he earned his bachelor's degree in business administration and finance.

"When I attended La Roche, many of my professors were business professionals (CPAs, attorneys, etc.) who taught part-time at night school. Their way of teaching combined standard text book lessons with real life situations," Donatelli said of his time spent at La Roche. "This gave me a great feel as to what to expect in the business world."

Alum Joins Staff at New Hazlett Theater

Alexander Bard, BS '08, Communications, Media and Technology, has been busy since graduation as the venue manager in the performing arts field at the New Hazlett Theater on Pittsburgh's North Side. Recently, The New Hazlett Theater was given the Best Practices in Arts Management award by the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, for a unique model it has developed that allows aspiring performing artists, and performing groups to cultivate their ideas in a professional performance venue.

"We give these groups access to professional staffing and guidance as they bring their work to the stage to grow their audience and their professional experiences," Bard explained.

Bard said they have worked with groups such as: Prime Stage Theatre, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, Dance Alloy Theater, Attack Theatre, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society, and other individual performing artists with new and innovative ideas for stage performance.

"I attribute a great deal of my success to my experiences at La Roche College under the direction of Bridget Kilroy, Jeff Ritter, Igor Jourin, David Day, Josh Bellin, George Founds and many other talented faculty members," he added.

1990s

Kelly Beltz, MS '96, published a science fiction novel titled, "Beyond the Stars: Kataria." The book is available through Amazon.com.

Jill L. Ferguson, BS '92, received first prize in the Out of The Blue Films, Inc. "ENVY Contest" at red Ravine. Jill won for her poem/prose *Like Paul*, which paints a picture of the effects of envy on a young, gifted violinist. Jill and her husband, Darren Sawyer, reside in San Carlos, Calif.

David Carson, BA '92, is an admissions counselor at La Roche College and a respiratory therapist. He is the author of "Survival Guide for College-Bound LD Students." Dave made a presentation on Sept. 21 at the Arizona Transition Conference and will make a presentation at the 47th annual Learning Disabilities Association of America, International Conference in Baltimore, Md., in February 2010.

Nancy Monday-Yates, BS '91, has been the owner and general manager of the Unicorn Gift Store located in downtown Butler, Pa., since 1993. The store was founded in 1981 by members of her family. She is also a part-time instructor at Butler County Community College. Nancy resides in Franklin Township, Pa., with her husband, Kevin, and stepson, Travis.

Les Stearns, BS '94, and his wife, Maja, welcomed a baby girl, Lara Cherise, on May 23. They also have a 4-year-old son, Logan Connor. Les celebrated his 24th year with II-VI corporate in January. The Stearns family lives in Clearwater, Fla.

2000s

Cindy Altman, BS '04, psychology, successfully defended her dissertation in August and is now beginning a post-doctoral experience at Boys Town in Nebraska. Cindy was one of only six graduate students selected from across the United States to complete an internship as a counselor/therapist at Boys Town last year, and the organization asked her to stay on for another year as a post-doc. "Doctoral study in psychology is about as competitive as medical school, and it's a joy to see one of our own achieve at so high a level," noted psychology professor Janet Gates, Ph.D.

Tammy Andreyko, MS '01, principal at Ingomar Middle School in the North Allegheny School District of Pittsburgh, has been selected by The Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary Principals as the 2009 Middle Level Principal of the Year. Tammy will represent Pennsylvania at the National level of the competition. She has been principal at Ingomar Middle School for the past eight years and is enrolled in the doctoral program at the University of Pittsburgh. Tammy resides in the Franklin Park area of Pittsburgh with her husband and two children.

Claire Borchert, BA '08, is the new director of transitional housing for The Lighthouse Foundation, which is a nonprofit human services organization. Before joining The Lighthouse, Claire was a case manager for Glade Run Lutheran Services in Zelienople, Pa.

Edward Brem, BS '01, was hired in August as a building construction trades teacher at St. Marys Area High School located in St. Marys, Pa.

Natalie Dionisio Brown, BS '06, was married to Mark Allan Brown on August 8 at Northway Christian Community by Pastor Michael Arnold. They reside in Cranberry Township, Pa.

Ashley Catanese, BS '07, is a new fifth grade teacher at Buffalo Elementary School in the Freeport Area School District, Freeport, Pa. Ashley resides in Gibsonia, Pa.

Nicholas Cipriani, BS '02, was hired as the senior graphic designer for CBS Pittsburgh in April 2008. He is a graphic designer for B94, Star 100.7, Y108 and News Radio 1020 KDKA. Nick lives in Castle Shannon with his wife, Jessica, whom he married in July 2008.

Ronald G. Daman, BS '08, started working at Service Link in June.

Kristina Dice, BA '07, was named a financial adviser in July with Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, located in One PPG Place, Pittsburgh. Kristina is a member of the La Roche College Alumni Association Board. She resides in the North Hills of Pittsburgh.

Jennifer Dittrich, BS '03, welcomed a baby boy named Aidan Xavier Perkins on April 18.

Jeffrey Jason Dolak, BA '04, was approved as the new head coach of the Harbor Creek High School Boys Basketball Team in May. Jason resides in Erie, Pa.

Bazeyi Hategekimana, BS '04, is in the Doctor of Engineering (D.Eng.) program at Morgan State University. Bazeyi resides in Baltimore, Md.

Graphic Design Alum Celebrates Popeye's 80 Years

George Broderick, Jr., BS '79, Graphic Design, helped to celebrate 80 years of Popeye by contributing to a premium comic book in honor of the crusty sailor's anniversary. George and two friends worked on a "premium pop comic" this September and traveled to Chester, Ill., to roll out the "spinach-green carpet" at the 30th annual Popeye* Picnic Celebration. Popeye was created in 1929 by Elzie Segar, a native of Chester who based the comic on some of the townspeople there.

The annual Popeye Picnic offered games, parades, lectures and other fun activities, including the distribution of a special premium comic book created by Chris Yambar of Youngstown, Ohio, as well as George and another friend, Ken Wheaton of Rochester, N.Y. It is the first such comic produced featuring Popeye in more than 30 years, George said.

"The comic premium was the brainchild of Chris and his company, Premium Pop, a division of CLI 2.0 [formerly Comic Library International]," George said. In addition, he said, Popeye newspaper strip creator Hy Eisman and comic book artist George Wildman contributed pin-ups for the project.

George, a lifelong Popeye fan, has worked as a professional in comics since 1982. He has written for DC Comics, Marvel Comic and has worked on such projects as Lost In Space, I Dream of Jeannie, Speed Racer and the Munsters. He, Wheaton and Yambar premiered the 32-page issue of their Popeye anniversary comic in Chester on Sept. 11 and signed copies that day and the next – much to the delight of town organizers for the annual picnic.

"There are not enough words in the English language to describe how thrilled we are with the new Popeye comic premium," said Michael McClure, Chester's Popeye Picnic Chairman since 2004. "After an over-30-year hiatus, this is the first authentic and original use of the traditional Popeye character in printed comic form."

For more information about the Popeye Picnic celebration, visit www.popeyepicnic.com. To learn more about George and his work, visit either of these sites: www.georgebroderick.com and www.coolyulecomics.com

* Popeye the Sailor and all related characters are TM & copyright King Features Syndicate. All Rights Reserved. Popeye is the Registered Trademark of King Features Inc. & TM Hearst Holdings Inc.

CLASS NOTES

Stephanie Gasior, BS '05, was hired by the Department of Security & Transportation at High Point University in High Point, N.C.

Anthony Laslavic, BS '02, in 2008 was appointed regional sales manager serving the northeastern region of the United States for SENNEBOGEN America. His position is based in Pittsburgh and provides factory sales support to distributors and customers from Pennsylvania to Delaware, and north to Maine.

Matthew Hooks, BS '05, was married on June 13 to Victoria Malczak at the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church in Fox Chapel, Pa. Matt is currently a benefits manager for the Pittsburgh third-party logistics firm, GENCO. Victoria is a reading teacher in the Butler School District, Butler, Pa. They reside in Oakmont, Pa.

Marlana Janowski, MS '09, has accepted a position as a certified registered nurse anesthetist at The Medical Center in Beaver, Pa. Prior to attending graduate school, Marlana worked for six years at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital as a registered nurse in the cardio-thoracic intensive care unit.

Erika Reyell Kane, BA '04, is a regulatory affairs specialist for A.N. Deringer, Inc. Erika is married to Keith Kane, BS '04. The have a 3-year-old named Kasey and reside in Rouses Point, N.Y.

Lois Kuttesch, MS '08, was installed to the board of directors of the Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania in April. She has been an active member in Girl Scouting for more than 10 years. Lois is assistant director of Graduate Studies & Adult Education at La Roche College.

Rochelle Latkanich, MSN '02, was recognized by the Cambridge Who's Who for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of health care. She is a regional nurse practitioner with Take Care Health Systems, LLC. Rochelle is a member of the Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the American College of Nurse Practitioners and serves on the board of directors of the Endometriosis Association.

Lisa Marhefka, BS '00, has been at Butler Floor & Carpet Co. located in Butler, Pa., for the past five years. With a degree in interior design, she says she enjoys helping clients make color and design selections that are right for their family.

Diala Muwlla, BS '03, was featured in the April-May issue of *Maniac Magazine* in an article titled, "The Art of Perception." Diala is the owner of an image consulting firm that provides image and communication services to corporate clients in the real estate and retail sectors. Diala travels extensively with her work and makes her home in Amman, Jordan.

Katelyn Navilliat, BS '09, was hired by ARCCA Inc., which is a biomechanical, forensic engineering and litigation consulting firm. Katie resides in McCandless Township, north of Pittsburgh.

Sandra Ortman, BS '05, is the president and founder of Moonglow Services. Inc., which sells self-defense products, hidden cameras and surveillance equipment online.

Nicole Jones Pearsall, DVM, BS '03, along with her husband, Richard "Boomer" Pearsall, BS '03, opened Penn-Ohio Veterinary Services in July. Dr. Pearsall met her husband while both were attending college at La Roche. She received her doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine. He received his master's degree in biological sciences from the University of Pittsburgh and is the practice's manager. The Penn-Ohio Veterinary Services clinic was built on 4 ½ acres in West Middlesex, Pa., next to the Pearsall's home.

Stephanie Pencak, BA '01, has been a security supervisor with Cauley Security Services since graduating from La Roche in 2001. Stephanie is a team captain for "Team Unity," which is a Relay for Life team with the American Cancer Society. Her team consists of more than 25 members who in 2009 have raised more than $8,500 through various fund-raisers, including spaghetti dinners, dances, raffle drawings and a golf outing.

Tiana Smith, BA '09, accepted a position as a residential counselor at Girls Hope in Moon Township, Pa. Girls Hope was founded in 1991 by the Sisters of Saint Joseph to help girls between the age of 10 to 14 in troubled home situations who have leadership and academic potential. The girls are able to complete their education in a safe and supportive home-like environment.

Tara Renninger, BSID '08, graduated from U.S. Navy basic training on May 29, where she was awarded the status of honor graduate. On Aug. 21, she graduated with honors from Information Technology Technician "A" school in Pensacola, Fla. Tara is stationed in Norfolk, Va., and is serving aboard the amphibious assault ship, USS Kearsarge.

Jodie Steegman Tabano, MS '03, joined Sisters Place located in Clairton, Pa., as the development director, in March. Previously, she was the manager of special events for the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation. Jodie, her husband Steve, and their two sons, reside in the North Hills of Pittsburgh.

DeWayne Walker, BS '03, was hired as the head men's basketball coach at the Community College of Beaver County, Beaver, Pa. DeWayne has four years of assistant coaching experience, which includes three years as an assistant coach at Penn State Beaver.

Jessica Zuklich, BA '01, married Justyn Hosman on June 26. They were married in the chapel of Jessica's workplace, the Washington City Mission in Washington, Pa.

Deaths

Barbara Haas, MS '85, on Sept. 23 of pancreatic cancer at the age of 69. Barbara was a leader in the communications industry who helped found the Pittsburgh chapter of Women in Communications, Inc., and was named its national president in 1979. Barbara is survived by her husband, Norbert, and three children.

Bonita "Bonnie" Shearer, adjunct faculty member, on June 16.

Kathleen "Cathy" Kiser, BA '81, on May 25. She is survived by her daughter, Stephanie Kiser, her son, Justin Kiser, and her granddaughter, Lydia Belle Kiser. She lived in Derry, Pa.

Ursula Miller Ostrowski, BA '80, on Sept. 18. She is survived by her husband, John, her children A.M. Weiss, Ursula Ostrowski, Nadine Ostrowski, BS '03, and two grandchildren.

Stanley M. Pittavino, BS '78, on June 26, following injuries sustained in a bicycling accident. Stanley is survived by his wife, Jean Jackson Pittavino, BS '79, and three sons.

'79 Graduate Moves from Fine Art to Marketing

Russell L. Bynum, BS '79, Graphic Design, keeps business all in the family. He and his wife own and operate Bynums Marketing & Communications, Inc., in Pittsburgh. His daughter also works at the company. The business is a culmination of 30 years of hard work and dedication to a dream.

As a high school student, Russell developed a talent for drawing animals. He parlayed his talent into a degree from La Roche and, upon graduation, he first worked at an ad agency in Pittsburgh. He continued to fine-tune his skills, and he also began to learn more about client relationships and fully marketing a product or service. He says La Roche helped him immeasurably.

"La Roche gave me some depth – it was a four-year program that provided me with the mindset of how all of the details of an agency or business work together."

Armed with that knowledge and the experience he gained at the agency, Russell decided to take a chance and start his own business. His first full-time client was Nu/Hart Hair Clinics. From there, he continued to expand and develop his business, working with his wife, Kathy Bynum, a Duquesne University graduate. Later, his daughter, Crystal Bynum (a graduate of Geneva College), joined the company. Together, they operate their own full-service agency, providing advertising and consulting services, as well as youth-related ventures and minority "ethnocentric" marketing, said Russell, who serves as president of the company.

PHOTO: KRISNA POZNIK

He also is involved in the local community and in outreach efforts such as his work with the Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti (www.flmhaiti.org) for which Russell serves as board president. He has helped to build a clinic in Haiti for residents there, and he says his focus is on "helping people help themselves." It's just another way he continues to learn and grow, he says.

"I chose La Roche because I wanted a well-rounded, business-focused and creative-focused education that would enable me to adapt to an ever-changing industry," he said. "La Roche helped me on my journey as a life-long learner."

Mary Jo Cieply Benedetti, BS '82, eloped to Alaska and was married to Anthony Benedetti at Denali State Park in August 2009. Mary Jo is a CPA and CLM and is currently the CFO at the law firm, Tucker Arensberg, in Pittsburgh. Mary Jo and her husband reside in the North Hills of Pittsburgh.

Keep in Touch

Alumni who send us their updated information will receive a La Roche College luggage tag. It's our way of saying thank you for keeping in touch.

Send your information along to:
Rose M. Woolley - *Director of Alumni Affairs*
La Roche College • 9000 Babcock Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

CLASS NOTES

Alumni News Form

You can also e-mail your latest news or updated information to **alumni@laroche.edu.** *Please print or type:*

Name _____

Name of Spouse (if applicable) _____

Degree(s) _____

Class Year(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Preferred E-mail address _____

Employer _____

Business Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Business Phone _____

Names of children (age): _____

_____

News _____

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Alumna Creates Pittsburgh Organization to Educate Others on Cervical Cancer

By Samantha Bond

Every two minutes, a woman is diagnosed with cervical cancer. Priscilla Bordogna, a 2006 La Roche College marketing graduate, never thought she had to worry about that statistic, until her best friend was diagnosed at age 23.

Katy Hoffman, at left, and Priscilla Bordogna

Priscilla, who was born and raised in East Pittsburgh, now works as a marketing coordinator/administrator for a health care technology company in downtown Pittsburgh. She watched her best friend, Katharine (Katy) Hoffmann, struggle with this rapidly growing form of cancer, and it changed both of their lives forever. Katy was diagnosed with cervical cancer in October 2006, and just a short time later, her cancer had reached an advanced stage. Katy then made a heartbreaking call her to best friend – a call Priscilla will never forget.

"Katy called to tell me that the cancer had spread again," Priscilla said. "It was inoperable, and the doctors gave her six months to live." But, Priscilla did not shy away from the devastating news.

"I knew I had to be her rock. I had to be the one person who was stable in her life when everything else was falling apart."

Priscilla did just that. She also created a benefit organization to raise awareness about HPV and cervical cancer in Pittsburgh and to raise funds for the Magee-Womens Foundation. The organization, Run 2 Inspire, was started in October 2007 – one year after Katy was diagnosed. Through Run 2 Inspire's events, Priscilla hopes to educate, inspire and ease suffering in women of all ages.

Through persistent and intensive chemotherapy, Katy's cancer progression started to slow. Katy's cancer is now only a Stage 1A, meaning that it is so small it can only be seen with a microscope. She is still undergoing weekly radiation treatment.

"I struggled with my cancer many times, and it made me vulnerable to the point that I took our friendship for granted," Katy said. "But, Priscilla saw right through me and never gave up."

As the founder of Run 2 Inspire, Priscilla, along with Katy, created events such as "Drop Everything" and Drink!, a happy hour fund-raiser at Buckhead Saloon in Station Square, Pittsburgh; Cervical Cancer Awareness Day with the Pittsburgh Pirates, in which a percentage of the ticket sales benefit the Magee-Womens Foundation; an annual celebrity charity golf outing; and the bi-annual Purple Pin-Up Party that takes place in James Centre, Pittsburgh, that includes local food and drinks, a fashion show and DJ entertainment.

Priscilla and Katy were featured in an advertorial in the July issue of *Shape* magazine. They also appeared in the September issues of *Shape* and *Glamour* magazines. The focus of these articles is Katy's diagnosis, treatment and the women's subsequent efforts to spread the word about HPV and cervical cancer.

"In 13 years, you can graduate from school, get married and have a family. In 13 years, I have built this priceless friendship with Priscilla," Katy said. "That is something most people don't get to experience in their lifetime."

For more information on Run 2 Inspire or on cervical cancer, visit www.run2inspire.com.

CAMPUS CLIPS

La Roche Earns Princeton Review Distinction for Fifth Consecutive Year

La Roche College has once again been named one of the best colleges and universities in the northeast, according to The Princeton Review. This year marks the fifth consecutive year that La Roche has earned this distinction.

The New York City-based education services company selected La Roche as one of 218 institutions it recommends in its "Best in the Northeast" section on www.princetonreview.com in the 2010 Best Colleges Region by Region section. It also profiles La Roche in its book, "The Best Northeastern Colleges: 2010 Edition."

"La Roche has been providing students with great opportunities for education, leadership, and community involvement for more than 45 years. It's nice to see that recognized so positively in the surveys that the students themselves filled out." - Colleen Ruefle

"We chose La Roche College and the other terrific schools we recommend as our 'regional best' colleges primarily for their excellent academic programs," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review's vice president, publishing.

"We choose the schools based on institutional data we collect from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of independent and high school-based college advisers whose recommendations we invite. We also take into account what each school's customers – their students – report to us about their campus experiences on our 80-question student survey," he said.

"La Roche has been providing students with great opportunities for education, leadership, and community involvement for more than 45 years," said Colleen Ruefle, vice president for Student Life. "It's nice to see that recognized so positively in the surveys that the students themselves filled out."

CSI: La Roche Helps Students Explore Careers

High school students with an interest in criminalistics and forensics learned more about the types of careers they might want to pursue as a result of attending this summer's "CSI: La Roche" course on campus. The course is a combined effort of the departments of biology, chemistry and justice, law and security.

Conor Dugan of Greensburg Central Catholic High School in the CSI laboratory.

Throughout the weeklong course, that took place in late June, students investigated a mock crime scene, collected and analyzed evidence from both biology and chemistry viewpoints, and presented their findings at a mock grand jury indictment. They also learned how to manage state-of-the-art laboratory procedures such as spectroscopy and chromatography, as well as DNA profiling instruments.

The La Roche course was developed based on discussions with experts at the FBI's Quantico, Va., crime lab facility and Allegheny County's crime lab facility. La Roche faculty developed this course to guide students in hands-on experiences with the same high-tech instrumentation used by law enforcement, biologists and chemists in today's modern forensic laboratories.

Left to right: Speaker Series Chair Jennifer Lindemuth, scholarship award winner and La Roche student Bridget Painter, and Eileen Jones.

Design Dialogue Focused on Branded Environments

Eileen Jones of renowned design firm Perkins + Will visited the La Roche campus in October and also presented the annual Design Dialogue Series keynote presentation on the topic of branded environments. She presented "see, know, do: An Approach to Branded Environments" on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh.

Her lecture, which was attended by design professionals, students and the public, illustrated how the work environment can affect factors such as profitability, employee retention and employee satisfaction.

This event marked the seventh year for the Design Dialogue series, sponsored by the Interior Design Advisory Board of La Roche. All proceeds from the event benefited the Interior Design Program at La Roche College; the program is one of the college's most popular and successful majors.

PHOTO: KRISNA POZNIK

Left to Right – The winning foursome! Team Comcast members Tony McLusky, J.P. West, Glenn Lyttle and Mike Casillo.

Golfers Hit the Links at 18th Annual Golf Outing

On Sept. 30, more than 100 golfers took to the links to benefit athletic programs by participating in the 18th Annual La Roche College Golf Outing at the Wildwood Golf Club, Allison Park, Pa. Despite a rainy start to the day, the clouds parted 15 minutes before tee time, and participants enjoyed a sunny, breezy day.

Taking first place honors this year, with a score of 61, was the foursome of Tony McLusky, Mike Casillo, Glenn Lyttle and J.P. West of Team Comcast. The second place team, finishing with a score of 62, from First Commonwealth Bank consisted of Joe Dell, Bill Bonner, Gary Goepfert and Gary Hitechew. Taking third place in the outing were Gus Georgiadis, Stan Celich, Kurt Kyuat and Stephen Pak of Team Triad USA with a score of 63.

> *"Participation in our annual golf outing supports both men's and women's athletic programs at the College – where students learn the value of teamwork, sacrifice and dedication."* - *Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.*

Additional prizes were awarded in skills contests. The winners were:

- Longest Putt (Men's): Bill Adams, 47 feet 9 inches, Urish Popeck & Co., LLC
- Longest Putt (Women's): Ginny Spang, 6 feet, Burke & Michael, Inc., Guest
- Longest Drive: Tim Mudrinich, Clear View Strategies Guest
- Closest to the Pin: Dave Frazee, 19 feet, 6 inches, Burke & Michael, Inc., Guest
- Putting Contest: Terry Bove, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services/Bayard Crossings

Funds raised through the golf outing during the past few years have enabled the College to make numerous athletic field improvements, purchase new team uniforms, completely renovate the baseball field, and install a new soccer field fence – among other projects. Athletic Director Jim Tinkey noted that the College's facilities serve as a resource for teams, groups and clubs throughout western Pennsylvania.

"Participation in our annual golf outing supports both men's and women's athletic programs at the College – where students learn the value of teamwork, sacrifice and dedication," said Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., an avid golfer who played in the outing. "Those principles and lessons not only broaden their educational experience, but also prepare them for life challenges ahead."

PHOTO: COLLEEN PELC

College Hosts Successful Fall Phonathon

This fall, 29 student callers took to the phones to call alumni, friends of the college and parents, all in an effort to raise money through the Annual Fund Phonathon.

From Sept. 20 through Oct. 1, student callers received pledges from 520 donors and exceeded $29,655 in proposed pledge dollars. This year's goal was to raise unrestricted dollars that can be used for programs such as scholarships, academic programs, campus maintenance and other areas of greatest need, according to Annual Fund Director Kathy Corcoran.

"We want to thank our donors for their generous support and remind them that fulfilling their pledges helps us to accomplish so much here at La Roche," she said.

A Long Way from Home, Rwandan Graduate Earns Doctorate

Pictured: Professor Don Fujito, Charles Manzi-Nshuti and Professor Roberta Hartman.

Science majors at La Roche welcomed back Charles Manzi-Nshuti, BS '04, chemistry, who returned to campus after successfully defending his Ph.D. dissertation in polymer chemistry at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis., in January. The Chemistry Department, College Activities and the Chemistry Club hosted a reception for Charles in Science Center Room 205 and students gathered with faculty to hear about his graduate school experiences.

A student of Petit Seminaire de Karubanda in southern Rwanda, Charles' high school education was disrupted during the genocide in his country. His parents were killed, but the memory of his father, who had earned his doctorate in sociology, prompted Charles to continue his education. He came to La Roche as one of the final students in the Pacem In Terris program, and earned his undergraduate degree in comprehensive chemistry in May 2004. Two sisters still reside in Rwanda.

"I was also inspired by the faculty here," he said of his experience at La Roche. "They encouraged me to pursue my education." He also remembered fondly his days at La Roche when, outside the classroom, he served as assistant volleyball coach – a sport he played in Rwanda as a teen.

He chose polymer chemistry and fire retardant materials as the focus of his dissertation, which was comprised of 10 published papers. The last one was published in the journal Physical Chemistry. He is now in post-doctoral study at the University of Southern Mississippi.

His advice to students who hope to follow in his academic footsteps? "Do well in class, get good recommendations and remember that your grades count."

La Roche College Calendar of Events

Please join us for these upcoming events. All are open to the public, unless otherwise noted. Phone numbers also are provided for your reference. For more information and to learn about other timely events added after press time, please visit our website at www.laroche.edu and click on Upcoming Events on the homepage.

Choreographers' Series

Saturday, Dec. 12

The La Roche College Dance Department will open its season with the student produced, staged and choreographed "Choreographers' Series." This year the all-student based production will feature choreography by Dance Department students and alumni, as they spread their wings, try out their choreographic skills, and reach toward their goals as future choreographers and producers. Performances of this year's Series are at 2 and 7 p.m. in the Zappala College Center Square.

Winter Rep 2010

Friday, Feb. 5, and Saturday, Feb. 6

The La Roche College Dance Theatre will grace the stage of the new Father Ryan Center for the Performing Arts in McKees Rocks, Pa., with the "Winter Rep 2010" performance. "Winter Rep 2010" will feature the return of the much-beloved "Scarlet Women of the Bible: EVE" and the world-class perennial favorite "Paquita," according to Artistic Director Gerard Holt. Make plans now to see the group at this beautiful new venue!

Fifth Annual Founders Gala

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Since its inception in 2006, the Founders Gala has benefited the President's Fund for Excellence, which makes a difference to the college and its students by funding scholarships, academic programs and much more. Every year, the Founders Gala features the presentation of the Ad Lucem Award, which recognizes individuals and organizations whose vision, leadership and determination have transformed their dreams into reality. Join us this year to posthumously recognize former La Roche College President Monsignor William Kerr as the 2010 recipient. For more information about the Fifth Annual Founders Gala, please contact Bobbi Kress LaPlace, director of Special Events, at **412-536-1087** or e-mail **specialevents@laroche.edu**.

The Classics & the Contemporary: A mixed evening of classical and contemporary dance – La Roche College Dance Theatre at the Byham

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Back by popular demand, The La Roche College Dance Theatre's "The Classics & the Contemporary" will feature Gerard Holt's "Move On Up A Little Higher," featuring the music of Mahalia Jackson. As an extended piece, the music of Christopher Brisson and Bishop Clarence McClendon also will serve as a backdrop for the dancers. Also featured on the program will be the immortal selection "Kingdom of Shades" from La Bayadere and other featured contemporary pieces by faculty and staff. For time and ticket information, call **724-538-5856** or **412-536-1184** or e-mail **gerard.holt@laroche.edu**.

Upcoming Alumni Events

- **Festival of Lights Alumni Holiday Reception**
  Friday, Dec. 4, 2009
  5 - 8:30 p.m.
  Cantellops Art Gallery in the Zappala College Center

- **Alumni Night at the Best Musical 2008 Tony Award Winner, "In the Heights"**
  Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, at 8 p.m. • Benedum Center
  7th Street and Penn Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15222
  Pre-Show Reception
  6 - 7:30 p.m. at Bossa Nova
  123 7th Street in the Pittsburgh Cultural District

- **Alumni Speaker Event - Brand Yourself Towards Your Next Job**
  Presented by Natalie A. Neczypor from Ernest & Young LLP
  March 2010 • Date to be Announced
  Ryan Room located in the Zappala College Center
  6:30 - 7 p.m. Reception with light refreshments
  7 - 8 p.m. Presentation

  A facilitated discussion covering key steps for all levels and industries of professionals navigating today's challenging job market. We will discuss branding yourself and self-awareness, as well as resumes, portfolios, new media, networking, interviewing and other elements in the process of securing a job, finding a new position, working towards promotion or starting a new career.

- **Alumni Speaker Event - Managing Stress**
  Presented by alumna Sally Littell, PHR • "Emotional Intelligence" Certified Coach Coaching, Consulting and Training
  Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010
  Ryan Room located in the Zappala College Center
  6:30 - 7 p.m. Reception with light refreshments
  7 - 8 p.m. Presentation

- **Alumni Wine Tasting**
  Date TBA

- **Founders Gala**
  Saturday, March 27, 2010
  Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh

- **Connect Event for Marketing and Graphic Design**
  Alumni, Students and Faculty
  Thursday, April 29, 2010
  6 p.m. Reception and Registration
  7 p.m. Dinner

- **Alumni Luncheon**
  May 2010

- **Fourth Annual Alumni Night at PNC Park with pre-game dinner**
  June 2010

- **Alumni Day at Kennywood Park**
  Summer 2010

To register or for additional information on upcoming alumni events, go to alumni@laroche.edu. If you have questions, please e-mail **alumni@laroche.edu** or call Rose Woolley, director of Alumni Affairs, at **412-536-1085**.

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