



© MEGAN JOHNSON

## Welcome to La Roche University

*La Roche president discusses what university status means for La Roche*

BY JULIA FELTON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On March 26, 2019, La Roche transitioned from a college to a university.

La Roche University President Sister Candace Introcaso said, “I hope people will share my excitement about La Roche becoming a university and all that that means in terms of the quality of our academic offerings, our faculty, our students, and our staff.”

Introcaso said becoming a university will be a momentous part of La Roche’s history—a history that has been leading up to this moment for a long time.

She said: “Changing our designation and name to La Roche University is the fulfillment of a vision that many on campus have shared for several years. This approval to become a university is recognition of how far La Roche has come. What began as a school for religious women in 1963 with seven students in its first graduating class is now a university that offers 66

undergraduate programs of study, six master’s degrees and one doctoral degree. Our 14,000 plus alumni live in every state in the U.S. and in 65 countries around the world.”

For Introcaso, this transition is exciting for various reasons. She explained that recognizing La Roche as a university will improve international recruitment. In many countries, the word college does not hold the same weight as a university. By becoming a university, Introcaso said she hopes to see La Roche garner more international attention. “Our mission to be global is part of this,” she said.

School pride is another factor for Introcaso, who emphasized that this is an exciting time to be at La Roche. She said, “I hope that there will be a recognition among faculty, staff, and students, of a certain sense of pride that goes along with this accomplishment.”

SEE WELCOME TO LRU, PAGE 6

## LRU community responds to change

BY JULIA FELTON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As La Roche becomes a university, the majority of the La Roche community is responding favorably to the change. A recent survey revealed 66 percent of respondents are glad to see La Roche becoming a university. Only three students said they were unhappy with the news. The remaining group was unsure.

In December, a survey of 100 students, faculty, and staff gauged the La Roche community’s opinions on this transition.

According to this survey, 74 percent of the La Roche community plans to purchase updated apparel and merchandise that recognize La Roche as a university. Forty-one people said they hoped to attend events marking this significant transition.

Members of the La Roche community had a plethora of reasons for their excitement.

Seventy-six percent of students, faculty, and staff said they are hoping that becoming a university will lead to enhanced academic opportunities. Interior design professor Devvrat Nagar said he expects that this change will provide “funding for research and academic advancement.”

La Roche President Candace

Introcaso said she believes transitioning to university status will allow the school to improve opportunities in graduate programs. “One of the aspects is the growing of the graduate program. I think opportunities to develop more graduate programs fits under the university status,” she said.

The survey revealed that 73 percent of respondents believe this change will allow La Roche to recruit more students and faculty. As 51 respondents noted, the change will also help with recruiting international students.

Sophomore accounting major Sarah Macchione said, “Maybe it will encourage more international students to attend La Roche. One of the best qualities of La Roche is our diversity.”

Introcaso agreed that becoming a university will enable La Roche to better reach out to the international community. She explained, “We’ve already had experience in some countries where we’ve been at a college fair where they don’t even stop at the table because we’re a college. If they’re going to send their children to the

SEE SURVEY, PAGE 6



# University status means big plans for La Roche athletics programs

BY JORDAN SMITH  
SPORTS EDITOR

For the 2019-2020 school year, La Roche Athletics plan to propose many ideas to the school board. The goal is to improve all facilities and add more to their D3 program.

For the time being, the athletics department, as well as any other departments when making shirts are only putting “La Roche”, or just “Redhawks” on the shirt. Once the

college becomes a university, then departments will begin to put “La Roche University” on the athletic clothing items.

Eventually, the school will get new uniforms as it changes to a university. Athletics plans to find an appropriate way to donate the old uniforms.

Some important additions that are at the top of the priority list is to expand the gymnasium. Adding a sec-

ond court would be extremely helpful in giving the incentive to add more sports and have more space for athletes and nonathletes to use the gym. In addition more offices could be built for the athletic staff. Next summer it's proposed to redo the whole basketball court.

All the different fields and courts will be getting new scoreboards. All of them say “La Roche college” so

it'll be redone to say, “La Roche University.”

Between Peters Hall and the baseball field, there is a possibility they will build a bridge the leads from the school ground up to the athletics area. Also, theoretically adding more to the parking lot.

Another plan is to build locker rooms between the softball field and soccer field, therefore those sports teams can use that before their games and practices.

Currently, they are adding women's lacrosse and women's bowling next year. They've already hired coaches and are beginning recruiting. That will give the school 14 sports total. Athletic Director Jim Tinkey said he would, “love to get the school to 18 sports within a few years.”

Junior starting forward, Dante Nicholas, for the La Roche men's soccer team stated, “Changing to a university will definitely strengthen the sports teams. More students will be eager to attend games and see more of what the university has to offer.”

The athletic staff knows this will be somewhat of a financial hit, but these things will pay off as the benefits will be more recruiting. The prestigious title of being a “university” will attract more attention to the school at a larger scale.

In the foreseeable future expect big and better changes happening at La Roche!!



© COURTESY OF LA ROCHE ARCHIVES

The 1990-91 baseball team posed for a photo.

## The Courier Staff

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Julia Felton

**Entertainment Editor  
and Lead Designer**  
Sarah Hefferin

**Sports Editor**  
Jordan Smith

**Courier Advisory Council**  
Rebecca Pasqua  
Sarah Reichle

**Faculty Advisor**  
Ed Stankowski



# La Roche Speaks: Entertainment Editor Sarah Hefferin asked, "What do you think about the name change?"

"I THINK THEY HAVE ENOUGH STUDENTS AND FACULTY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL. LA ROCHE SEEMS VERY ACCEPTING OF MULTIPLE NATIONALITIES AND (BECOMING A UNIVERSITY) MAY OFFER A LOT OF OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS. I JUST JOINED THIS SCHOOL. THIS UNIVERSITY (SWITCH) SEEMS LIKE IT HAS A LOT OF PROMISE AND PURPOSE."

-JAMES COULIBALY, COMMUNICATIONS SENIOR

"I DON'T MIND THAT THE SCHOOL IS BECOMING A UNIVERSITY, BUT ONE THING I HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND AS CHEER CAPTAIN IS THAT ALL OUR CALLS AND CHEERS WILL HAVE TO CHANGE NEXT YEAR. MOST OF THEM SAY 'LRC.'"

-LAUREN RANALLI, COMMUNICATIONS JUNIOR

"I THINK THIS IS A GREAT IDEA. HOPEFULLY THE SCHOOL WILL BECOME MORE WELL KNOWN."

-ZACHARY PATTON, BUSINESS SOPHOMORE

"I THINK IT'LL MAKE THE COLLEGE MORE ATTRACTIVE TO MORE PEOPLE. PLUS, IT JUST SOUNDS MORE OFFICIAL AS OPPOSED TO BEING NAMED COLLEGE. IT MIGHT BRING MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR US (AS A SCHOOL) TO EXPAND AND HAVE A MORE PRESENT STUDENT BODY."

-STEPHEN LAMPUS, ACCOUNTING JUNIOR

"I'M VERY EXCITED THAT LA ROCHE IS BECOMING A UNIVERSITY. IT SHOWS THAT THE COLLEGE IS GROWING AND MORE PEOPLE WANT TO COME HERE. I'D SAY I'M EVEN MORE EXCITED THAT I TRANSFERRED NOW BECAUSE I CAN BE A PART OF THE LA ROCHE FAMILY."

-ALEXANDER RICARDI, POLITICAL SCIENCE SOPHOMORE

"IT'S AWESOME AND WILL MAKE US STAND OUT MORE TO INCOMING STUDENTS."

-CHRISTINE ALAND, HEALTH SCIENCE JUNIOR

"WE'RE DOING A LOT OF COOL STUFF HERE, SO I FEEL IT'S NECESSARY. WE'RE DOING A LOT OF THINGS THAT UNIVERSITIES ARE DOING ALREADY, SO IT MAKES SENSE."

-DR. JOSHUA BELLIN

"I THINK IT WOULD MAKE POSITIVE STRIDES FOR THE COLLEGE'S RECOGNITION."

-JASMYNE McDONALD, GRAPHIC DESIGN FRESHMAN

"I THINK IT'S EXCITING! I'VE HEARD TALK OF THE COLLEGE GROWING FOR YEARS SO SEEING THE SCHOOL TAKE A LEAP AND HAVE TANGIBLE GROWTH IS INCREDIBLY COOL TO SEE."

-BENJAMIN MIDDLETON, POLITICAL SCIENCE JUNIOR

"I THINK IT WOULD MAKE THE COLLEGE BE MORE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE STATES. I ALSO THINK IT WOULD CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES ON THE CAMPUS."

-MICAH HILL, CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES FRESHMAN

"I'M EXCITED! I THINK THE PRESTIGE THAT COMES WITH THE UNIVERSITY LABEL WILL ATTRACT MORE GOOD STUDENTS, AND I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING LRU MERCH!"

-ANTHONY PALASUSKI, GRAPHIC DESIGN SOPHOMORE

"I THINK IT IS A GREAT IDEA, BECAUSE IT SHOWS LA ROCHE AS A REPUTABLE SCHOOL (AND NOW) I COULD TELL PEOPLE I ATTEND LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY."

-CECE PALMER, PSYCHOLOGY SOPHOMORE

"IT WILL BE A HUGE WASTE OF MONEY TO CHANGE ALL THE LOGOS. THE LIBRARY JUST GOT A NEW WEBSITE AND NOW IT HAS TO BE CHANGED."

-CAROLINE PACEY, LITERATURE SOPHOMORE.

"IT WOULD BE PROGRESSIVE CHANGE FOR LA ROCHE, AND CHANGE WHAT GOES ON MY DIPLOMA!"

-MICHAEL RUGATER, SOPHOMORE

"(LA ROCHE) BECOMING A UNIVERSITY IS VERY EXCITING, BECAUSE IT MAY OPEN SOME NEW DOORS FOR US. THE COLLEGE OPERATES AT A UNIVERSITY LEVEL (ALREADY), SO THIS PUTS A WORD OR TITLE ON US. BECOMING A UNIVERSITY SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING THAT EVERYONE WANTS, AND IT WILL HELP OUR INTERNATIONAL RECRUITING. (UNIVERSITY MEANS) AN INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND MAKES US MORE RELATABLE TO PEOPLE."

-SISTER ELENA ALMENDAREZ, MISSION AND MINISTRY DIRECTOR

"I THINK THAT IT WILL BE GOOD FOR THE SCHOOL IN THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, I THINK THAT THE TIMING IS BAD. THERE ARE DEPARTMENTS OF LA ROCHE THAT COULD USE SOME FURTHER DEVELOPMENT. SO IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO MAKE THE SCHOOL SOUND BETTER, WITH THE 'UNIVERSITY' NAME, AND NOT MAKE IT BETTER."

-BARRINGTON RATLIFE, GRAPHIC DESIGN JUNIOR



# Exploring the history of La Roche

BY JULIA FELTON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



© COURTESY OF LA ROCHE ARCHIVES

The Sisters of Divine Providence founded La Roche College, whose charter is being signed in this photograph.

## 1963

The Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence founded La Roche College as a private Catholic college for women. The school was named for Marie de la Roche, who co-founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

## 1965

La Roche began accepting laywomen as students. At the College's first commencement, seven Sisters received degrees in biology, history, and English language and literature.

## 1967

La Roche constructed the John J. Wright Library, which is named for the Bishop who approved La Roche's establishment. This is the first building the College erected.



© COURTESY OF LA ROCHE ARCHIVES

Mother Mary Dominic participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the John J. Wright Library.

## 1970

La Roche welcomed its first male students.

## 1973

The College built its first residence hall, Schneider Hall. It was named in honor of Frank Schneider, a Board of Trustees chair and benefactor.

## 1974

The Red Devils, the first collegiate varsity basketball team, was formed.

## 1978

Mahler Hall was dedicated for Sister De La Salle Mahler.

## 1979

Another residence hall, Peters Hall, was built. It was named for Donald C. Peters, a Board of Trustees chair.



© COURTESY OF LA ROCHE ARCHIVES

La Roche College had three residence halls--Schneider, Mahler, and Peters--by 1979.

## 1980

The Science Center was built. It was renamed the A. J. Palumbo Science Center in 1997, in honor of Antonio J. Palumbo, a benefactor.

## 1987

The College Center was dedicated. In 1997, it was renamed the Richard A. Zappala College Center in honor of Richard A. Zappala, a benefactor and Board of Trustees member and chairperson.



© COURTESY OF LA ROCHE ARCHIVES

The College Center was dedicated in 1987.



1990

La Roche College dedicated Magdalen Chapel. The Magdalen Chapel was dedicated in memory of Magdalena Mauer Bold, mother of Walter Bold.



© JULIA FELTON

*Named in memory of Magdalena Mauer Bold, Magdalen Chapel was dedicated in 1990.*

1992

The Red Devils changed their name to the Redhawks.

1993

The Pacem in Terris Institute was formed. It brought students from conflict, post-conflict, and developing regions to study at La Roche, supporting the College's mission to foster global citizenship.

1994

The La Roche Courier student newspaper published its first issue.

1995

The Sisters of Divine Providence transferred ownership of West Campus to La Roche College.

1999

Bold Hall was dedicated. It was named in honor of Dolores Bold, a benefactor, and in memory of her husband, Walter Bold.

2002

The Sisters of Divine Providence transferred ownership of West Campus to La Roche College.

2004

The Providence Institute, which is dedicated to helping students reach their education goals, was founded.

2007

La Roche sold the West Campus property, consolidating to East Campus.

2008

To introduce students to the history and heritage of La Roche College and the Sisters of Divine Providence, the La Roche Experience was added to the curriculum.

2009

The Study Abroad + Study USA program was founded. The program allows students to enjoy international and domestic learning opportunities and is included with the cost of tuition.

2013

A Year of Jubilee celebrated La Roche's 50th anniversary.

2017

The first doctoral degrees were awarded.

2019

La Roche College became La Roche University.



© JULIA FELTON

*The La Roche community enjoys a beautiful campus.*

## Interested in joining our staff?

The Courier is always looking for new writers and photographers.

Contact Julia Felton for more information on writing for the Courier.

Julia.Felton@stu.laroche.edu



## Survey, continued from page 1

United States, they're going to send them to a university, because 'college' in some cultures gets translated into a secondary school."

For 62 respondents, prestige was also a major benefit associated with becoming a university.

Though the majority of those surveyed said they were glad to see La Roche become a university, they still had concerns about the change.

Eighty-three percent of respondents said they were afraid of a tuition increase.

According to Introcaso, there's no reason to fear a sharp spike in tuition. She said: "We have averaged about 2.9-3% increase in tuition each year. A lot of that is tied to the increase in salaries and utilities and those kinds of things. We still pride ourselves on being affordable. We intentionally keep our tuition in the bottom quarter of our competitors. We want to continue to do that and continue to provide the kinds of financial aid that we have in the past."

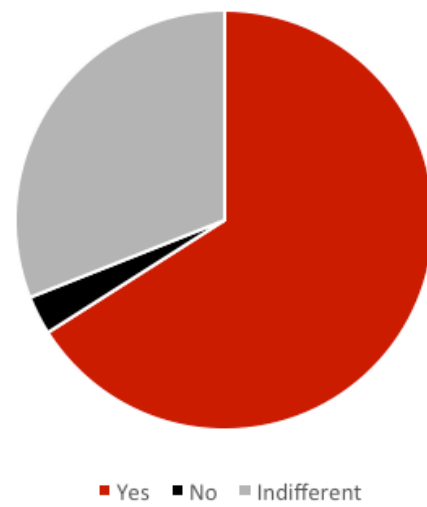
The survey also showed that 49 percent of people were worried about a drastic size increase.

Introcaso said that won't be a problem, either. She said: "There's not huge enrollment growth in the strategic plan in the sense that it would impact the campus. Where I see growth is online. I don't think any student on campus would have to worry about parking or not being able to find a seat in the dining room or anything."

For the 24 percent of respondents who were concerned about a change in curriculum, Introcaso said the only change will be the addition of more graduate programs.

Twenty percent of the La Roche community worried that becoming a university would mean losing our community atmosphere. Introcaso recognized that students may be drawn to that atmosphere, which she said La Roche would maintain. "Some people were attracted to La Roche because it [is] this more communal kind of college. Their idea of college is small community, small classes, that personal attention," Introcaso said. "We don't want to lose any of that in becoming a university."

### Would you be glad to see La Roche transition from a College to a University?



© JULIA FELTON

A survey revealed that a majority of the La Roche community is glad that La Roche is becoming a university.

## Welcome to LRU, continued from page 1

Introcaso also said she is excited for the increased educational opportunities that will come along with university status. "The broadening of our graduate offerings has certainly been one big piece of this," Introcaso said. "We've been working on the development of a Lifelong Learning Center."

Introcaso said La Roche will be replacing signage to denote the name change and selling updated merchandise. Students graduating in May 2019 will be the first class to have La Roche University printed on their diplomas.

Introcaso added that along with this new university status, La Roche is creating a new master plan and renovating Palumbo Science Center.

*"The future is very bright for La Roche. We anticipate opportunities for growth while honoring our traditions and heritage as a Catholic Institution."*

*-Sister Candace Introcaso*

Though becoming a university may bring some changes, Introcaso said she doesn't foresee any major drawbacks. As a matter of fact, she said she hopes La Roche will keep

the identity that draws in so many students.

"I hope that we continue to demonstrate that at the core of who we are are those values around diversity

and inclusion and social justice and care for the individual. We're not going to lose those core values with the name change," Introcaso said.

She also noted that, though there may be some growth, La Roche will remain a small, tight-knit community. "Our intent is not to grow beyond the capacity that we have to comfortably accommodate. If there's growth, it would be in graduate programs and in online—not so much on campus," she explained.

Introcaso said some students have told her they chose La Roche because it was a small, personal college. In response to those concerns, she emphasized that La Roche University will maintain that atmosphere. She said: "We don't lose that sense of community. The thing that has distinguished us is the care and concern we have for each other and for accepting people wherever they are and helping them to grow to be their fullest self. I don't think that will change."

Introcaso said she wants to encourage the La Roche community to join her in celebrating this new chapter in La Roche history. The college will host a gala on Friday, April 26 to commemorate the event. They will also celebrate during Homecoming Weekend, which takes place April 27-28, and during the week of April 29.

Introcaso said she looks forward to La Roche's future as a university. She said, "The future is very bright for La Roche. We anticipate opportunities for growth while honoring our traditions and heritage as a Catholic Institution."



© JULIA FELTON

A statue of Saint Joan of Arc was commissioned for the rededication of La Roche's Wright Library in 2010.

