

## Canvas replaces Blackboard as online platform

By JULIA FELTON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Out with the old, in with the new. La Roche updated its online platform, leaving Blackboard for a newer site called Canvas.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Howard Ishiyama said that he began exploring new options as the school's contract with Blackboard expired. "I noticed that a lot of [other schools] had been switching to other platforms. Canvas was probably at the top of the list," he said.

Ishiyama said he assembled a team of faculty and staff to explore options, including Blackboard and Canvas. According to Ishiyama, everyone agreed that switching to Canvas would be the best choice.

Before deciding, Ishiyama said he also got input from schools that already used Canvas.

"It was unusual, the extent to which everyone responded that not only had they gone to Canvas, but it was a relatively easy transition. Most technological transitions like this are fraught with potholes and issues, so that was a relief to me," Ishiyama explained.

As of July 2018, La Roche has a three-year contract with Canvas.

Though Ishiyama said he liked Blackboard, the college had problems working with the company.

"We'd ask for answers to issues or questions we had and they weren't being responsive. We want to go with a company that's going to put us first," he said.

Ishiyama said he thought students would prefer Canvas over Blackboard, noting Canvas was more intuitive and easier to navigate.

Sophomore Jessica Hannes confirmed Ishiyama's belief. She said, "I find it easier to use and beneficial for keeping track of assignments."

Like Hannes, sophomore Sara Szymanski said she preferred Canvas.

"I prefer Canvas because I like how I can see all my grades for every class in one place. Also, I like the layout," Szymanski explained.

Ishiyama added, "It's easier for faculty members to take materials that they have and move it to another shell."

To help professors with the transition, Ishiyama said the college offered numerous training sessions. Full-time faculty had to attend. The college also encouraged adjunct professors to participate. "We really paid attention to having a whole range of training available," Ishiyama said.

Professor Ed Stankowski explained, "The college has done an excellent and thorough job providing

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## Courier hosting writing contest

Would you like \$500? The La Roche Courier is sponsoring the Jimmy Dunn Feature Writing Contest. The contest is the brainchild of Communication, Media and Technology Chair Professor Jeff Ritter.

"The purpose," Ritter said, "is both to encourage more students to write for the Courier and honor Jimmy's work and life and let his family know we recognize his contribution to our community."

Ritter said he is sponsoring this contest as a way to honor Jimmy Dunn, who died July 21. Although he wasn't a staff member or a student here, Dunn was a gregarious and warm fixture on campus. He also covered La Roche College sports for the local print media.

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, "Old or young, rich or poor, black or white, Mr. Dunn transcended differences and left his conversation partners with a sense of importance."

Stories submitted to the Jimmy Dunn Feature Writing Contest will

focus on some aspect of life at La Roche College, or the life of your community or workplace. So, you can write about an interesting person, an intriguing location, or some object you find compelling.

"I would include as the criteria for the winner that it reflects the care and openness that Jimmy Dunn showed for others and his spirit of hard work and lifelong learning," Ritter added.

The contest is open to the entire La Roche student community. Contest entries must be 2,000-2,500 words. And the deadline for submission is Wednesday, November 21 at noon. Email your submission in a Word file to Professor and Courier Advisor Ed Stankowski at [stankoe1@laroche.edu](mailto:stankoe1@laroche.edu). Stankowski then will forward your submission to the contest judge.

The Courier will announce the top five winners in its first issue of 2019, with the top prize earning \$500. And those top five stories will appear in the Courier throughout the Spring 2019 semester.



Dr. Nicole Kriedler, interior design department chair, is battling stage two breast cancer. © COURTESY OF SARAH REICHLER

## Interior design department chair fighting cancer

By DANIELLE DiNATALE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The La Roche community is gathering to support Dr. Nicole Kriedler in her fight against stage two breast cancer.

Dr. Kriedler is the chair of the Interior Design Department at La Roche. She is a part of the Building and Grounds Committee, the Interior Design Dialogue Advisory Board, and the Eco-Council. Due to her recent diagnosis, Kriedler is not teaching this semester; however, she remains active with her organizations, as well as advising for students.

Since the news broke, students and staff alike have stepped in to help. Christine Williams, Design Division Administrative Assistant, started a Blue Apron account for Kriedler. Blue Apron is a food delivery service that provides meals that are acceptable for Kriedler's restrictive diet during her treatment. People can support this by buying gift cards for the service, either on the Blue Apron website or at Costco.

Another program started by the Design Division for Kriedler is Basket of Love. Donors give small, wrapped gifts that are sent to Kriedler for her to open when she needs

positivity. The gifts are meant to brighten her day throughout her treatment, and remind her that she is in the thoughts of the La Roche community.

"They're for when she needs a pick-me-up," Williams said. "She's already opened a couple so far, and they've cheered her up."

Staff aren't the only ones who want to help. The Interior Design seniors organized a team for Kriedler during October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Those who want to support her or the fight against breast cancer can join the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, or provide a donation.

Students don't need to feel as though they can't help if they cannot afford to make donations. They can fill out cards for Kriedler to lift her spirits.

"We know that students might not be able to afford to donate," Williams said. "We wanted this to be multifaceted, so everyone could support her in some way."

For more information, ideas, or questions, contact Christine Williams.

# People

## SGA prioritizes better communication

BY JULIA FELTON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Student Government (SGA) said they want to improve communication and work towards individual goals this semester.

SGA President Britany Premick said enhancing communication is her main objective for the semester. She said, "We want to increase our communication with faculty and staff and the student body."

According to Premick, individual members of the board are working with specific faculty and staff members more closely, but SGA is also working to communicate better collectively.

To make SGA more accessible to the La Roche community, Premick implemented office hours on Mondays from 12:30-4:15. They also have a suggestion box. Premick said she hopes to create a Google form that serves as an online suggestion box.

Premick said she plans to make a public contact list with each SGA member's contact information.

Premick added she wants students to feel welcome to attend SGA meetings to make their voices heard. "We

are going to try to get our agenda out there earlier, so if students are having issues, they can come. We're also talking about doing an open-forum for all students to come to. We could have Sister Candace and heads of departments there, so students can voice their concerns."

SGA is also working to release an online survey to gauge what students want.

Academic Vice President Sarah Thomas spearheaded the survey. She said, "We talked a lot about talking to the student body and illicit their opinion more directly, so I thought the best way to do this would be to make a comprehensive survey."

According to Thomas, the survey will be available to all students online soon.

Public Relations Chair Rebecca Franks said she wants to strengthen SGA's social media presence.

Though SGA discussed communicating with the student body, they also had to resolve communication issues within their organization.

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(From left) Back row: Sierra Anderson, Adam Greb, Ryan Eshenbaugh, Cory Rezak, Devin Worlford, and Rebecca Franks. Third row: Rheanna Abel, Abby Dopyle, Rachel Hibshman, Lauren Ranalli, and Sarah Thomas. Kneeling: Allie Mroczkowski, Jennifer Kardos, and Amanda Sowko. Seated: Brittany Premick and Allison Bosworth. © RYAN GEORGE

## Radio club is now a one-man show

BY HEATHER RADICK  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



La Roche Radio Club's only member, Kenny Swegman, hosts a radio show.

© HEATHER RADICK

Kenny Swegman, a computer science senior, may be the first La Roche student to run a club entirely by himself. He first joined radio club as a freshman in 2015 and quickly rose through the ranks until he eventually became president this year.

He said he participated in T.V. production and acting all throughout high school and was always interested in radio. During a tour to Point Park University, he fell in love with the radio program; he thought, "I should do that when I go to college."

When he entered La Roche, Swegman immediately got to work sniffing out the radio club. He met the current president and dove headfirst into the activities. He said he considered himself the "underground warrior," setting up new software and running studio equipment but never accepting an official position.

As the years passed, Swegman became a more integral member of the club. He began teaching new members how to use equipment and handled all IT work for the entire club. Unfortunately, radio club never quite became popular, and soon, it was losing members and facing extinction.

"It quit being radio club," Swegman said. "It quit focusing on what radio is known for, being active, getting your voice heard, and entertaining the students. We couldn't figure out how to further the club's goals."

Swegman said he suspects that people are afraid to join radio club because they don't like the sound of their own voice. "I love to talk," he said, "but some people don't."

Last year, Swegman and previous president Andre Parker started a show called "The Daily Take," an improv-based podcast that featured students and contained real stories. "Those were some of the funnest conversations I've had here at La Roche," Swegman said. "It made me feel such a passion to take care of radio club."

Swegman and Parker did The Daily Take for three semesters until Parker's graduation. Now, Swegman said his main priority is developing a stable presence on campus using Twitch.tv, a live streaming video platform. He added that he wants to leave behind a bigger, better club for the freshmen who have shown interest.

To accomplish this goal, Swegman has organized a field trip to Pittsburgh's most popular radio music station, 96.1 KISS. The trip is open to anyone who wants to see how radio is done professionally, to see "how it works," as Swegman said, and even cement an internship there.

"Whenever I leave, I suspect there will be more people around to take over for me," Swegman said. "I'm more confident through this experience, making shows by students for students."

# Man on the Street

*Entertainment Editor Sarah Hefferin asked students and staff: "What is your favorite show, movie, or book?"*



Name: Mina Holland  
Major: Professional Writing  
Year: Junior  
Quote: "American Italians partying, having fun, and doing dumb things occasionally. Reality show on the East Coast."

Answer: Jersey Shore



Name: Lauren Ranalli  
Major: Communications  
Year: Junior  
Quote: "A king who rules over seven kingdoms dies unexpectedly as nobles from all over fight for the title."

Answer: Game of Thrones

Name: Katie Friend  
Major: Professional Writing  
Year: Freshman  
Quote: "I'm not supposed to talk about it..."

Answer: Fight Club by Chuck Palahniuk



Name: Alexis Poblocki  
Major: Psychology  
Year: Freshman  
Quote: "Non-sparkling vampires go on an adventure to beat a time controlling maniac."

Answer: Cirque du Freak Series by Darren Shan



Name: Becky Maier  
Major: Undecided  
Year: Sophomore  
Quote: "The movie starts off as a brother taking another brother's place. They have blue aliens."

Answer: Avatar



Name: Aaron Brabson  
Major: Education and Mathematics  
Year: Freshman  
Quote: "Fear doesn't shut you down, it wakes you up. I'm Amity and Dauntless too."

Answer: Divergent



## 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](mailto:Julia.Felton@stu.laroche.edu)

# Education

## College introduces LinkedIn Learning

BY JULIA FELTON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

La Roche is implementing a new online learning tool for students, faculty, and staff this semester.

LinkedIn Learning—previously called Lynda—is a website featuring video classes in academic areas and career building skills.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Howard Ishiyama explained, “There are these incredible playlists of courses—sort of mini-courses—that you go through. The idea is to provide these visual experiences to

upgrade classes, to upgrade students’ out-of-class experience, but also to be an opportunity for students to upgrade their skills, irrespective of the classroom experience.”

Communications Department Chair Jeff Ritter added, “[It has] great video classes online on many different topics—really for anyone who works in an organization—there’s something for you.”

Ritter said he has used LinkedIn Learning and likes the website. “They are well-produced and divided into

small chunks, because that’s what research says works; people learn more and retain it better in small chunks. The presenters, the sound, the captions, the sets, even the lighting is great,” he said.

According to Ritter, this program offers classes in fields ranging from photography and design to information technology and education. He said it even offers classes on becoming a YouTuber.

“This is so amazing to have at your fingertips,” Ritter said, noting that

this program seems to be a perfect fit for technologically inclined young people.

Ritter said students will be able to access these classes on their laptops or phones.

“Online learning is getting stronger and stronger, and the quality is getting better,” Ritter said. “It’s expanding all the time.”

For students, Ritter said he hopes

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## Freshmen find new experiences in college life, reflect on high school

BY MINA HOLLAND  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The La Roche 2018 fall semester brings new academics, new opportunities, and a new class of students. The class of 2022, just barely making a dent in their college life as freshmen, are eager to experience the transition from high school to college itself. However, the transition is not always easy, and there are things that differentiate high school from college, as freshmen recall.

Living on campus is the most significant change from high school to college. To some students, living in a dorm, with a roommate, neighbors, and abiding rules are new to them.

Others adjust easily to the change, having lived with roommates before. William Deason, a freshman, said that living with a roommate was a different experience for him. “I think that getting out of the house and exploring new opportunities has been a good experience so far,” he said.

Other freshmen have had the opportunity of living with roommates before college, so it was not as big of a change for them.

“There really wasn’t much of a difference in my opinion when I jumped over here, because I’m used to being around so many people and staying in

people’s rooms and houses,” another freshman, Crystal Woollett, said. She added that living with someone in the same bedroom area was strange to her, because even though she previously lived with other roommates, she always had space to herself.

Woollett and Deason both agreed that time management is the hardest thing to adjust to on campus. “[The hardest thing was] definitely balancing classes and homework and all your activities compared to high school,” Woollett said. Deason added that balancing athletics and academics was difficult within the first few weeks liv-

ing on campus.

On top of balancing extracurricular activities and academic work, Woollett and Deason found the academic work to be much more difficult in college than high school. “You have to make sure you put in the time and effort into this or else you will not pass,” Woollett said.

“I think that the workload is more difficult in college, but I feel like you have better resources and tools to complete it in college than you do in high school,” Deason said. Since La Roche College’s Wright Library has

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# Culture

## La Roche professor shoots first movie

BY SARAH HEFFERIN  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

While many spent their summers relaxing, La Roche marketing professor Joe Puglisi spent his making a movie.

Titled “That’s Amore,” the movie is a romantic comedy that tells the story of nurse Lucia Lombardi, a middle aged and single woman, her mother Rosa, and friends Rocco and Gino. When Lucia’s mother puts her in a complicated situation, Rocco and Gino become involved. It stars Puglisi as Gino, alongside talented faces such as comedian Tammy Pescatelli, actress Barbara Russell, and Puglisi’s close friend and producer, Dave Petti. The four major characters are Italians, and the movie is framed around their lives and antics. But Puglisi assures the audience that the ending is a happy one, filled with a lot of love.

“There’s a lot of conflict, [but], despite the conflict, [the characters] all care for each other,” Puglisi said.

For Puglisi, getting involved with the film was a long time in the making. Being a part of the movie making process for him is nothing new, but the magnitude of “That’s Amore” was on a whole other playing field.

For a long time, Puglisi had an interest in film, but never acted upon it. He remembers never having taken part in school plays throughout his childhood. But, as he got older, he really got the acting bug and chose to finally get involved.

“I guess I always had a desire to do something in film. I think it was 2011 when I decided to take an acting class at CCAC, kind of on a whim, and got involved,” Puglisi said.

Through that class, he said he performed in a short play, and his acting career was born.

Puglisi began being an extra in movies, such as “Jack Reacher” and “One For the Money.” He then took

more acting lessons, and was sent on auditions by a talent group in the area for commercials and finished products that made their way online.

But he kept asking what could be next for him and, just three years ago, Puglisi acted in a short film called “Happy Hour” produced by a crew of people from Point Park. It was twelve minutes long, and it made several film festivals.

This eventually sparked an idea: why not create a movie of his own?

“I was talking with my friend Dave Petti, we talked about 2 years ago, about doing something ourselves, because Pittsburgh isn’t a big market for actors,” Puglisi said. “A lot of times, major studios come in asking for auditions but then they end up bringing someone in from outside.”

Puglisi and Petti were eager to pro-

SEE PUGLISI, PAGE 7



(Clockwise) Joe Puglisi, Barbara Russell, Tammy Pescatelli, and Dave Petti filmed “That’s Amore” together.

© COURTESY  
OF JOE  
PUGLISI

## Student, homeless man share meal

BY HALEY EBERSOLE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students in La Roche College’s creative nonfiction writing class had an unusual assignment: Do something they’ve never done before and write a story about it. What follows is one of those stories. We invite you to read this and the other stories that will appear throughout the semester...Professor and Courier Advisor Ed Stankowski

Instead of stopping like others for Dunkin Donuts on his way to work, Reggie stops in the alley to get the cardboard to make his sign. “Struggling, NEED Help,” it says. He rests his head on the rails of one of the many bridges in Pittsburgh, and every morning at 6:00 AM, Reggie wakes up and walks “at least 3 miles because 2 ain’t where the money be” just to get to his spot for the day.

Most people aren’t a fan of having food thrown at them, being cussed out by passing drivers, or having to lug all of their personal belongings with them to work, but for Reggie, it’s just part of his job. He has a love for Aerosmith and he used to have a hand-held CD player in his bag to play his one record that he had of theirs, but he sold the player for one day of three-square meals.

Reggie is what I used to call a “traffic stopper” as a kid. He risks his life to walk on the shoulders of highways and busy streets to get the most exposure. He challenges his balance on days when he’s feeling a “little risky” walking on the dotted yellow line in the middle. He wants you to know that yes, he knows that’s dangerous, yes, he is embarrassed to be begging so, no you don’t need to ask, and yes, he can hear you lock your car doors when he approaches. He isn’t dangerous, just hungry.

...

By writing Reggie’s story, I’m not

looking for a pat on the back because I did something I had never done before. I don’t want to advertise Reggie’s cause, or even encourage others to do what I did, that’s just a bonus if I can influence that. I want people to hear Reggie’s story and remember a time when they struggled. Simply because Reggie’s struggle is broadcasted to a large amount of people, doesn’t mean he’s asking for it, or that he’s wasting his time while he should be getting a job. He is doing what he can to survive in the urban jungle.

...

I don’t want this story to mean nothing, but, I also want to avoid wandering down the same path that others have walked. I decided that a good deed couldn’t be done too many times, so I decided to drive to the city and take a homeless man or woman to lunch. Believe it or not, it was actually harder to find a struggling person than I thought, until I found Reggie. Reggie is 30-years-old, with dark skin and salt and pepper hair to match the sparse beard he had. He wasn’t much bigger than me, and his sense of humor was unmatched. Reggie was sitting on the curb with his bed right beside him. I guess you could call it a bed, but it was just a pillow case full of newspaper and a ratty blanket. I have never been rich by any stretch of the imagination, and my parents are in

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## College hosts humanitarian aid training program

BY JULIA FELTON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

La Roche hosted a humanitarian aid training to help people learn how to respond in crisis situations.

According to Assistant Director of Global Engagement Emily Markham, this summer marked the fifth year La Roche hosted this event.

“The purpose of the program is to give an introductory look at the growing and important field of humanitarian aid,” Markham explained.

Markham said the humanitarian aid program is a five-day course that features a variety of educational workshops and a 36-hour simulation.

The workshops help students learn about disaster response, project management, communication in times of crisis, climate change, and human trafficking. Markham said local experts representing the University of Pittsburgh, the American Red Cross, Brother’s Brother Foundation, Pittsburgh City Council, and the Women’s Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh taught the workshops.

“It was a multidisciplinary approach, looking at various aspects, utilizing experts that we have locally and regionally,” Markham said.

Thanks to technology, the program also was able to give students a glimpse at real-life humanitarian aid efforts.

“We were able to Skype with someone who was actually working

in a refugee camp in Bangladesh,” Markham said. “To hear someone who was on the ground, who knows what’s going on—it really provided that first-person perspective.”

According to Markham, one of the highlights of the event was the simulation—an in-depth and lifelike representation of a humanitarian aid scenario.

“The participants played the role of aid workers responding to a natural disaster. They had to truly immerse themselves in their roles. There were situations and workshops and different activities. We utilized a lot of volunteers to play the role of internally displaced persons, refugees, and government officials,” Markham explained.

Participants were even served food that would be realistic in these situations—red beans, ramen noodles, and instant coffee.

“They had to stay overnight and sleep in sleeping bags on the floor,” Markham added.

Markham said that teaching people about humanitarian aid efforts is important to her.

“There are people around the world in need of support. There’s a growing demand for humanitarian personnel to help them and try to respond in some way,” she said.

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TRAINING, PAGE 8

# Sports

## La Roche golf team aims for strong performance in last invitational

By JORDAN SMITH  
SPORTS EDITOR



David Wilson won the Westminster invitation his freshman year. © JORDAN SMITH

The La Roche men's golf team is looking to place high in their last invitation. They've placed 5th and 6th twice and finished 3rd once.

Let's look at some of their players.

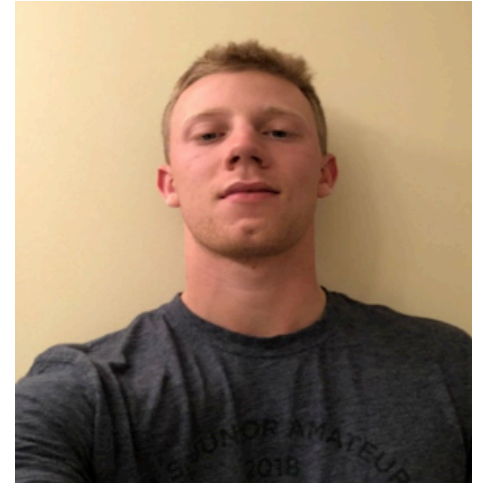
David Wilson:

David started playing golf when he was 13 years old. He went to South Side Beaver high school. His major at La Roche is international management. He plans to do business in other countries. To get better at golf he goes to the driving range, lifts weights, and practices constantly on different courses. The hardest course he ever played on is Tobacco Road. His favorite golf club to use is a 52-degree wedge. Some of David's accomplishments was that he won the Westminster invitation his freshman year. He's shot in the 60's on courses as well.

Pat McCall:

Pat started golfing at 2 years old. He went to Elizabeth Forward high school. He majors in finance and would like to enter the insurance industry. To get better he golfs at the driving range, lifts weights, and works on the putting green a lot. Hardest course he ever played on was Oakmont. His favorite club is a 56-degree wedge. Some of Pat's accomplishments are that he was the captain of the golf team in high school. He was the 2016 AMCC newcomer of the year. He also made first team all-conference that year, and in the 2017 made second team all-conference.

Their last invitation is October 1st at Penn State Behrend. The AMCC championship round is on Sunday October 7th, and Monday October 8th.



Pat McCall's golf career includes earning the title of AMCC newcomer of the year in 2016.

© JORDAN SMITH

## Pittsburgh Pirates suffer a season of slumps, disappointing baseball fans

By JORDAN SMITH  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Pittsburgh Pirates look to finish around .500 this season which, surprisingly, is an improvement from the past two seasons. It was certainly a frustrating and confusing season for Pirates' fans.

The off-season started off with both Andrew McCutchen and Gerrit Cole being traded. Both were fan favorites, specifically McCutchen. The trades never blew over, and fans stayed upset that both key players were gone. Ironically, after both of those trades, the Pirates management brought in Corey Dickerson who became a big help this season as he bat .298 and brought in 54 RBIs. But, the moves made were not enough to form a playoff team.

Gregory Polanco is turning out to be a bust. Austin Meadows, the prospect who was always mentioned the past couple years, was looking good until he was a part of the trade with Tyler Glasnow that sent them away for Chris Archer. Ivan Nova had a bad year, and they sent off the veteran David Freese. Jameson Taillon has not turned into the pitching ace they expected. Josh Harrison and Francisco Cervelli have been consis-

tently good, but it was reported they were both almost traded which would have upset fans even more as they are definite fan favorites.

Overall, the season has felt like it was one bad move after another. Manager Clint Hurdle, the pitching staff, and the front office were constantly questioned and challenged for every move they made. Hurdle was questioned for his lineup moves. The pitching staff was being challenged for how they told the pitchers to pitch. Pitchers who left, like Gerrit Cole and Charlie Morton, started pitching better for another team. General Manager Neal Huntington has been under heat for his trades, and owner Bob Nutting has been accused of only being in it for the money.

The Pirates this year had their lowest attendance record ever since opening PNC Park. The most beautiful ballpark in all of baseball lacked the atmosphere it had in 2015 when the team racked up 98 wins. Not a single player consistently batted over .300. Not a single starting pitcher or bullpen pitcher had an ERA below 3 except for Felipe Vasquez.

Management surely needs to work

on bringing in a stronger bullpen and at least one or two more starting pitchers. The hitting was not particularly bad, but they all lacked star power.

Will the management make moves and spend money, or will it just be another bridge year?

Time will tell.

*Overall, the season has felt like it was one bad move after another. Manager Clint Hurdle, the pitching staff, and the front office were constantly questioned and challenged for every move they made. Hurdle was questioned for his lineup moves. The pitching staff was being challenged for how they told pitchers to pitch.*

## Reggie, continued from page 5

no way wealthy, but they always made sure that I never wanted for anything. Reggie didn't even have the essentials.

Reggie was born in Boise Idaho to a wealthier family. He was the youngest of 9 kids and his parents were Bill and Anna. He told me about his brothers and sisters and where they are now, most are in successful fields—lawyer, pediatrician, and a teacher—and then there was Reggie. He told me his misfortune really took a turn for the worse when he was 19. He decided not to accept a full academic scholarship to North Idaho College and enlist in the military instead. Being that his parents came from a 'Make Love not War' era, they gave him two options: he could go to college and they would continue to fund his expenses, or he could enlist, and they would cut him off. He chose to enlist anyway because he didn't think they were serious, but they were. He came back after being deployed for a year and a half and his room was packed, and they told him to get out of the house. He had no where to go, so with the money that he did have, he bought a one-way plane ticket to Pennsylvania to live with his best friend Marcus from overseas.

Unfortunately, Reggie had come home and was suffering severely from PTSD. He couldn't sleep and there was never a meal that he could get all the way through without reliving war horror stories. He was prescribed a Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor, but that was no match for his strong hallucinations. He turned to marijuana as a replacement, but then eventually found heavier drugs like crack cocaine. He asked me, "Do you have a moment in your life that you just look back on and say, 'That's where it all changed?'" I could only think of moments that had changed my life for the better, but his life had

been impacted in an extremely negative way because of his habitual drug addiction. He was spending money that he didn't have to feed that addiction, and it eventually cost him everything.

He became homeless when his friend from overseas found out about the drugs and asked him to move out. Reggie said, "He was a great friend for getting me to where I was. He had every right to get rid of me. I wish it were possible to know when you have it good before you go and mess it up." He also wanted me to include that if I "become a big shot writer and Marcus is reading this, Reggie misses you and losing your respect and friendship was his wake up call." According to Reggie, he is now 7 years sober and could never imagine being that stupid ever again.

...  
I was shocked at his composure and reservation when we got to the restaurant. I told him to get enough to fill him now and then I would buy him a meal to go for dinner later. We went to a Burger King and he got two double cheeseburgers, a small fry, and a small drink. He ate his food and as I was heading back up to the register to get him his dinner for later, he told me that that wasn't necessary, and he would just eat the second cheeseburger he had ordered. I said that it really wasn't a problem and I had the money to buy him the second meal, and it was only with heavy insisting that he accepted my offer.

He ordered the exact same thing and we left. We had walked to Burger King and back which made for about 20 minutes of conversation. He couldn't stop thanking me for doing this for him and he asked if I did this often and I had to admit that I never had before at all. He replied, "See, that's how I know there a God. I

*He has never had a job outside of the military and he wasn't sure what he should be doing. Because he didn't go to college, his choices were limited, but he eventually told me that he was "going to get a job that paid the big bucks," so that he could help someone in a similar situation one day.*

know he got my back even in my dark times." I commended him for his optimism and he asked if I believed in anything. I told him that I also believe in God and he said, "Isn't it just so reassuring? Like I almost died at one point in my life because of the decisions I was making and look at me today."

I asked him what he planned to do. In hindsight, that was probably an invasive question, but what the hell, I'd never see him again. We didn't have time to "warm up" to each other. I was trying to get to the nitty gritty. He answered honestly, and he wasn't upset that I had asked, but he answered, "I don't know." He has never had a job outside of the military and he wasn't sure what he should be doing. Because he didn't go to college, his choices were limited, but he eventually told me that he was "going to get a job that paid the big bucks," so that he could help someone in a similar situation one day. He said, "No offense to you, but you don't know. So, while this was real nice of you, it didn't come from a place of understanding, it came from a place of pity. I want someone to know that I'm helping them because I can relate to the struggle." And I think it was that statement from him that makes this story fulfill its purpose.

Reggie wasn't necessarily dealt a bad hand, but he made some choices that ended up costing him a lot. That doesn't mean that you should lock your car doors if you see him walking. He remarked, "I'll never know if it's because I'm homeless, or if it's because I'm black and homeless." It's unfortunate that these are his circumstances.

When I had walked Reggie back to his curb, he again thanked me and I told him that I was going on break for the summer and I wouldn't be around, but I also told him that if I was ever in the city, I would look for him at his curb and take him out again. When we said goodbye I had gotten in my car, pulled away, and gotten stuck at a stop light. As I was waiting for my light, I looked at Reggie who hadn't noticed that I was still there and from the pillow case of newspaper, he pulled out a bible. Then I saw him pull out paper and a pen scribble something down, and tape it to the parking meter next to him. He packed himself up and I watched him walk down the street. Being me, I needed to see what he had taped to the meter, so I circled around and parked next to it. It said, "And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

## Puglisi, continued from page 5

duce their own film out of the jurisdiction of a giant studio, and wanted the film to be Pittsburgh driven. He and Petti began writing the script, and finished it within a year and a half.

Puglisi said, "Dave Petti did most of the heavy lifting; We finished the script in maybe a year and a half, I'd say maybe December [2017] or so. And then we began actually financing it and filming it."

After financing the film, Petti and Puglisi formed their own corporation, "Little Italy Productions, LLC" and, using his "Happy Hour" connections at Point Park, he and friend Dave Petti were able bring the script to life.

Puglisi said, "The thing that Dave and I agreed on initially was, we did not want to do any zombie film, or any mob film. So we thought, could we do a romantic comedy? We kind of just started with an idea."

When the pair started auditions, they had a vision in mind as to what kind of person was to play each of the parts.

"The dialogue was written for us, Dave and I, we wrote the dialogue as if we were speaking, because we wanted to act the parts. But we needed two female cast members to play [the other] very large parts," Puglisi said.

They eventually cast Tammy Pescatelli and Barbara Russell as Lucia and Rosa, whom Puglisi said were pleasures to work with. Pescatelli is big in the world of comedians, winning Comedy Central's "Stand Up Showdown" in 2010, and has even performed on Jay Leno, the View, and the Talk. Russell was known for movies such as "Day of the Dead" and "Money for Nothing" and was intermittently on "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood."

When the cast was set, filming for "That's Amore" began this past July, lasting for 19 days, and wrapped on July 30th, 2018.

All of the movie was shot on locations in the Pittsburgh area, such as at The Sons of Italy club in Sewickley, the Elwood City Medical Center, and even La Roche College.

"We did film a scene here, at La Roche, because (my character) Gino is a college professor. He had a class in the film," Puglisi said. "(La Roche) was great. Everything was very much made easy for us, and they were very receptive to the idea of us filming here."

Students were encouraged to come to campus to be extras in the classroom, sitting through the multiple takes for the scene. It gave them a behind the scenes look into how their

favorite movies and tv shows are made.

Now that filming is over, Puglisi, Petti, and the rest of the crew are working on getting the film ready for release.

"Now, we're in the process of editing the film," Puglisi said, "Maybe by May or June of next year, we'll have something to show or commercialize. We did (the film) as a Screen Actors Guild so, in the contract, the first time we put the film out, it has to be online. Once we are online for a period of time, we then could go into theaters."

Puglisi hopes that, by late 2019, "That's Amore" could get its big break on an online streaming service such as Netflix or Hulu, eventually earning a place in theaters.

Puglisi's success took time and effort, putting years into this project. For those studying film and media at La Roche, he urges perseverance, telling students to continue to learn and grow in whatever they do.

"If it's your passion, learn as much as possible. Whatever your passion is, whether it is in front of the camera, or behind the camera, get as good as you can," Puglisi said. "Just keep at it. Understand that it's hard work, it's probably slow going, but the joy is in the journey."

*"If it's your passion, learn as much as possible. Whatever your passion is, whether it's in front of the camera, or behind the camera, get as good as you can. Just keep at it. Understand it's hard work, it's probably slow going, but the joy is in the journey."*

*-Joe Puglisi*

## Freshmen, continued from page 4

computers, sectioned book areas, a help desk, and a technical support office, it offers students the resources they need for school assignments.

Academic work, extracurricular activities, and the La Roche Experience classes, which require spiritual and service hours, are all things the average La Roche student juggles with in their everyday life. Deason said he had experience with service hours in high school, whereas Woollett said she did not.

"With the service hours, that was something I had to complete in high school for honors society, but the more integral and local level at La Roche College is definitely a new experience for me," Deason said, adding that he has enjoyed the service hours opportunities so far.

Woollett, having gone to a high school with no service hours requirements, said the La Roche Experience classes is new to her. "In high school, there was no requirement for service," she added.

College is different from high school when it comes to social status and popularity. Deason and Woollett said they feel they fit in more at college than in high school, because college students are more accepting of other people. "In high school, everybody was kind of judgmental and stuck with their own cliques and friend groups," said Woollett. "In college, everyone is kind of more wel-

coming and accepting."

"I've grown more closer to people in my first month of college than I did in four years of high school," Deason said. "I think that's a level of maturity in college especially, and the way that people carry themselves."

Even though high school is not usually a moment where students peak in life, there are some things Woollett and Deason miss about high school. Woollett said she misses marching band the most, and Deason said typical high school routines are what he misses. "Going over to a friend's house, spending the night, and little things like that after school every day, and just rituals that I got into in high school with people that were really close to me," Deason added.

High school marked sentimental values on college freshmen, but Deason and Woollett agree that college gives you more freedom and opportunity in every aspect.

"You really are on your own, you have your own time to do everything. You get to choose if you want to show up to class or not. Everything is your choice," Woollett said. "No one's sitting here, telling you that you have to get up, you've got to go do this."

"You're calling the shots and everything you do at college," Deason added. "It's your job to prioritize and take advantage of your opportunities here."

## Humanitarian aid training, continued from page 5

According to the United Nations (UN) Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 136 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2018, but UN-coordinated response plans can support only 91 million people.

Though Markham emphasized the need for humanitarian aid workers, she did warn that this type of work is

not for everyone.

"If you are responding to a natural disaster, there may not be electricity, there may not be running water," Markham said, stressing that these are high-stress situations.

For those who do not feel comfortable responding to these disasters, Markham suggested getting involved in the humanitarian aid efforts in oth-



(Counter clockwise from top): Daniel Grupper, Kathryn Ishiyama, Marie-Eve Bayingana Nyenyeri, Constant Mucika, and Naeem Ur Rehman participate in the simulation exercise.

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## Canvas, continued from page 1

*"It was unusual, the extent to which everyone responded that not only had they gone to Canvas, but it was a relatively easy transition."*

*-Dr. Howard Ishiyama*

training for faculty and staff coming into this semester. I felt very confident in migrating my online class from Blackboard to Canvas."

Despite the training, sophomore Sarah Macchione said her professors are not properly utilizing Canvas. "Currently, only one of my six teachers seem to understand how to use the program; only three out of my six teachers have class content on the system," Macchione said.

However, sophomore Kayla Graziano said her professors were using the site successfully.

Graziano said, "I think the professors are doing a great job with Canvas."

"You're always going to get issues with transition in terms of people's comfort levels with new technology," Ishiyama explained, noting that the college is still providing further training for faculty.

Ishiyama said he had considered offering Canvas training for students. However, he said faculty members told him Canvas was easy enough to use that students would not need the extra help.

Sophomore Alyssa Smith said she

agreed that training wasn't necessary for students.

"It just took some getting used to," Smith said.

Ishiyama also addressed a common complaint he received about the new system.

He said, "The one issue I have heard is that Canvas does not communicate well with Turnitin when there are multiple sections. For some reason, that kind of messes with Turnitin."

Turnitin is the affiliated site that allows students to turn in their assignments through Canvas. When this issue arises, students are unable to submit their assignments online.

"We believe that we have a solution in sight and that definitely should be fixed by the end of the semester," Ishiyama said.

Ishiyama urged students to be patient until the issue is resolved. He suggested e-mailing professors assignments when Canvas and Turnitin fail.

According to Ishiyama, students who experience difficulties with Canvas should visit the learning support office.



(Left to right) Back row: Naeem Ur Rehman, Daniel Grupper, Constant Mucika, Marie-Eve Bayingana Nyenyeri, Christy McGuire, Jodel Pierre, Sree Kodavatiganti, Kelly Paola, Katie Huang, Robert Yidaan, Alexandra Mocanu, Gudina Yadeta, David Smith, and Jess Bonnan-White. Seated: Emily Markham, Ikhlas Mohammed, Candace Okello, and Chelsea Cornwell.

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er ways.

"You can certainly keep up-to-date with various humanitarian efforts just by reading the news," Markham said. "There are introductory online trainings. Local Red Cross organizations have similar types of training."

She also reminded people that this work can be done domestically, as well as abroad.

For those who are interested in humanitarian aid work, Markham said this training would help students learn about the field and potential career opportunities.

Markham said that this program can appeal to people with any level of experience in the field. "The levels of experience varied widely," she said. "We had a former member of

the armed services in Ghana. During his time there, he did a lot with the UN peace keeping operation, so he was very interested in continuing this type of work. And then we also had college students."

The next training will be held June 3-7, 2019. Information and applications will be available on the International Outreach section of the La Roche website this winter.

Markham encouraged anyone who is interested to contact her for more information.



## SGA, continued from page 2

Premick explained, "There seems to be some confusion with the board about attendance."

Executive Vice-President Allison Bosworth urged the board to follow appropriate attendance procedures. "Please let us know ahead of time if you can't make it. If you can't make it, you still need a proxy. If you cannot make it, you are supposed to let us know two weeks in advance," she said. "There's repercussions for not coming to the meetings."

In addition to her emphasis on communication, Premick said SGA has other goals to achieve this semester.

Since many members of the La Roche community have been affected by cancer, Premick said SGA plans to get involved in cancer awareness events. She said they want to make shirts and collect donations for the cause.

Ryan Eshenbaugh, SGA's financial vice president, said he is finalizing club budgets.

Judicial Vice President Cory Rezak said he will have weekly meetings with Public Safety to address student concerns.

Abby Doyle, director of green initiatives, said she hopes to revamp the recycling program this semester.

"We're trying to work on figuring out what the current recycling system is that the school has and finding a

better one that works and then visually rebranding it for the whole school, so it's easier for [students] to recycle," she explained.

Director of Commuter Affairs Rheanna Abel hosted a meet and greet for commuter students. "We did get some nice feedback about adding more commuter events," she said. Abel also added that she wants to form a commuter board.

Director of Community Service Jennifer Kardos plans to collaborate with Mission and Ministry. "We could maybe have an SGA-sponsored event during immigration justice week," Kardos explained.

Secretary Amanda Sowko will be acting as SGA's liaison with the library, meeting every other week with Library Director Alecia Kerr.

Thomas hosted voter registration events in CC Square. She said over 50 people registered during her event.

Though SGA does have goals for the current semester, Premick said their ongoing courtyard project will not be finished this year.

"Wanting to update the courtyard, that's a long-term goal. It's going to take more money than what people think," she explained. "We're working on temporary ways to update it, like getting more seating and trying to get the Wi-Fi to work properly."



SGA President Brittany Premick said she wants to focus on communication with students, faculty, and staff this semester.

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<i>President:</i> <i>Brittany Premick</i>	<i>Director of Community Service:</i> <i>Jennifer Kardos</i>
<i>Executive Vice- President:</i> <i>Allison Bosworth</i>	<i>Director of Resident Affairs:</i> <i>Alexandra Mroczkowski</i>
<i>Financial Vice-President:</i> <i>Ryan Eshenbaugh</i>	<i>Director of Multicultural and International Affairs:</i> <i>Sierra Anderson</i>
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<i>Director of Student Activities:</i> <i>Lauren Ranalli</i>	<i>Director of Athletics and Intramurals:</i> <i>Devin Wolford</i>
<i>Directors of Design and Technology:</i> <i>Rachel Hibshman</i> & <i>Adam Greeb</i>	

## LinkedIn Learning, continued from page 4

LinkedIn Learning will provide a unique way to expand upon what they learn in the classroom.

He explained, "Any student can use it to improve their skills in academic areas, as well as learn some totally marketable skills in a wide range of fields."

LinkedIn Learning allows ambitious students to explore new passions and interests. Ritter said students won't have to wait to be formally taught concepts that appeal to them. They could simply watch these free lessons to explore new topics independently.

"Mostly I think using it can empower students to take more control of their learning and do what it takes to be even more prepared to work in the real world beyond what people and schools tell you to do," Ritter said.

"There are possibilities for students to get certificates in particular areas," Ishiyama added.

Faculty and staff could also take these classes to upgrade their skills. Ritter explained that classes about presentation and communication skills may help professors in the classroom.

"It should make professors' lives

easier," Ritter added.

Ritter said he believes this tool could augment online classes and be integrated into classroom discussions or assignments.

Ritter plans to host training workshops to help faculty learn how they can implement this in their classes. From there, he said he hopes to see faculty encouraging students to take advantage of LinkedIn Learning independently.

Ishiyama explained that this tool can be integrated with Canvas, La Roche's new online platform. This would allow professors to post LinkedIn Learning materials directly on their class pages.

Ritter encouraged students who have not used LinkedIn Learning before to take advantage of this resource.

"Go to it and explore," he said. "Look for things that are fun, that you've always wanted to learn about."

Despite the benefits of implementing this new learning tool, Ritter admitted that it is not perfect. He explained, "There is a factor of serendipity and focus that I love that we may be losing to multitasking and flitting about from thing to thing."

*"I think using [LinkedIn Learning] can empower students to take more control of their learning and do what it takes to be even more prepared to work in the real world."*

*-Jeff Ritter*