



© JULIA FELTON

Renovations to the second floor of the Science Center include new faculty offices and updated labs.

Science Center renovations on schedule

BY JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Palumbo Science Center renovations are on track to be finished by December.

Dr. Rebecca Bozym, who chairs the natural and behavioral sciences division, said the construction project, which launched in May, is on schedule. “It’s amazingly on time,” she said, adding that she checks on the progress daily.

According to Bozym, much of the work is already finished. She said: “All the plumbing is done. HVAC is good to go. The flooring for the labs is coming this week. All the walls are up. Drywall is up and painted. Sprinklers are in. Skylights are in. We’re good to go.”

Though the renovations are running smoothly, there are still

aspects that need to be finished. “The casework needs to come in for the labs,” Bozym said. “The fume hoods need to come in. Then, we need to get in all the rest of the equipment.”

But for the science department, it’s worth the wait. Bozym said these renovations will offer an array of benefits for science students.

“The biggest improvement is dedicated space for students to do research projects. There’s going to be a biology research lab and a chemistry research lab,” Bozym said, adding that students didn’t have a dedicated independent research space in the past.

SEE RENOVATIONS, PAGE 15

Freshmen serve in community

BY DANIELLE DiNATALE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Over 200 students participated in Freshmen Day of Service on Friday, October 18, 2019.

The event is a part of a new initiative of the LRX: Intro and History course. During this day of service, participants share the experience of helping the community. They also learn first-hand the mission of La Roche University.

Participants in the event consisted of La Roche students, pri-

SEE FRESHMAN DAY OF SERVICE, PAGE 16



© DAVID DAY

Charley Taylor planted trees.

LRU launches new ELMSN program

BY JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

La Roche University will be the first university in Pennsylvania to offer an Entry Level Master of Science in Nursing (ELMSN) program.

According to Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Howard Ishiyama, La Roche designed this ELMSN program for students who already have a bachelor’s degree in a field other than nursing. This program would allow students with a bachelor’s degree in a different field to enter the nursing profession. Upon comple-

tion of this accelerated ELMSN program, students will be qualified to take the National Council Licensing Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX).

“You’re not getting a second bachelor’s degree,” Ishiyama explained. “You’re actually getting a master’s degree in nursing.”

The school created this program in response to a growing need for nurses. “The need for nurses is at

SEE ELMSN, PAGE 15

Students

La Roche student earns prestigious writing award while helping charity

BY JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A nonprofit organization recognized one La Roche student for using her writing to give back to the community.

Senior professional writing and journalism major Danielle DiNatale won the Benevolent Quill Award for her contribution to Words for Charity.

Words for Charity is a website where writers can use their short stories to raise money for charities of their choosing. “Words for Charity is the best place a writer or reader could ask for,” DiNatale said. “It is a nonprofit organization that publishes short stories, and every purchase of a short story is a donation to a charity chosen by that story’s author. It combines writers and readers the opportunity for interesting stories and supporting a good cause.”

The Benevolent Quill Award is the highest award Words for Charity offers. The organization grants it to the author whose story raises the most money for their charity.

“I told friends and family about the story to get the word out, but other than that, I won the award thanks to the donations given towards my story,” DiNatale said.

The money DiNatale’s story raised benefited Newborns in Need, a charity designed to help premature, ill, or impoverish babies. DiNatale said, “I chose Newborns in Need because I love children and consider them to be one of the most vulnerable groups in the world. I wanted to help out even if it was in a small way.”

Once she heard about Words for Charity, DiNatale said it was an easy decision to get involved. “I already had a short story on hand and I knew that if it was published, it would be supporting charity. Why wouldn’t I do it? There were no downsides,” she said.

DiNatale submitted a story titled “Ghost Stories.” DiNatale

SEE DINATALE, PAGE 16



© JULIA FELTON

Senior Danielle DiNatale won the Benevolent Quill Award for her contribution to Words for Charity.

SGA works toward collective and individual goals

BY JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Student Government Association (SGA) sent representatives to conferences, passed a new club proposal, and worked toward their individual goals.

Executive Vice President Lauren Ranalli said she attended the Pittsburgh Student Government Council meeting in September. “They just want to establish a solid platform and better communication between the universities,” she said.

President Allison Bosworth said she and the rest of the executive board also took a trip to Washington, DC, to attend the American Student Government Association Summit (ASGA). Secretary Adam Greb said he’s compiling notes from the ASGA

conference to share with the rest of SGA.

SGA unanimously approved a new LRU Movies club. “I think it fundamentally meets the requirements for bylaws,” Director of Student Activities Natasha Florence said. “The fundamentals of the bylaws make sense.”

Members of the SGA board have also been working on their own individual goals.

Austin Doody, financial vice president, said he finalized club budgets. “I went through all the clubs’ goals. I also went back to what I knew about the clubs and previous events they have had and I tried to allocate it from there,” he said.

Academic Vice President Ri-

ley Polacek said she talked with the school’s Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Howard Ishiyama about academic issues. She said she was concerned about professors scheduling tests on the same day. “I had four tests in the same week. I don’t know how the teachers aren’t communicating with each other,” she said, suggesting that professors should coordinate testing schedules so that students don’t have numerous tests in the same week.

Polacek also said she attended the first Academic Senate meeting of the semester as a representative for SGA.

Director of Resident Affairs Alexandra Mroczkowski said she

had to cancel the Hall Olympics event she’d been planning. “I had so many people tell me they were interested in it and then I had nobody show up,” she said. She said she still plans to have a door decorating contest for Halloween, as well as Taco Tuesdays and Waffle Wednesdays.

Devin Wolford, director of athletics and intramurals, said he’s taking a break from hosting intramural events. He said, “For intramurals, we took a two-week hiatus because of injuries in the past intramural. The competitive level was getting really high and it’s also coming up on midterms.”

SEE SGA, PAGE 18

Clubs

Graphic design organization urges students to support one another

By SARAH HEFFERIN
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

AIGA, La Roche University's graphic design club, is an organization that offers collaboration and community to its students.

This semester, they have begun to further develop themselves as a campus organization.

AIGA, the American Institute for Graphic Arts, is an academic organization focused on helping graphic design majors build connections and relationships with others in their field, and with each other. The club is based on collaboration between students, faculty, and professionals in graphic design.

AIGA's president, senior Hunter Kira, is in charge of helping club members achieve those connections. Along with basic duties such as setting up events, he makes sure that students learn from their experiences, and helps connect them with each other.

SEE GRAPHIC DESIGN,
PAGE 17



© SARAH HEFFERIN

(Left to right) Hunter Kira, Barrington Ratliff, Gabi Lisella, Emma Rugg, and Nicole Glaz work together to support their fellow graphic design majors through the American Institute for Graphic Arts (AIGA).

La Roche partners with Robert Morris for fall car meet

By JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



© JULIA FELTON

La Roche and Robert Morris teamed up for a car meet that attracted about 40 cars, including this Lamborghini Performante.

Cold and rain couldn't deter college car enthusiasts from coming together to share their passion.

Luciano Vizzoca, president of La Roche's Campus Car Society, said his organization partnered with Robert Morris University's car club to host a meet at RMU on October 12, 2019.

La Roche's Campus Car Society had hosted an on-campus car show in May that attracted about 70 cars. It was a fundraiser for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. Vizzoca said that after the Robert Morris car club attended that event, they offered to partner with him for this meet. "They saw all the cars here, so they were excited," he said. "They said they

wanted to collaborate for one big meet."

The car meet Vizzoca's organization co-hosted with Robert Morris was a free event.

After communicating with students from Robert Morris, Vizzoca said the process felt organic. "The students at Robert Morris said they had a new lot with no speed bumps, so we decided that was the perfect place," Vizzoca explained.

After that, they began creating flyers and reaching out to members of the local car community. Vizzoca said it was easier than he expected to coordinate an event

SEE CAR MEET, PAGE 17

Culture

A Caribbean perspective on a beloved Pittsburgh staple

BY STEVEN MUNSHOWER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Erne Bodley, 19-year-old graphic design major, had never attended an amusement park. Ernie is from the Virgin Islands, where amusement parks are not common, if present at all. This changed in September, when Ernie went to the locally beloved Kennywood.

Q: What were your expectations of Kennywood having never been to an amusement park?

A: Well, I thought there was going to be a lot more rides. I was expecting it to be like Six Flags, from the commercials back home. It looked how I expected it to look, just people waiting in lines, eating, and walking around. I expected corn dogs, cotton candy, popcorn, and candy everywhere. I expected ski ball, whack-a-mole, and arcade games like race cars, motorcycles and shooters.

Q: Do you have anything like this in the Virgin Islands?

A: No. There's a Coney-island type area. There's a ride there called the Himalayas, and it spins. It only comes around during Christmas time.

Q: Describe how you felt on your first rollercoaster, the jackrabbit.

A: At first, I was excited. Then, when it started, I was like, "this is going to be fun." We went around the first corner and went down the hill. Then, I felt my stomach jump and I hated it. I wanted to get off immediately.

Q: What was your favorite and least favorite ride?

A: The exterminator was my favorite, and my least favorite was the jackrabbit.

Q: What were your thoughts on the Potato Patch fries?

A: Okay, they were good, but they give you too much. They overwhelm you with fries and toppings.

Q: Did Kennywood live up to your expectations?

A: No. I thought there was going to be more scary stuff, like 'Ghostwood Estates.' I did not like most of the food. I hated waiting in lines.

SEE KENNYWOOD, PAGE 19



© STEVEN MUNSHOWER

Ernie Bodley, a graphic design major from the Virgin Islands, had a unique perspective on a Pittsburgh staple--Kennywood.

Interfaith choir strikes a chord with emphasis on diversity

BY JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

La Roche's new interfaith choir strives to use music to unite people.

Rebekah Hill, the director of the interfaith choir, said she wants the choir to celebrate La Roche's diversity. "We want to recognize the fact that we have such a diverse population here on campus among the students, the faculty, and the staff," she said. "While we are founded as a Catholic college, that's only a piece of La Roche. There are many students that may identify as a Christian faith, but [students] also identify as a Buddhist or Muslim or Hindi or any number of religions. There are people who may not be of a faith tradition at all, but they're inter-

ested in exploring spirituality."

Hill, who has worked at La Roche for seven years, is a professional musician with an understanding of music from many parts of the world.

The choir, which was formed in September, already has about a dozen members from three countries and numerous faith traditions.

Hill said the interfaith choir strives to create a welcoming community in a divisive world. She said: "People are looking for a sense of belonging and wanting to know that, while there are differences, there are also similarities. Music has always been a way to gather people together. It's a

common thing. There's music in so many cultures. I think people enjoy the idea of community in singing with each other and playing instruments with each other."

Though the interfaith choir focuses on exploring an array of religious themes, Hill said she also wants to emphasize other important themes that reflect La Roche's values. She said she hopes to incorporate music that ties into themes of unity, peace, and diversity.

Though the choir has only been working together since September, Hill said she's already pleased with the community they've created. "So far, they've just embraced being with each

other and asking questions of each other," Hill said. "I've been really excited at their willingness to be with each other."

As a professional musician, Hill said she's already familiar with many genres of music—but she's excited to expand that even more with this choir. "I'm very interested in learning more, especially about Asian music and Arabic music," she said, adding that she hopes students from different faiths and cultures will introduce their own music to the choir.

Hill said she hopes to continue expanding the interfaith choir.

SEE INTERFAITH CHOIR,
PAGE 19

Health

Students prepare for the most wonderful time of the year

BY KATHLEEN KENNA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



© JULIA FELTON

La Roche is preparing for winter early, decorating for Christmas in October.

If pop culture and the flu-shot clinic tell us anything, it's this: Winter is coming.

We got the telltale 'Climate Notice' email notifying us that temperatures are falling and frustration with the heating is rising. La Roche University has many local students; people that are well hardened to the strange and ever-changing temperatures of Western Pennsylvania. But we also have a wonderful global population which means there is always someone experiencing snow for the first time each semester.

I spoke to many students, both local and international, and when asked how they prepared for the winter, I received many sighs. Hating winter (or, at least, hating the endless gray sky and dirty slush) is one of Pittsburgh's favorite pastimes.

After all, we are the cloudiest city in the United States. From November to January there is typically only 60 hours of sunlight.

There are many things to look forward to: Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, pagan rituals for Solstice, and many other wonderful holidays in the season of giving and light. We have the new year and the rest of football season to get us through.

But what do we do to get ready for the coming onslaught of single digit temperatures and seasonal depression? I was born and raised in Pittsburgh so I am well acquainted. I have been cold since I left the womb so I own way too many sweaters and am a master of layering.

SEE WINTER PREPERATION,
PAGE 19

La Roche health and counseling services urge students to seek help

BY TAYLOR ELLIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The start of fall semester is always an exciting time, from meeting new people and getting used to a new schedule to participating in campus events and getting involved in school.

With all of the commotion that is happening within the first few weeks of the semester, you might find yourself feeling slightly overwhelmed and stressed. If you ever find yourself feeling that way, it is important to know about the resources available to you here at La Roche University.

The Health and Counseling Services located in Bold Hall are here for all students, faculty, and staff at La Roche. Director of Health and Counseling Services, Lori Arend, LSW, has been counseling here at La Roche University for 14 years. She specializes in cognitive behavior therapy, also known as CBT. Through CBT, Arend helps her patients realize that

their thoughts contribute to their feelings and behavior. Arend takes the time to provide positive affirmations to all of her patients. The process of CBT is quick, easy, and effective.

Being director of Health and Counseling services, Arend has faced some big challenges, the main challenge is the growing need for mental health services amongst students. According to Arend, there has been a "definite increase" with student activity in the Health and Counseling services. Arend attributes this increase to the strong the bond counselors have with the faculty here at La Roche. "Professors have sent students to us before, some professors have even walked students down here themselves," she said.

Another challenge that Arend faces is dealing with the stigma behind mental illnesses. Arend

said that although the stigma has gotten better over the years, it's still there.

If you are interested in visiting the Health and Counseling services, but are hesitant, it is important to note that all of the counselors are there to help their patients with any challenge they may face, whether it be big or small. They will help you with any challenge that you're facing; you don't have to do it alone. In fact, the motto of the Health and Counseling services is that no problem is too big or too small. If you find yourself feeling hesitant with reaching out, Arend said, "Come and meet us (counselors), ask some questions. Come and get to know us."

Aside from counseling, the counselors offer other services to students as well, such as health
SEE COUNSELING, PAGE 20



© TAYLOR ELLIS

Lori Arend is one of the La Roche counselors available to help students.

Man on the street

The Courier asked students: With award season approaching, what is the best film you have seen this year?

Aaran Brabson: Sophomore, Psychology – “Joker”
“While ‘John Wick Chapter 3’ and ‘IT: Chapter 2’ stand out, ‘Joker’ excels due to its bold commentary on mental illness.”



George Rukavina: Junior, Information Technology – “Avengers: End-game”
“I liked it because it had years of build up over the last decade. If you watched all of the movies it would be a lot cooler to you than if you had never seen one before.”

Tray Johnson: Junior, Communications – “Joker”
“That was easy. If it wasn’t ‘Joker’ it would be ‘John Wick 3.’”



Erin Ross: Sophomore, Graphic Design – “Once Upon a Time in Hollywood”
“Although I thoroughly enjoyed Brad Pitt’s performance in ‘Ad Astra,’ ‘Once Upon a Time in Hollywood’ rewrites a fatal true story into a much more satisfying ending and picks a perfect cast, soundtrack, props, and locations to really put you in the time period.”

Alyssa Doman: Sophomore, Graphic Design – “IT: Chapter 2”
“There were multiple scenes in the movie that were absolutely terrifying. This shock factor is what kept me intrigued and attentive, making me curious about the hidden meaning behind everything.”



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

Courier Call

Hear the Courier Staff Answer the Question: What is your favorite Halloween movie of all time?



MY FAVORITE HALLOWEEN MOVIE IS HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA! IT'S SUCH A CUTE MOVIE AND PROVIDES THE BEST INSIDE JOKE MATERIAL!

-DANIELLE DINATALE, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MY FAVORITE HALLOWEEN MOVIE IS DEFINITELY "CLUE" BECAUSE TIM CURRY IS THE MAN THAT EVERY MAN SHOULD ASPIRE TO BE.

-ZACH RUBY, CONTRIBUTING WRITER



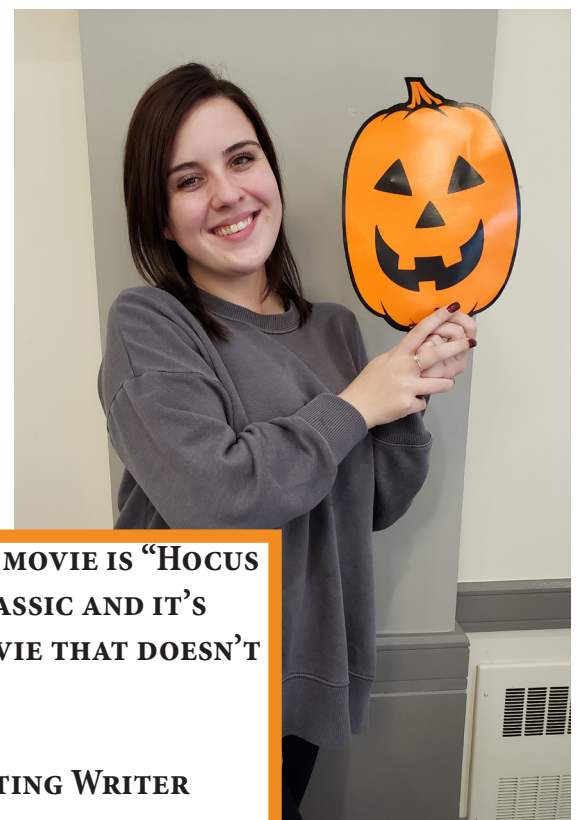
MY FAVORITE HALLOWEEN MOVIE IS "THE LITTLE VAMPIRE". I USED TO GET SO EXCITED TO WATCH IT. IT'S VERY CORNY BUT I LIKED THE IDEA OF NICE VAMPIRES WHO ARE JUST TRYING TO LIVE THEIR LIVES. ALSO I HAD A CRUSH ON THE VAMPIRE'S EMO OLDER BROTHER.

-KATHLEEN KENNA, CONTRIBUTING WRITER



MY ALL TIME FAVORITE HALLOWEEN MOVIE IS "TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE" (1974)! I THINK THE ACTORS ARE EXTREMELY CHEESY, BUT THE EFFECTS IN IT ARE WICKED ESPECIALLY FOR BEING DONE IN 1974!! ALSO, THE THOUGHT OF BEING CUT INTO PIECES, OR PUT ON A MEAT HOOK... TERRIFYING.

-ERIN RUSSELL, CONTRIBUTING WRITER



MY FAVORITE HALLOWEEN MOVIE IS "HOCUS POCUS" BECAUSE IT'S A CLASSIC AND IT'S THE ONLY HALLOWEEN MOVIE THAT DOESN'T SCARE ME!

-TAYLOR ELLIS, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Career Corner

SASS office offers wide array of services for career development

BY ERIN RUSSELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As students, we are expected to read chapters from three different textbooks per week, write extensive papers, join clubs, do homework, have a social life, eat, and get a restful eight hours of sleep. Often, it may feel like adding one more priority will surely make us collapse. So, when someone asks, "Did you start editing your resume?" or, my personal favorite, "Have you found an internship, yet?", it may feel like your own world is imploding.

However, before getting too stressed, it's important to know that the Student Academic Support Services office (SASS) has a plethora of tools to help you start (and improve) your resume, to help you find an internship, and provide you with tips about the interviewing process. SASS is located across from the Writer's Center in HAC 206. Within the department, there are professionals that can help you with academic advising, accessibility and compliance, academic

counseling, tutoring services, and career development. I sat down with Becky Rosswog, the head of the Career Development office, to find out different ways you can prepare for your future.

Before you begin searching for jobs, creating a resume, or finding an internship, it's important to know who you are and what

accomplishments that can improve your future resume. Through this program, you will take an assessment that's based on your personality and interests. The results of this assessment will compute majors and specific jobs that align with your desired field.

To explore your job opportunities further, SASS organizes

This event is the perfect opportunity to get acquainted with employers and professionals in your field of interest.

When preparing for this event, it's incredibly important that you dress professionally and do a little research before the event on the company you want to introduce yourself to. If you're worried about bringing a resume with you to the event--don't. The employers will have a stack of resumes from other students that they are unlikely to read because resumes are often submitted over the internet. There's no need to worry about constructing the perfect resume, yet; instead, just introduce yourself and try to make a lasting impression on the recruiter.

Student Academic Support Services is there for you. When thinking of academic and professional achievement, think SASSY.

Academic Support Services has a plethora of tools to help you start--and improve--your resume.

occupation will best suit your desires and needs. To find out what job is best for you, LaRoche offers a free program called FOCUS2. FOCUS2 provides career exploration opportunities, and helps you keep track of your academic ac-

career fairs and opportunities to meet employers at Employer Connections Day. The Employer Connections Day will be held on November 5 from 11:00 am- 2:00 pm in the College Center, and showcase a variety of employers.

The Courier Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Julia Felton

**Entertainment Editor
and Lead Designer**
Sarah Hefferin

**Associate Editor
and Social Media
Coordinator**
Danielle DiNatale

Sports Editor
Jordan Smith

Contributing Writers

Taylor Ellis
Kathleen Kenna
Steven Munshower
Zach Ruby
Erin Russell
Thomas Vukson

Courier Advisory Council

Rebecca Pasqua
Sarah Reichle

Faculty Advisor

Ed Stankowski

Entertainment

Downfall of the gaming industry

BY STEVEN MUNSHOWER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Video games have evolved into corporate and investor cash cows, which has directly impacted both developers and consumers. The video game industry has constantly grown since its initial development in the early 1970s. A report from Global-Data published by Variety states that “the video games market could become a \$300 billion industry by 2025.” However, the growing profits of the industry has come at a cost to the artform.

Video games, like film and written texts, are a form of art. They are a human expression of creativity, made to inspire and entertain people. However, that definition has become skewed with corporate involvement and realization of potential profits.

In recent years, the industry has become rampant with developer overworking, crunch time, controversy, and greed. “Contract workers are continually un-

Video games, like film and written texts, are a form of art. They are a human expression of creativity, made to inspire and entertain people.

dervalued and taken advantage of,” Joshua Rivera, writer for Kotaku, said. “Unrealistic demands and lofty investor expectations lead to disastrous development cycles which in turn leads to developer crunch.”

This is the result of companies, such as Activision and EA, caring more about a bottom line than providing a quality product and fair workspace. The CEOs of these companies are far removed from the core audience of their product. Activision CEO Robert

Kotick said, “When you dig down and look at the people who are vocal in their criticism of me, it’s a small number.” This exemplifies his arrogance and lack of respect for the market his company has a huge role in.

Microtransactions have become a hot topic on the global level in the past year. These are purchases that may be made in a game that cost real world money, and often give an advantage to purchasing players. Senator Josh Hawley proposed a bill that would

ban these corporations’ predatory practices. “When a game is designed for kids, game developers shouldn’t be allowed to monetize addiction,” Hawley said. “Game developers who knowingly exploit children should face legal consequences.”

The argument against microtransactions stems from real world gambling. Since the rating on these games are often low enough for anyone to play, minors are permitted to digitally gamble using real money.

Other countries have attacked the practice recently as well. According to BBC, Sweden and China are among them, with China limiting the number of in-game purchases that can be made per day.

SEE DOWNFALL OF GAMING INDUSTRY, PAGE 16

Unequal representation in gaming

BY ZACHARY RUBY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Gaming’s culture war has women fighting for their right to be a gamer, but how did it start and how can we stop it?

It’s no secret that game companies have made men their target audience and fight for their money with tooth and nail. The industry has been that way for a long time and has caused the word gamer to be synonymous with man.

However, there has been a culture war in the industry that started this decade. It’s the result of men fighting for their dominance in gaming culture and women and LGBTQ members rising to stake their claim in it.

It’s hard to pinpoint where and how the culture war started, but La Roche’s Dr. Nadav Lipkin intends to give us some insight.

Lipkin is an assistant professor of communications at La Roche University. He also teaches an Intro to Game Studies class at La Roche and is a published in The

Journal of the Canadian Game Studies Association for his paper examining independent games.

Lipkin points out that this culture war has been brewing for a long time. “From the Atari era until the early 80s, maybe mid 80s roughly speaking, games weren’t really understood as being overly gendered,” Lipkin said. “Instead they were really understood as being for children.”

“It’s not necessarily that you only see boys playing. You often see girls playing, but it’s always children playing,” Lipkin said in reference to Atari game ads from the 70s.

However, Lipkin also said that game companies started thinking that they only needed to market to boys.

“Especially in the 90s you see obvious and rampant misogyny just in marketing of the way games are sold,” Lipkin said. He continued describing the ads saying they featured, “women tied

to beds while someone plays a Gameboy and says, ‘Don’t you wish someone looked at you like that?’”

He says that we now have a generation of people who grew up understanding that games are for boys, and as they grew up that kept being the case.

When it comes the culture war we are in now, Lipkin points to the events of Gamergate in 2014 being the breaking point. He said, “Gamergate came about because Zoe Quinn said, ‘I want to make a game that’s about what it’s like to have depression.’ Then she did, and then someone didn’t like that women were getting in their way.”

Lipkin also says that men who identify as gamers don’t believe women play games, but don’t understand that women aren’t playing the same games as they do.

“Women actually play more games than men,” Lipkin said. “Women play mobile games a lot. They spend more for one thing,

So yeah, if you don’t count things like Candy Crush, I Spy games, or Agatha Christie games then of course women don’t look like they’re playing as many games.”

Lipkin said that the problem wasn’t that women weren’t playing games, but that people didn’t notice. He also said that these people no feel that something is being taken away from them that was never theirs.

Publishers and development teams both have their critics on both sides of this culture war. Some say that they don’t enough to bridge the divide, and Lipkin agrees with them.

“I’d say major publishers and major games don’t put enough effort in,” he said, “or it’s not really clear where they stand.” He said that they make minor improvements, some that some would call them tokenism.

SEE GAMING INEQUALITY, PAGE 21

The La Roche Street Journal

WeWork might not work

BY JORDAN SMITH
SPORTS EDITOR

WeWork, the popular, millennial, commercial real estate company has taken a few big hits recently. WeWork helps companies, specifically start-up businesses work in their office spaces, headquarters, desks, labs, event spaces and more. They are most popular in New York, Silicon Valley and London.

The company's mission is "Create a world where people work to make a life, not just a living." The company caters to start-ups, entrepreneurial businesses, marketing and graphic design agencies and creates a more millennial, laidback environment instead of the typical cubicles you see in most offices.

WeWork currently has over 500 locations. It is very easy to complete the paperwork through their website by joining membership packages at different costs

to begin your work at a WeWork property.

Adam Neumann was the CEO up until about a month ago. The 6'6" entrepreneur from Israel was one of the founders, along with his wife Rebekah. WeWork was valued at \$47 billion not too long ago. Then, investors started to discover some shady, unethical behavior going on in the company mainly because of Adam Neumann. He stated intriguing comments such as "I want to be the first trillionaire in the world." He also was well known to party and used many drugs. He had plans of building a swimming pool in WeWork's headquarters. One could say he is a modern day Jordan Belford.

WeWork then had to put their IPO on the shelf. The company can't go public now and plans on

increasing cash. The board members basically forced Neumann to resign.

Neumann had stakes in buildings that he leased to WeWork to gain personal profit from. This was unattractive to investors and corporate governance.

After all this corruption, WeWork's current board members will meet soon to discuss emergency finance options. The company has drastically gone from being valued \$47 billion to just about \$8 billion. SoftBank plans to help take over, as well as the help from JPMorgan Chase & Co. Both banks will help pool together investors and give WeWork the boost and structure it needs.

If this deal goes through, according to the Wall Street Journal, SoftBank will have invested over \$10 billion and lent out \$5

billion more. SoftBank executives expect with the new money management, a more niche approach and focus on leasing office space, the company can turn around its finances and eventually get back on the IPO market that 2019 investors expected to be more fun.

If the deal falls through, Adam Neumann is reported to maintain stake in the company and get up to \$1.7 billion. WeWork also has plans have cutting thousands of employees, but now that would drag the company to the ground. The company must turn around and gain trust back before making big moves like that.

What makes WeWork risky and unattractive to some investors is that similar companies have tried their business mod-

SEE **WEWORK**, PAGE 15

What is Venmo?

BY THOMAS VUKSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many people today use the mobile app, Venmo, in their everyday lives. However, many do not understand how it works and the potential benefits and risks involved with the app. Venmo is an online peer-to-peer (P2P) payment service. Peer-to-peer means that one can send money to another without the use of an intermediary, such as a bank. People can transfer funds directly to each other through Venmo. Many use Venmo in order to make transactions easier, such as splitting a check with friends, paying a roommate for rent, receiving money from a parent, and paying others back. Venmo has become very popular with younger demographics because of its ease and its social aspects. Venmo is set up in a way that allows people who are friends with each other see transactions they are making (as long as it is public). This helps people feel more connected and it makes the task of asking for money less awkward. Venmo is very useful and popular nowadays, however, there are other alternatives.

How Does Venmo Work?

Many people have probably wondered how Venmo actually

works and how they make their money. Venmo works when someone downloads the app and then connects the Venmo account they create to their bank account, debit card, and/or credit card. When they want to make a payment, funds will be withdrawn from these sources and sent to other party in the transaction. When the other person receives this money, it will exist within their Venmo balance. The Venmo balance is the money one has received, but not yet transferred out of the app. If someone has money in their Venmo balance, they can pay others directly from that balance, rather than pulling funds from their bank account, debit card, or credit card. If someone does want to transfer their Venmo balance to one of their accounts, however, they should select "transfer balance" and then select the source they would like to transfer to. When doing this, they will be given the option of a standard transfer or an instant transfer. A standard trans-

fer will take one to three business days, but will cost nothing. An instant transfer will happen within minutes, but will cost a fee of one percent of the transaction with a minimum fee amount of 25 cents and a maximum fee of \$10.00. According to a 2019 article titled, "How Safe Is Venmo and Is It Free?" by Jakob Eckstein of Investopedia, there is also a fee of three percent for transactions that involve credit cards. These fees are a large source income for Venmo. They also make money from fees charged to merchants. According to Eckstein, Venmo charges merchants fees from the use of their app in other services/apps and through their new Venmo card; he also states that this fee is 2.9 percent plus a 30 cent transaction fee. Venmo charges merchants through the use of their app in other websites or apps, such as when a website will have the Venmo app linked to their services. An example Eckstein mentioned would be how Uber Eats allows people to pay

for their order through Venmo. For allowing Uber Eats to do this, they charge these fees on Uber itself. They also make fees on the transactions that are used with the Venmo card; this card works with the Venmo balance one currently has in their account. Venmo could also potentially generate money from selling their data to other companies.

Risks:

Although Venmo is a very useful and popular tool, it is not perfect. There are many potential risks associated with its use. Most people do not sign out of Venmo on their phones because it is very inconvenient, but this can be risky. If not signed out, anyone who unlocks their phone can ultimately send someone else money without any safe guards. Many have also claimed that Venmo is very susceptible to hackers, and that once they get into your account, it is very easy for them to change your information and

SEE **VENMO**, PAGE 20

Sports

La Roche bids farewell to four senior golfers

BY JORDAN SMITH
SPORTS EDITOR



© COURTESY OF PAUL NOVELLI

Pat McCall (left) and David Wilson (right) represented La Roche's golf team.

The La Roche men's golf team season has ended, including great careers by four seniors.

Zech Sines, a senior from Somerset, PA played soccer as a freshman at La Roche and started a few games for them. His next few summers consisted of playing lots of golf and decided to try out and play going into his senior year. "They needed a fifth man so I was excited to take on that opportunity."

Kordell Collins was another great asset to the team during his four years. He appeared in seven tournaments his sophomore year, and five his junior year consistently hitting an 89.

David Wilson, another senior from Clinton, PA had a terrific career for the Redhawks. His Freshman year he was AMCC

All-Conference Third Team. He also won the Westminster Invitational that year. As a sophomore he won the North Carolina Dual Match, and then made the AMCC All-Conference Second Team as a Junior.

Pat McCall had one of the most memorable careers at La Roche. As a freshman he was named AMCC Newcomer of the Year, as well as AMCC All-Conference First Team. His sophomore year he made the AMCC All-Conference Second Team. And finally, as a Junior he was AMCC All-Conference First Team. He also finished in fifth place at the AMCC Championships and ranked ninth in the AMCC with a 78.5 scoring average.

SEE GOLF, PAGE 18

Analyzing Penguins players

BY JORDAN SMITH
SPORTS EDITOR

The Pittsburgh Penguins have been hit early with the injury bug. Although, it looks like it has brought out the best in the team.

In the second game of the season, star forward Evgeni Malkin fell awkwardly into the boards and Nick Bjugstad also got hurt. My first thought after knowing both will be out for a month or two was that it would be a hard 20 games ahead of them. But, after seeing how this team has performed, their next-man-up mentality has given me an optimistic viewpoint.

The players that have been called up have really given the team a boost. It seems that the Penguins may have found depth like they did in the middle of 2016 which helped them go on their Cup run. Players like Bryan Rust, Tom Kuhackl, Conor Sheary and Brian Dumoulin at the time were the young guys who gave this team the structure it needed.

It looks like Rutherford's plan of retooling and not rebuilding has worked out. These new acquisitions have been solid. Let's look

at each player and how they have looked the first nine games of the season:

Sidney Crosby – Sid the Kid has continued to play like the NHL's MVP. He has consistently dominated every shift and compliments every winger he plays with. It is truly special to watch the career he has had, especially these past few years. Not many stars keep at it at the age of 31 like Crosby, but he has not slowed down. So far with 12 points in nine games, he sits with a 1.33 points per game average which is slightly above his career average of 1.29. Expect Sid to keep putting on elite performances while Malkin is still sidelined.

Kris Letang – Not many defenseman in the league were better than Kris Letang last year. In my eyes, only Mark Giordano and Victor Hedman were better than Letang in the regular season. Letang unfortunately get hurts often, but if he plays a full 82 games, he'll get at least 70 points. He is still terrific on break out passes and is shut down defensemen

against elite forwards. Letang has 10 points so far including four goals. His wrist shot looks as good as ever.

Jake Guentzel – So far, the fans of Pittsburgh have had five opportunities to buy half off Jake Shakes at the Milk Shake Factory. They had 40 chances to do so last season. Guentzel earns lots of criticism from viewers that he is only good because of Crosby. That is simply not true. If you look at the goals, he scores he creates a lot of these chances by himself. His finish is surgical, and he has a knack to score from anywhere. Without Crosby, he might not have 40 goals consistently, but this young talent is a 30 to 35 goal-scorer on any NHL team.

Patrick Hornqvist – Hornqvist seems to have rebounded a bit from last season. He ended last season with only three goals in the last 39 games. With the team paying him over \$5 million a season, that really hurts. The Sweden native has put together a few effective games and has put up eight points in nine games. I

have not seen as many dominate performances from him as I used to see, but if he can stay consistent and do what he does best in front of the net, then he is a great asset to the Penguins.

Sam Lafferty – High praise for Sam Lafferty. This guy is here to stay in the NHL. He has collected five points in seven NHL games so far. It looks like he is possibly a late bloomer. He perfectly fits today's NHL style with his speed and quick passing ability, as well as great board play. Mario Lemieux personally came down to congratulate him in the locker room after his three-point game. I think the front office loves what they see of him and he will most likely stay around and help this team make a playoff push.

Marcus Pettersson – Pettersson and General Manager Jim Rutherford were able to make a deal on a contract for a little over \$800k for one year at the beginning of training camp. The Penguins liked the potential they saw in Pettersson towards the end of

SEE PENGUINS, PAGE 22

La Roche Reacts

**This issue: Modern Music (2010 – Present)
with Prof. Ed Stankowski & Dr. Rishi Bahl**

Ed Stankowski describes himself as an unapologetic 70s rock purist. He has a bias against rap and dismisses most modern music. He enjoys western music while driving his truck.

Rishi Bahl knows his music, having worked in the industry. He is open to all music, but favors the punk rock scene from the 90s into the early 2000s. He is a member of the band Eternal Boy.

Song 1: “R U Mine?” by the Arctic Monkeys

Ed: “I liked that song. I would listen to more of that band. It’s kind of like King Crimson meets Black Sabbath. To me, that sounds like it’s trying to be retro. It definitely has an old school metal feel to it. It had some neat modern flourishes. So, they’re British. England has given us so much: Monty Python, Dr. Who, David Day.”



Rishi: “It is a poor man’s 70s rock ‘Funkadelic’ band. Super super luke-warm. If you’re into warm temperature water, that is exactly the kind of music you want to listen to. Also, if you were conceived in the 70s, that would totally be your kind of music. Crappy drum sounds for the sake of crappy drum sounds. But like, redeeming melo-



dies. That is the kind of music I would listen to if I was watching Austin Powers in 2019 and needed a soundtrack for it.”

Song 2: “Sicko Mode” by Travis Scott ft. Drake

Ed: “Way too techno for me. The tech seems so overly simplistic, it’s kind of like two tones and then someone comes in with a Casio keyboard, like if you went to RadioShack. I tried to set aside my bias, because I just don’t like rap. If I was driving home in my truck, I would have probably given that ten seconds before I turned it off. It sounds cheap to me. I guess I am just too old



to recognize the genius of it. This isn’t something I would listen to. The closer attention I pay, the less I like it.”

Rishi: “I watched the Travis Scott documentary on Netflix, which was impressive. However, that was the lowest attempt to be a musician that I’ve ever witnessed in my life. Complete dog doo-doo. This generation has an incredibly poor taste in music. Now, again, who am I to judge? The young old man judging.”



Song 3: “Remember This” by NF

Ed: “That was the first rap song I have ever listened to from beginning to end. I like the combination of the sort of haunting lyrics with the in-your-face aggressive positive message. I think whoever that was should be the commencement speaker next year. It grabbed my attention because it was different than what my narrow-minded view tells me what rap is.”



Rishi: “That definitely had way more emotion, way more lyrical content, and depth. I wrote this paper during my PhD called “the phenomenology of pop music,” to try to study what are the elements of pop music that the masses that know nothing about music like. And it’s regiment. It’s repetition, like intro chorus, verse, pre-chorus, chorus, verse two, pre-chorus two, chorus, bridge, outro. That had it. Though the consumer



can’t, maybe, articulate that, they can relate to that. I can see, if this guy is really popular, if this guy is not popular at all, why people would like this.”

Song 4: “Nikki” by Logic

Ed: “The lyrics, the theme, the idea is fascinating. I think that is a really cool idea to write a love song to something that is killing you. Because I am not super familiar with the genre, a lot of it sort of sounds the same to me. See, I would have prejudged this song based on how it started. I probably wouldn’t have given it a chance, and that is my fault. As far as listening to it again, it’s like some



other small piece of writing that you pick up and go ‘oh okay, thought for the day. That was cool.’ I don’t really need to experience it again.”

Rishi: “This is by far the best one we have listened to so far. The structure makes sense to the unknowing listener. There is melody and ominousness. It creates a very good ambience and has the most depth. You can tell it’s authentic. That would be the kind of rap that I listened to in the early 2000s. At first, I was skeptical, it sounded like it could be some super funny early 2000s old rapper. I am



very, very impressed by the content. The slow rhythmic beat with the fast lyrics gives a great juxtaposition between the two. That’s an A from me.”

Song 5: “Old Town Road-Remix” by Lil Nas ft. Billy Ray Cyrus

Ed: “At first, I was like, ‘this is cowboy rap.’ I was really into it, but then it seemed at some point it took a turn lyrically that made it a little bit silly. A little bit tongue in cheek, like ‘cowboy hat from Gucci.’ There were parts of this song that I really liked, and then there were parts of it that I really didn’t like. I was intrigued enough by what I heard, that I would listen to more of that. It reminds me of stuff I like.”



Rishi: “That’s a complete joke. That’s a disgrace to music. Billy Ray Cyrus was a joke even when he was singing in the 80’s and 90’s. That is not music, that is a novelty song. People are laughing at it. There is no longevity to it. There is nothing there. This is like the McDonald’s of the music industry. You need a quick fix, it’s fat laden, it’s sugar filled, it’s really great when you have it. Then afterwards, you completely regret that you even



wanted anything to do with it. We should tweet Billy Ray Cyrus, and say, ‘you’re a joke.’ It’s devoid of meaning, substance, or anything honest at all. I wouldn’t touch it with a thousand-foot stick.”

Celebrating the Courier's 25th Anniversary

As the Courier celebrates its 25th anniversary, we are proud to feature our past editors.

Marta Sauret Greca

When were you the editor of the Courier?

2007-2008

When did you graduate from La Roche?

May 2008

What was your degree?

Professional Writing

What was the most rewarding aspect of working with the Courier?

It sparked my interest in photojournalism since I had to take most pics for the content, and I now provide photography to our clients as well.

What is your favorite Courier memory?

Laughing together as we laid it out, down to the wire of deadlines.

What was the most challenging part of working with the Courier?

Graphic design – I still to this day do not enjoy it. haha

How did your work with the Courier help you in life after college?

It taught me to be inquisitive and observant

Where do you work now?

What do you do there?

I have two brands MEDIA – The Creative Agency and Apples and Cinema – I am the founder and creative director to the team for both.

We have had such success with the brands that we now coach and speak to motivate other small business owners.



© COURTESY OF MARTA SAURET GRECA

What advice would you give current La Roche students?

Make connections with your professors and fellow students. Making connections will pay off

big time when networking in the future.

Sarah Reichle

When were you the editor of the Courier?

April 2014 – May 2016

When did you graduate from La Roche?

May 2016

What was your degree?

Sociology with a minor in professional writing

What was the most rewarding aspect of working with the Courier?

The opportunity to tell people's stories. Rose Cheriton's story inspired me most. In the midst of taking pictures at an event during International Education Week, I witnessed an amazing woman stand up and recite a poem of peace. Rose struck me as a true model of what La Roche stood for and inspired me to continue to embrace the people and different cultures represented here.

Through the Courier, I also gained a mentor and confidence. The stakes were low in that I was able to make mistakes but was equally able to grow and learn from those mistakes.

What is your favorite Courier memory?

Working on layout with my



© COURTESY OF SARAH REICHLER

co-editor Megan were some of my favorite memories. Almost every issue, I would put off doing homework to work on layout. I particularly enjoyed working on the November 2015 issue of the Courier. We worked so hard on the issue and had so much fun thinking outside of the box. We added a lot of spooky Halloween elements.

SEE REICHLER, PAGE 16

Heather Lang

When were you the editor of the Courier?

I was Co-Editor, with my counterpart Zack Hull, during the Fall '05-Spring '06 semesters.

When did you graduate from La Roche?

Spring 2006

What was your degree?

Professional Writing with a Specialization in Creative Non-fiction

What was the most rewarding aspect of working with the Courier?

Learning how important teamwork and collaboration are to journalism. It takes an army of dedicated people working together to put out such a great newspaper.

What is your favorite Courier memory?

Layout nights. It's when all the editors come together to puzzle the paper together. It's the culmination of everyone's hard work. Plus, you build some amazing friendships when you're all focused and dedicated to the same task.

What was the most challenging part of working with the Courier?

Editorial and content decisions. With such a diverse student body, it's sometimes difficult to know what to cover.

How did your work with the Courier help you in life after college?

My time with The Courier gave me the skills and confidence to go on to a career in journalism. Yes, it was educational, but it also taught me about myself, the importance of teamwork and so much more.

Where do you work now? What do you do there?

I work at KDKA-TV. My formal title is Digital Content Producer, which means I'm a digital journalist. I write, edit, cut video, create content and do other special projects for KDKA.com.

What advice would you give current La Roche students?

First of all, enjoy your time at such a great school. Second, never give up. Find what you love and pursue it with courage.

Renovations, continued from page 1



© JULIA FELTON

The Science Center renovations are scheduled to be finished by December.

The updated Science Center will now boast a new cell culture lab. “We’ll be able to grow cells and test out different processes inside of the cells, which is really cool, because that’s not in a lot of undergrad programs,” Bozym said.

In addition to entirely new labs and equipment, Bozym said this upgrade will allow students to use the space more effectively. She

explained, “The other cool thing is that there are going to be places where students can get together and work. The tables that we got are a whiteboard surface, so they can work on problems and draw on them.”

Riley Polacek, Student Government Association’s academic vice president and a science major said she is excited about these renovations, too. “These labs

will hopefully have better equipment, making lab time run more smoothly. I am very much looking forward to these labs and getting to do experiments in them. I heard they are a multi-million-dollar project and will be some of the nicest labs. I think the science majors will be very pleased,” Polacek said.

According to Bozym, the renovations should be finished by December 16. The school scheduled a ribbon cutting ceremony for January 10.

“I think there’s a lot of excitement,” Bozym said. “The space is going to look completely different. I can’t wait for everybody to see it.”

Though faculty and students alike are excited to utilize these new labs, there have been some inconveniences during the construction project.

“It’s a little tough because you don’t have the labs right now,” Bozym said. She also acknowledged that communication is harder when science faculty offices are scattered throughout campus.

“As a science major, I was unable to take certain classes I need,”

Polacek added. “Fortunately, they are offering them in the spring, but now I have to take more than one of the labs I should’ve taken in the fall.”

Bozym said she is working to resolve any scheduling conflicts by the end of the academic year. La Roche offered two labs on the CCAC campus this semester. The school will offer the rest in the spring semester to ensure students are on schedule. “Next semester, we’re going to work on getting everybody caught up,” Bozym said. “By the end of the academic year, they’re where they need to be.”

According to Polacek, faculty and staff have been accommodating. She said, “The faculty and administration [have] been very understanding. They are making sure everything is scheduled out to make sure we can still handle the course load.”

Though her schedule was affected, Polacek said the renovations will make up for any difficulties. “It will be well worth it,” she said.

ELMSN, continued from page 1

“We’re always thinking about how to provide better options for our students.”
-Dr. Howard Ishiyama

an all-time high. It’s the position that the Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected as in the greatest need across the country,” Ishiyama said.

Pennsylvania is projected to have a quarter of its population over the age of 65 by 2030. According to Ishiyama, this is only going to increase the dire need for nurses. “With an aging population, you have healthcare needs,” Ishiyama said.

For Ishiyama, it’s particularly exciting to be the first school in the state to offer this type of program. He said, “It shows that we’re cutting edge, that we’re always thinking about how to provide better options for our students and for our graduates and to be a competitive force in this region. When we tie that to a need—like healthcare—it can be an important piece for us.”

Because this unique program allows students to earn a master’s degree, it offers certain benefits.

“The advantage that our program provides for our students

is that many hospitals provide a higher starting salary to those students who are master’s qualified,” Ishiyama said. “So, someone coming to La Roche’s program will be advantaged immediately by getting a master’s.”

According to Ishiyama, the financial benefits of this program actually begin before graduation. “When [students] come back for a master’s degree, they are eligible for certain kinds of financial aid, which they wouldn’t be if they came back for another bachelor’s degree. In almost all cases, a student who gets financial aid for their bachelor’s has used it all up within that four years. For the master’s, you restart your clock,” he said, adding that these students will be eligible for guaranteed student loans.

Ishiyama said this program—which will be offered beginning in May 2020—has already generated interest. He said the school has already had over 100 inquiries about the ELMSN program.

WeWork, continued from page 10

el and have had mixed results. KNOTEL in New York has succeeded very well and is valued at \$1 billion. Blackstone in the UK has also done just fine. But a company called Regus tried this in the UK and had to file for Chapter 11.

The business model of WeWork is that it has a specific aesthetic of glass walls, plants, lounging areas and cafes. It leases out large spaces, transforms them and then rents them out to individuals and businesses. Simple, right?

Well, the lease objectives are the biggest concern. WeWork signs a lease on average for 15 years. But members only commit to 15 months. In the fourth quarter of 2018, their occupancy rate fell from 84 percent to 80 percent. WeWork blamed this on their constant and aggressive expansion but on average it takes about 18 months for their offices to fill so it takes time to see the true results.

On the bright side, WeWork has recently signed some long-term clients such as Yelp, Peloton, GoldmanSachs, Lyft, and Pinterest. WeWork believes their business model is flexible during an economic downturn.

The problems are that their CEO was unethical and has left them with lots of work to complete. Their business model is easy to replicate. They missed out on going public, which would have given them an estimated \$3 billion more in capital. Members do not use their workspace for long periods of time.

Investors are certain that if a recession or even a small economic downturn occurs, then WeWork will not be sustainable and fail. It is quite the risk.

Either way, don’t expect Adam Neumann to be quiet. People like him don’t stay out of the spotlight.

Investors are certain that if a recession or even a small economic downturn occurs, then WeWork will not be sustainable and fail. It is quite the risk.

Freshman Day of Service, continued from page 1



© COURTESY OF DAVID DAY

Freshmen Ed Stankowski, Dominic Costellic, Jemm-Annie Samuel, Leticia Alcaraz, Simone Glenn, Charley Taylor, Rylee Pucci, Janella Amadio, Jake Gorman, Ryan Truax, Noah Rees, Joe Scolieri, Madeline Riccardi, Denay Clemons, Breyanne Mycyk, Firas Mohammed Abduljawad, Aalonzo Coleman, Mohammed Aljanady, Layonna Moore, and Christian Waslosky planted trees at Tree Pittsburgh.

marily freshmen, as well as La Roche faculty and staff. Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., also attended the event. These volunteers visited 12 nonprofits around the area, including Brothers Brother, Providence Family Support Center and Eden Hall Food Bank Farm.

Natalie Rugg, Ph.D., was one of the La Roche faculty members to participate in the La Roche service event. She believes that students who were a part of the event have opened their minds to

the idea of service.

"I hope students will have a stronger sense of what it means to serve the community and recognize what vast resources we have available in this area," she said.

She added that she hopes that students gain a sense of community by not only giving back, but by participating with their peers.

"Ideally, I hope they realize how easy it is to participate and be more willing to do so in the future," Rugg said.

Downfall of gaming industry, continued from page 9

The issue of microtransactions is just another complication in the video game industry. Combined with developer overworking and corporate negligence, the industry needs change. Consumers can demand that change. Simply put, if a company or developer is involved in these shady practices, do not purchase the product. If enough consumers refuse the corruption of video games, the industry will be forced to change.

"Take a look at Anthem," 19-year-old psychology major Aaran Brabson said, "and it's excessive microtransactions. Players complained, yet no change occurred. Competitive video games are not about skill anymore, it is about how much you have in your pocket." When asked how change is going to occur, Brabson said, "Consumers and developers need to create a 1:1 relationship, keeping developers aware of what consumers want in the game. By creating a good product that is aware of its boundaries, publishers will profit more in the end."

David Czoper is a 20-year-old accounting major attending CCAC. He often plays video games on the weekends. When

asked about the current state of video games, he said, "monetization in 'Call of Duty: Black Ops 3' made me not want to play the game anymore. Features of the game were literally blocked by unbalanced loot box gambling that made me feel discouraged to continue playing."

"I am a big proponent of market capitalism, and corporations, including game publishers, have the right to charge what they want for their products," says 20-year-old Slippery Rock accounting and corporate security major Chris Galbraith. "That said, I rarely if ever buy new games at full price, I wait," Galbraith states, "for them to go on sale. If I do buy a game at full price, I never buy the additional [downloadable content]. I will not pay more than \$60 and then feel like I'm missing out on a lot of the fun. It really is unfortunate that full games are sold in pieces that you have to purchase a la carte." Galbraith concludes, "Publishers have the right to charge for a fragmented finished product, but I also have and exercise the right to not give them my business."

Reichle, continued from page 14

What was the most challenging part of working with the Courier?

Our biggest challenge was our office. We had no security in our initial office— people would use our computers and destroy our space— so we had to relocate to a very tiny space.

The most challenging part for me involved one of the stories I wrote. I had the opportunity to write an article about a student who became severely injured in a car accident. I remember being super uncomfortable reaching out to her family members because I thought I myself wouldn't want a journalist reaching out to me under the same circumstances. The family members turned out to be very appreciative that I reached out. Through the experience I learned every story is worth telling despite how uncomfortable the experience may make you feel.

How did your work with the Courier help you in life after college?

I gained real-world experience and had a portfolio filled with published work to prove that to future employers upon graduation. Ed played a major role in my career development. He challenged me and pushed me outside of my comfort zone. I still seek his advice to this day and am always inspired after talking to him.

Working with the Courier helped me get my first full-time job. The English department hosted a networking event, where I met numerous successful Eng-

lish alumni. I met my coworker at this event, Becky Pasqua, who also happened to be a former editor of the Courier. I asked her questions about her work here at La Roche and ended up interning under her supervision a year or so later.

I'm forever grateful to Becky and Ed, who help me become a better writer and professional every day.

Where do you work now? What do you do there?

La Roche University. I serve as the marketing communications specialists in the Marketing and Media Relations Office. My job entails creating content for social media, writing copy for internal and external clients, and assisting with digital marketing efforts, specifically SEO.

What advice would you give current La Roche students?

When you accept an opportunity put effort into your work and ask questions along the way. Learning is a two-way street.

Use your resources. The faculty and staff members are here for a reason. They are willing and eager to help you accomplish your goals. Seek their advice and knowledge often.

Challenge yourself and take risks. Step out of your comfort zone every now and then. If you box yourself in, you're not living or learning.

Revise your work! Your first draft isn't your best draft. I was a notorious offender of this, and I regret not putting the extra care into my work.

DiNatale, continued from page 2

"I've always wanted my writing to mean something and help other people."

-Danielle DiNatale

said, "My story centers around Margo, a teenage girl who spends her time walking through the local cemetery and telling stories out loud. One day she meets someone in the cemetery and learns more than she ever expected."

For DiNatale, this award was proof that her writing could help the community. "The Benevolent Quill Award shows me that I can combine my passion for writing with doing good for the world. I can use my skills to help others, which is most important to me," she said. "I've always wanted my writing to mean something and help other people. This award has shown me that it is possible."

In addition to her writing for Words for Charity, DiNatale is also an associate editor for the La Roche Courier and the president of La Roche's English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta.

Now DiNatale said she wants to encourage other writers to explore opportunities to use their writing to serve the community. She said: "Always take the opportunity. You never know what will happen and if you don't try, you'll never find you. Believe in yourself and always keep trying. Whether you win or not, you still may be helping someone else."

Car meet, continued from page 3

with another school. “They’ve been extremely nice,” he said. “They’ve been spreading the word a lot. They’ve been posting it all over their campus.”

While the cars are the main attraction at the car meet, Vizzoca said he also encouraged students to use it as a networking opportunity. For Vizzoca, it’s important for members of the club to meet students from other schools, as well as members of the local community who support their events. “Don’t be afraid to talk to people. It’s kind of intimidating to talk to these supercar owners, but you just have to be yourself and talk to them,” he said.

Despite a rainy morning, Vizzoca estimated about 40 people at-

tended their event. He said about 90 percent of them were college students.

In addition to students from La Roche and Robert Morris, students from Slippery Rock University’s car club also attended.

Vizzoca said he enjoys opportunities to meet students from other schools who share his love of cars. “It was fun building relationships with people,” he said, adding that he hopes to collaborate with Robert Morris and Slippery Rock for a bigger car show in the spring.



© JULIA FELTON

The La Roche Campus Car Society teamed up with Robert Morris to host an event that brought supercars and students together.

Graphic Design, continued from page 3

“AIGA essentially serves as a way for students to connect with professionals in the real world, upper classmen, and each other. We learn new skills when we do workshops, or make connections. The design program is tough, so community is very important to us,” Kira said.

Kira and his other members have developed a club that hosts many things that bring students together. As graphic design majors, AIGA understands the stress of being in such a difficult major, so the club can be a backbone for student achievement. Kira said that AIGA promotes mentorships, homework parties, and encourages giving and receiving feedback.

Kira said, “Our major requires a freshman portfolio review and a sophomore portfolio review, and if you don’t pass, you can get booted from the program or be told to do summer classes. AIGA helps by doing mock reviews to help prep students for that. So much of what we do relies on peer feedback for all of our work so, along with interviews, we host big homework parties so we can get input from everybody.”

Kira and other members host meetings that include different, helpful activities each time. AIGA wants to help students feel excited to work. They incorporate these different ideas to promote building different skills, or allow students to talk with their peers outside of the classroom.

Senior and member Barrington Ratliff enjoys being in the studio with AIGA. He said, “The part that excites me the most is being in a space with other designers and not a classroom setting. It’s a comfortable space to

“If you try to do it alone, you just can’t. You need to work and learn from other people to make an impact on yourself and your own learning.”

-Nicole Glaz

become better with other people who are like you and are in the same situation.”

Other members, like junior Nicole Glaz, think being together as a club in the studios is very supportive.

“I like the connections you make because they aren’t in a classroom setting, and you’re not just talking to them about design; you’re building real friendships. It’s also nice to build friendships with people in the same major because you think the same way and it’s helpful to work inside and outside of the classroom,” Glaz said. “I don’t think you realize the bond you have with someone until it’s 3 a.m. and you’re in the studios crying because you messed up a cut on the book. But other design majors understand that.”

Senior member Gabi Lisella said, “We don’t have Greek organizations at La Roche, but AIGA has that sort of fraternity/sorority feel to it just because we have a mutual understanding.”

Overall, AIGA offers a way for all members to collaborate and get acquainted with every student’s set of talents and skills. It allows individuals to grow from interacting with others within the program itself.

Glaz said: “I feel like it’s important because, especially with design, you’re never going to know

or be the best at everything within design but, you have a collaboration of people with different levels of skill and different skills in general. You have students who are better at illustrations, some who are better with product designs or layout concepts. We all come together to bounce ideas off each other and that’s how we become the best designers you can be. If you try to do it alone, you just can’t. You need to work and learn from other people to make an impact on yourself and your own learning.”

For AIGA, not only do they foster connections and skill building, but they are using this platform to help others who are not part of graphic design understand how important design is.

“As graphic design majors, we do a lot of strategic thinking,” Kira said. “Design is everywhere. It’s everything. Every single thing is designed in some way. It determines what products you buy and what sodas you drink. It’s not necessarily always graphic design, but it can be product design, or interior design. A lot of what we do spills out into these different categories.”

This idea is what inspires AIGA and what it hopes to do in the future.

“There is a lot of potential for this group and what it can ac-

complish,” Ratliff said. “I think as a major, there is a misconception that we just make posters, but it’s a lot more spread out than that. There’s a lot of room for partnering up with different majors for different things. Design sets the groundwork for how you interpret things. For example, how something is designed to read determines what you read first, all based on the fundamentals of design.”

Kira and the other members are excited and are actively planning events. As opposed to previous years, AIGA wants to get more people involved and let other graphic designers know that there are more events coming soon.

“We want people to know that more things are coming. We’re going somewhere,” Kira said. “I stay up to date with everything that’s happening with the national AIGA and the local chapter. I reach out to organize workshops and I do programming for trips and generally organize things.”

AIGA plans to host more activities during their meetings, and have something festive towards the end of the semester. They have thrown around ideas of finals prep parties, and even a Bob Ross painting party. The club will also try to visit Washington D.C. or Chicago like they have in the past.

AIGA has hosted pop up markets, where students and faculty donated their works to sell to the La Roche community. They hope to host those periodically next semester. In addition, AIGA will hold studio tours on November 7.

Campus Scenes



© ERIN ROSS



© ERIN ROSS

Golf, continued from page 11

Reflecting on these four years, Wilson and McCall had a special bond since the beginning. McCall said, “The relationship with Wilson has meant a lot over the years. We came into college as roommates and he has always been there whether it was on or off the course. It was good having a friend that understood both of the challenges,” Wilson stated. “My relationship with Pat just made everything easier. Pat and I get along well as friends to begin with. We have personalities that clash well together, and we really took advantage of that. Him and I have lifelong memories that will never be forgotten. He’s made practice and bus rides more enjoyable than they already were.”

Being a student-athlete is not easy. Practices and games all week take up your studying and homework time. Wilson said, “It’s nice

from the seniors, and they guided me well through the season especially because I have never played any of the courses before.”

The team competed in seven events this season before the Championships. The Redhawks placed fourth in two different events and placed fifth and two other events.

In the AMCC Championships, La Roche finished fourth out of nine teams. Wilson was the top shooter on the second day of the event with an 83, totaling 164 strokes which gave him 10th overall in the tournament. Casey Hulbert finished 27th overall with a combined score of 181 and made 11 pars and one birdie. Zech Sines in his first and last Championship tied 32nd overall and made nine pars on the day. Kordell Collins played very consistent and fin-

“My four years at La Roche were great. It meant a lot to me being close with a great group of guys.”

-David Wilson

being recognized by the community or school for things that you accomplish but balancing things can sometimes be hard. Some students handle it differently but ultimately it’s normally a tough thing to handle and balance.”

McCall commented, “Being a student-athlete definitely had its advantages and disadvantages. I loved it because we were able to enjoy some of the benefits that came with golfing in college, we were able to play some pretty nice courses. One disadvantage was it was a challenge getting some of the schoolwork that was missed in class and had to put extra time into the studies.”

Casey Hulbert was the lone freshman on the team this year, playing with four seniors. He said, “Towards the end I felt a little pressured to play well to make sure that the seniors went out with a great season. I learned a lot

finished 17th overall, with 169 total strokes and made 14 pars along with two birdies. Finally, McCall shot 176 strokes giving him 26th overall. He was one of two golfers at the tournament to birdie on the eighth hole in the front nine which is ranked the most difficult hole on the course.

Wilson said, “My four years at La Roche were great. Very memorable and knowledgeable. It meant a lot to me being close with a great group of guys. Also, being close with Head Coach Jim Tinkey was awesome.”

McCall said, “It has meant a lot to me. One thing I really wanted to do out of high school was to be able to compete in college and I have done that while making a lot of memories and friends along the way.”

Congrats to the four seniors on their golf careers at La Roche. They will be missed.

SGA, continued from page 2

Wolford said he is working on a breast cancer awareness flag football tournament, as well as a midnight madness event to boost school spirit for the basketball team.

According to Florence, LAF is working on several events this se-

mester, including the Halloween dance.

Keesha Stuart, director of multicultural and international affairs, said she is reaching out to international clubs to garner participation in an international desert day event.

Violet Views over Campus



© ERIN ROSS

Kennywood, continued from page 4

Q: Describe the atmosphere in three words.

A: Underwhelming, crowded, memorable.

Q: Kennywood costs \$54.99 for an all-day-ride pass. Is it worth that much?

A: To me, no. I personally do not like rollercoasters. I learned that from riding the Jackrabbit. I feel like the waiting is too much to get into a ride. You spend the entire day in the lines. The drinks are overpriced, but the food is priced accordingly.

Q: Would you return to Kennywood?

A: No. I didn't like it at all. Sometimes, it felt a little too crowded. It might be my anxiety though.

Interfaith Choir, continued from page 4

She said she wants to encourage students to join the choir—regardless of their previous experience. “Everybody can sing,” she said. “It’s just a matter of learning to sing together in a group.”

According to Hill, the choir’s music already sounds good. But that’s not her main focus. “We don’t have to sound like professional singers. It’s not about that,” she said. “It’s about exploring music and spirituality together. Whatever comes out of that is going to sound great no matter what, because it’s La Roche bringing something that hasn’t happened here before.”

Hill said she also believes the choir could help international students feel included. She said, “It might be a way to show international students that [they’re] welcome here no matter where you’re from or what your faith is. Who you are is important. That’s what we’re trying to celebrate.”

Hill said the interfaith choir will have public performances to

showcase their music and what it means to La Roche. She said the choir can demonstrate important global lessons. “It’s that willingness to know that we’re better together. We are a group of diverse students, faculty, and staff. But the thing we have in common is that we’re all here at La Roche and we’re proud of that. We want to show people that we’re a community and we care about each other. We want to celebrate the diversity that we have,” Hill said.

The choir is planning to perform at La Roche’s Festival of Lights in December as their first major event. She said she’s also hoping to get involved in other events throughout the community in the future.

Hill said she is hoping to welcome more students to the choir. She encouraged students to reach out to her at rebekah.hill@la-roche.edu or attend a choir practice on Monday evenings at 8:00 in Magdalen Chapel.

“It’s that willingness to know that we’re better together. We are a group of diverse students, faculty, and staff. But the thing we have in common is that we’re all here at La Roche and we’re proud of that. We want to show people we’re a community.”

-Rebekah Hill

Winter preparation, continued from page 5

I was curious what the rest of the La Roche population does to prepare.

Sarah Hefferin, a Junior from Shaler, is also very used to the winters here. “Every year we get the box of sweaters out,” she said. This is a pretty normal event since Pittsburghers need to own so many bulky sweaters we cannot keep them in our closets year-round.

Not just students are preparing for the cold--some furry friends are, too. Caroline Pacey, a senior, told me about getting her service dog, Raquel, ready. She has a special product to put on her paws to protect her from all the salt on the roads. She also has a new sweater to wear, so the spot for the campus’s most stylish has been filled.

Another huge concern here is driving. Commuters make up a large part of the population here and winter driving is no joke. Many people are getting ready to get their snow tires. Winter driving is an acquired skill and those not used to colder temperatures should take care.

A good rule of thumb is to drive on ice like you walk on it. You wouldn’t sprint if you knew there was slippery ground and you should never speed if the roads are icy. When in doubt, drive slowly. It is hard to resist the urge to just stay in and skip class, (sorry, Professors) but if going slowly means you might be late to class, safety is definitely the priority.

Eric NGnimmien, a sophomore from Cote D’Ivoire, had a lot of adapting to do when he first came here. He had to invest in a lot of winter clothes when he came to America. Another tip he gave me was scheduling all his classes in the morning so that in the evening he didn’t have to venture out in the cold and could stay home and study. Eric also goes to the gym during the winter so he can relieve stress which is a great idea if you can find the willpower to leave your dorm or your house to get there.

There are some, however, who are happy that winter is close. Zachary Ruby, a junior from Gibsonia, loves this time of year. “I just love the snow,” he told (a rather doubtful) me.

Whatever the way you find to survive through the winter, we can, at the very least, rely on spring arriving sooner or later. There is an old wives’ tale that the coloring on a wooly warm foretells how the winter will be. This year they showed a hard early winter, then mild with a bit of cold right before spring.

No matter what the winter bring, you can always warm up with a coffee or tea from the Providence Cafe or perhaps find someone to snuggle up with.

I will be staying in as often as I can so I will be out of commission until May. Until then, stay warm, friends!

Venmo, continued from page 10

passwords. Privacy is also of concern for many users because they do not want their financial information to be visible to other people. Venmo has also been fined by many government organizations over the years for their failure to meet legal requirements for security and privacy within the financial sector.

There are steps one can take, however, to mitigate some of these risks. Firstly, one could sign out of Venmo every time they are done using it. However, this would be very annoying and inconvenient. A better solution would be to utilize Venmo's touch ID and PIN settings. This allows people to create a PIN that must be entered every time they make a transaction. If one has a phone with touch ID, it also requires them to use their fingerprint to open the app. This is very helpful in that it will prevent others from picking up your phone and sending your funds away. This

can be turned on in the settings tab of the app; many people do not know of this feature because it is not standard, you must put it on yourself. Another way to mitigate some of these risks is to put your account on private. This will prevent others from seeing the transactions you make, allowing for more privacy. In his article, Eckstein also suggests that people keep their Venmo balance small. This allows hackers less access to your money because the rest is stored in a bank account rather than in Venmo. Venmo also only allows one's Venmo balance to go up to \$2,999.00 in order to prevent very large balances which leads to higher risk.

Alternatives:

Although Venmo is very popular among consumers, alternative options do exist. Some popular platforms are Google Wallet, Zelle, Apple Pay, and Facebook. In a 2019 article titled, "Venmo: Its Business Model and Compe-

tion" by Andrew Blumenthal of Investopedia, Venmo's competitors are discussed in detail. Bloomenthal states that Google Wallet is very similar to Venmo itself. However, Google Wallet is also available in the United Kingdom, whereas Venmo will only work in the United States. Apple Pay only works for Apple users and it allows for peer-to-peer transactions like Venmo. Apple Pay also has their own card and people can also pay in stores with their fingertip reader on their phone (as long as the store accepts Apple Pay). Zelle is a very interesting competitor in that it is an app established by banks themselves, rather than technology companies. Zelle is actually owned by seven major banks and allows users to transfer directly to one another's bank account without storing it somewhere else in between. By doing this, Zelle is able to minimize some of the risks that Venmo has issues with

because it is harder to manipulate. Facebook is also an alternative because they now have functions where you can send money to another person from a direct message on Facebook Messenger. This is rather new for Facebook, so many may not know that they can do this.

Venmo is a very useful tool with many applications that can make everyday life simpler. People should also be aware that it comes with risks, as do most things in life. However, people can take steps to mitigate these risks. If a consumer is rather risk adverse, then they might want to look into using an app like Zelle, where there is less risk involved. Hopefully, this information helps you and provides you with more knowledge on Venmo and other payment services currently available.

Flutter into Fall



© ERIN ROSS

Counseling, continued from page 5

insurance issues and doctor scheduling. The counselors even recommend students to go see a PCP or psychiatrist for medicine.

Scheduling to meet with the counselors is easy and flexible. Most students drop in for their first appointment, or they drop in when they need someone to talk to. If a student decides that they want to visit with a counselor long term, then setting up a schedule is recommended. "There are no

limits to visits, and no charge," Arend said when asked about scheduling flexibility.

If you or anyone you know is facing any challenges this semester, or any time, don't hesitate to visit Arend, or the other counselors down at the Health and Counseling services. They are here for not only the students, but the faculty as well.

Bear-y Good Friends



© ERIN ROSS

Graphic design majors Justin Locke (left) and Josh Paris (right) pose with a bear statue.

Golden Glow



© ERIN ROSS

Gaming Inequality, continued from page 9

Lipkin did say that indie games do a good job of bridging the gap, however. “There’s people making games from all different perspectives from all around the world,” he said. “It’s a big difference in terms of what you can find.”

He also commented on what larger publishers can do to help bridge the cultural divide. He said that publishers need to stop pretending that these men who believe women have no place in gaming are that important.

“To put it simply,” he said, “we wouldn’t accept that here at La Roche. It’s against the mission of a liberal society that people don’t have a right to exist in the same space as other people. Supposedly, what keeps people from doing better is the risk that they’ll lose their market share or that the consumers will go elsewhere. It’s cowardly.”

Lipkin also has advice for the average player on what they can do to end the culture war. “Play different genres and realize that games that you don’t play aren’t not games,” he said.

“I think the other thing is don’t allow people to treat people badly,” he said. “This is why some games have good communities

“Supposedly, what keeps people from doing better is the risk that they’ll lose their market share or that the consumers will go elsewhere. It’s cowardly.”

-Nadav Lipkin

and some don’t. If someone says something offensive or if they’re making homophobic slurs call people out on it.”

Mordhau is one of many medieval hack and slash games whose community has become a hub for alt-right members. The game now features chat logs of hate speech against everyone who is not a white male, but how did it get to that point, and can it be fixed?

“I think unfortunately for something like Mordhau it might be too late,” Lipkin said. “Before I was saying that companies need to be less afraid of their toxic players, Mordhau’s entire population is toxic. There’s no way to do it unless you redo the game.”

Part of Mordhau’s community toxicity stems from women players and people of color having wanted more representation.

However, the loud alt-right majority of players made this impossible to implement saying that it ruined the games’ medieval legitimacy.

“As soon as you do something like add women or have characters with different skin colors, as soon as you do that the player base is going to revolt on you,” Lipkin said. “Your choice as a company is either accept that this is what’s happened to your game, or say, ‘I’m not willing to accept that,’ and just let the game fall apart.”

Tabletop gaming has become more accepted in pop-culture due to internet shows such as *Critical Role*. Lipkin said it could be a helpful tool for bridging the culture gap between players, but a lot of work has to be done to make that happen.

“The games that are made are very often not very friendly to women,” he said. “There are some that have female followings like *Vampire*, but it’s a system that’s less built around combat.”

He said that games that are more combat heavy, which is most roleplaying games, tend to draw a male audience. However, he said that it can be fixed.

“You need people stepping up and making large popular games, he said, “and in the tabletop RPG realm there aren’t any.”

He also said board games would do just as good of a job bridging the cultural gap due to their non-violent nature.



Penguins, continued from page 11

last season. His production so far is great with five points. Petterson just needs to hold back on penalties a bit, but overall it looks like Sergei Gonchar, Jacques Martin and the rest of the Penguins development coaches have really helped him form his game. He is young and will only get better.

Justin Schultz – Schultz is back and excited for a healthier season as he dealt with an ankle problem all last year that needed surgery. I really like Justin Schultz, but he seems to be one of those players we will most likely lose at the end of this season due to free agency. For the time being, he has not dominated like he did back in 2017 when Kris Letang was out. His slap shot doesn't look as under control as it used to. Years ago he was predicted to be a Norris Trophy candidate, so if the Penguins can sign him cheap in the next off-season, that'll be a good thing. Expect him to not be moved this year just yet. He can be vital in a Cup run this season.

Jared McCann – The Penguins really love this guy. Rutherford made a great trade with the Florida Panthers to receive him. Insanely fast, positive offensive zone entries, tons of skill and a great finish. McCann also can play center or wing so he is very versatile and can play on any line for this team. So far, McCann has produced three goals in seven games. I expect him to score 20 in the back of the net this season.

Zach Aston-Reese – I have been a big fan of ZAR since we signed him while he was at Boston College. The Penguins have had quite a lot of success with players who have come from the NCAA. Analytically, ZAR is one of the best on the team right now. He doesn't allow many shots on goal when he is on the ice and can score big goals when you need him to. I don't think he is fully settled in, and in his zone of consistency just yet, but he is not far away from being so. A great young player that keeps this team fast.

Dominik Simon – It goes without saying if you look at Twitter, Penguins fans don't like this guy. But some absolutely love him. It's a love-hate relationship. Sidney Crosby likes to play with Simon. Sid sees him as one of the few players that can pass with him quickly and play a north-south game. He absolutely should score more because he gets a lot of time on the first line. He only has one goal in nine games. And last year he had below double digits. But analytically he is one of the best on the team. He has efficient neutral zone ability, great offensive

zone entries, spectacular tape to tape passing, great defensive stats and the ability to possess the puck. Yes, he should score more but he comes at a bargain for getting paid under one million, and if Sid likes playing with him, I'm fine with that.

Brandon Tanev – This player is one of my favorite off-season acquisitions Rutherford made. I disagree with giving him a six-year deal, but oh well. He only has one goal so far (an OT game winner, short handed against the best team in the western conference), but I think a lot of that has been unlucky. This is a great guy to have on your team. Any team

a less talented team in the league though.

Joseph Blandisi – I put him right up there with Johnson. Same remarks to be made about him. Don't expect him to stay in the lineup forever but he is a decent young hockey player.

Dominik Kahun – Kahun has been the quietest off-season acquisition for the Pittsburgh team. Not much to be seen of Kahun's play so far. A quiet start, the winger only has two assists and no goals. Kahun put together a great rookie season for Chicago last year. He went from the German league, straight into the NHL which rarely happens in a player's

The Pittsburgh Penguins have been hit early with the injury bug. Although, it looks like it has brought out the best in the team.

would want him. He is feisty, great on the penalty kill and is one of the fastest players in the league. I think the Penguins found a more effective version of Carl Hagelin, because he has more hands than Hagelin. Malkin likes playing with him too.

Brian Dumoulin – Talk about one of the most underrated players in the NHL. Another stud from Boston College, Dumo has turned into an elite defenseman. He is the perfect fit for Letang and is a +/- machine. Expect to see him in the top 10 in that category as he is right now. His leadership has increased as Coach Sullivan has made him the alternate captain with Letang since Geno is out. Dumoulin doesn't score much but he does everything else right.

Teddy Blueger – There are not many players in the league from Latvia, Blueger is one of them. Teddy has shown he has a great finish and is a grinder on the boards. He is another player that adds pace and youth which the Penguins need. Another asset for the penalty kill and is good for probably 12 to 18 goals this season. He is on a cheap contract too.

Adam Johnson – Johnson has done okay since being called up with all these injuries. He will most likely be set down when the whole team is healthy. Johnson carries speed as well as a decent scoring touch. He is great depth to add if the team stays so unhealthy. But he probably needs more time to develop in the NHL. He could probably find a role on

development. After a 37-point season last year on a line with Jonathon Toews, it looks like Kahun is having a sophomore year slump. Maybe he just needs to be with a star player in order to succeed, kind of like a Conor Sheary. Either way, he is on a cheap contract and we only moved Maatta to get him.

Alex Galchenyuk – I really like this guy. Lots of the coaches and members of the Penguins have stated this guys work ethic. He may not have the talent and skill of Phil Kessel, but he is a grinder. Receiving him in the Kessel trade was a blessing as it was expected that we wouldn't get much in return of Kessel. That is a whole other story. Unfortunately, Galchenyuk got bit by a spider and had some sort of allergic reaction and was put on IR. In the short sample we saw of him, he looks to be a great fit for Geno, a power play specialist, a workhorse and a great teammate. He is excited to be in Pittsburgh and this team is happy to have him. Look forward to a career season for him.

Evgeni Malkin – Geno also has the injury bug. Figuratively, not literally. Malkin has looked more like himself this year. Since training camp, he looked a lot more dominate at practices, in the pre-season and was basically the only good player on opening night. Its very frustrating to see him go down with an injury this early. Malkin had a hiccup with the team last year. Phil Kessel and Mike Sullivan were a big reason for that. Even Pascal Dupuis ex-

plained this to the media. If Dupuis says so, I don't think it's a lie. But, at the end of the day Phil is gone, and everyone doesn't have a perfect marriage. The Penguins and Malkin are still in love, and Crosby is his best buddy. He is not going anywhere, nor should he.

Jack Johnson – Terrible contract, slow, paid too much, deal too long, trade him, old, washed up... That's all you'll read on Jack Johnson if you look at Twitter or Reddit. I love Jack Johnson as a person, he works hard and tries-I give him that. But yes, it is frustrating how much he is making as a bottom pair defenseman who gets scratched sometimes. If he somehow panned out, the contract wouldn't be so bad. The Penguins brought in many defenseman that weren't doing too well like Schultz and Trevor Daley. They turned out much better. Johnson, not so much. There are rumors that there are a handful of teams that will take his contract on. Let's hope so.

John Marino – Wow, the Penguins really love this guy. He can play. During the preseason he looked like one of the best defenseman out there. I was not surprised to see him make the roster. The Penguins on their defensive unit have had more of quality problem than a quantity problem. Marino may be a quality third-pair defenseman. He is a perfect fit on the bottom line behind right handers Letang and Schultz. If you subscribe to the TheAthletic.com, look at Jesse Marshall's analysis on Marino. This guy knows how to avoid opposing team offensive zone entries, can play physical, and looks very poised at the blueline.

Erik Gudbranson – Gudbranson came in last year and wasn't too shabby. He is making a bit too much as a bottom pair defenseman, just like Johnson. The defensive unit last year of Petterson and Gudbranson was quite effective. Both had a long reach and stopped teams from entering our zone. Gudbranson recently has been a consistent scratch. Maybe Rutherford can clean up his mistakes and trade Gudbranson and Johnson. But, just remember, no GM bats 1.000%.

Nick Bjugstad – I don't think the Penguins are necessarily impressed with Bjugstad. It has been rumored they have looked to move him since the summer. He is not a bad player and can be useful for this team especially in a playoff run. He is big, fast for his size, and solid on faceoffs. To me he is Jordan Staal Lite. His injury hurts the center spot throughout

the lineup, but with him and Mal-kin out, it has shown which of these young guys can play.

Bryan Rust – I really like Bryan Rust. He is a guy like Hornqvist where I can say every night, he gives it his all. Not often do you see him not cover a guy or mess up on defense. Rusty has been put on the long-term IR before the season even started. He is a winger that can fit in on any line on our team and can even play on his opposite wing when needed. He is well liked in the locker room. Penguins writers report that he might play within a week.

Chad Ruhwedel – You get what you expect with Ruhwedel. Nothing more, nothing less. That is what I like about him. We have signed him to a few deals over these past five years or so to cheap, one to two year deals. He is a depth defenseman and is not bad to have on your team. When players are hurt, he steps in and does his job.

Jusso Riikola – A lot of fans love Riikola because of his name and because they want him in the lineup over Jack Johnson. I don't see those as legitimate reasons to have him in the lineup every night. Yet again, he fits under quantity, not quality. But, with more development he may end up a decent blueliner in the NHL. I just don't think that time is now. Montreal is apparently interested

in him. If we keep him that can't be terrible. He can be used as depth, especially during a time like this with so many injuries. Not to mention, he is very physical for not being that big.

Matt Murray – Murray is truly the X Factor this season. The past two years, he has tended to start off slow and then build a better string of games together down the stretch. If Murray can stay

very good. He has been given the chance to prove himself because of some cap issues. Casey De-Smith had to clear waivers and is now in the AHL. The Penguins are at the point knowing that Jarry deserves a shot in the NHL. It is obvious that he won't start over Matt Murray. But, can he be a great backup--or do the Penguins want to show off his skill so that can look to trade him. It's never

list of who I think is most likely to be traded. There will certainly be a move at some point before the trade deadline. Its just a matter of time. The Penguins can't afford to keep everyone because of the salary cap.

The Penguins look driven this year. I think the past two years they clearly expected the Cup run to be easy. The personnel has changed. A lot of youthful new faces is great for this team to re-tool and make a run.

Pittsburgh isn't a Cup favorite yet; they are a favorite to make the playoffs. Let's walk before we run off saying this team is going to win the Cup. So far, this team has a different feel than last year. I am very optimistic with how well we have done with all these injuries.

For now, enjoy the 82-game season grind, star talent, unreal goals, and Mike Lange broadcasting for his last season. This could be a special year.

Enjoy the 82-game season grind, star talent, unreal goals, and Mike Lange broadcasting for his last season. This could be a special year.

healthy and play consistent that would be a blessing. This guy is an elite goalie, very mature for his age, and a strong mindset. A great example of how to give back to the community and be very professional. I still get goosebumps seeing him and Fleury talk to each other in warmups when they face one another. Twitter loves to complain about his glove hand, but remember he helped us win two Cups at a very young age. Matt Murray is a franchise goalie and is here to stay.

Tristan Jarry – Tom and Jarry has had two great performances so far this season. Statistically,

easy to trade goalies. DeSmith was fantastic last year. So, expect him to be back on the team at some point. I think Jarry will be moved; he deserves his shot in the NHL.

Currently, the Penguins are tied for third in the Eastern Conference. It is early on, but with all these injuries you would expect them to have drop a few more games. Like I've said before, some of these young guys are real NHL players. With all the depth at forward we have now, it is certain someone will be moved. Bjugstad, Rust, Riikola, Gudbranson, Johnson and Jarry are high on my



School Spirit



© ERIN ROSS