

# CONNECTED

the LA ROCHE COLLEGE Magazine | SPRING/SUMMER 2018

## FROM CRIME SCENE TO COURTROOM

Forensic Science Programs Provide  
Students with Hands-on Training



IN THE MOMENT ...





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### AMCC CHAMPIONSHIP

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The crowd in the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center cheers as the men's basketball team wins its third conference championship. The Redhawks defeated archrival Penn State Behrend 77-74 and earned the AMCC's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in March.

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PHOTO: BECKY TURNER BRADDOCK

**T**he College integrates liberal arts and professional education in creative ways, empowering all members of our community to become lifelong learners, achieve success in their chosen careers, and promote justice and peace in a constantly changing global society.

This segment of the La Roche College Mission Statement presents both a charge and a challenge for faculty and staff as we strive to ensure that our students graduate not only with academic degrees, but also with practical experience needed to launch their careers.

An example of this is our rigorous forensic science program, featured in this issue. The program began with a focus on crime scene examination. But after our faculty visited the FBI Academy and asked FBI forensic scientists to evaluate our courses and approaches, an evolution began.

Today the curriculum is unique, placing a heavy emphasis on science. Students learn techniques used in forensics laboratories, such as DNA fingerprinting, blood typing, and chemical and explosives analyses. Computer science and psychology courses add other dimensions, helping students develop skills needed for positions in cyber security and criminal investigation work. Upon graduation students are positioned for careers in law enforcement, national security or even industrial quality control.

It is just one example of how La Roche continues to change and adapt, in our steadfast commitment to helping students become the best for the world.

This year we celebrate the 55th anniversary of the College's founding by the Sisters of Divine Providence and the 25th anniversary of the Pacem In Terris program. At Homecoming Weekend this spring, we welcomed back alumni from 18 states and seven nations, and inducted 14 graduates into our Distinguished Alumni Circle. Our alumni continue to inspire us with their achievements in their professions and service to their communities.

I thank you for your continued support of La Roche College and of our efforts to remain a creative and responsive educational institution, true to our founders' vision and our Catholic identity.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sister Candace Introcaso".

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

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SPRING | SUMMER 2018

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# Class of 2018 Honored at 53rd Commencement

**L**a Roche College honored its 2018 graduates at the 53rd commencement on Saturday, May 5.

"I wish you a lifetime of human encounters that will wow any application you may ever download to any device," President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., told the graduates. "And I hope that you will remember to thank the many people, either in person or with an old-fashioned handwritten note, who have made this day possible."

The College conferred 381 degrees, including three doctoral, 60 master's, 307 bachelor's and 11 associate degrees.

Roberto Clemente Jr., global ambassador, former baseball broadcaster, former professional baseball player, philanthropist and entrepreneur, delivered the 53rd commencement address. La Roche presented Mr. Clemente Jr. with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in recognition of his service to youth in Puerto Rico, Pittsburgh and abroad, and for upholding the traditions of the Catholic faith.

Mr. Clemente Jr. said, "Don't ever settle for less than being happy with what you do, regardless of the sacrifice it takes. Go out there and leave your legacy, your fingerprint in Humanity's Heart, as I try to do every single day."

During the ceremony the La Roche College Woman of Providence Award was presented to Sister Elsa Medina Rivera, CDP, whose life of service, as part of the mission of the Congregation of Divine Providence, is a compelling example of God's Providence made visible.

The College also presented the President's Awards for Leadership and Scholarship. These awards are offered to undergraduate students who exemplify the values and characteristics of the College's mission statement, who have exemplary academic records, and who are effective leaders on campus, in the workplace or in the community.

**2018 Traditional Recipient: Kristen L. Spezialetti**  
Bachelor of Arts, English Studies:  
Journalism and Professional Writing

**2018 Nontraditional Recipient: Denmark A. Reed**  
Bachelor of Science: Chemistry



At top: Aerial view of graduates processing to the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center.

Kristen L. Spezialetti (middle left) and Denmark A. Reed (middle right) receive the President's Awards for Leadership and Scholarship.

The Class of 2018 and their families gathered at the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel for a Baccalaureate Mass and traditional candle-lighting ceremony.

At right: Roberto Clemente Jr. delivers the commencement address and receives an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.



# La Roche Introduces Pre-Chiropractic Major

**A** recent articulation agreement allows students to earn a Bachelor of Arts from La Roche College and a Doctor of Chiropractic from Palmer College of Chiropractic.

Students who enroll in the program will be accepted into a six-year and one-third program, and will spend three years at La Roche to pursue a bachelor's degree. After completing all prerequisites at La Roche, students will begin Palmer's Doctor of Chiropractic program, which is offered year-round.

Lauren Lanzino, chair of the Health Science Department, said, "As an alumna of Palmer College of Chiropractic, I am thrilled to incorporate this articulation agreement within our health science department at La Roche. This program is attractive because it essentially lets the students obtain their doctorate degree in six years as opposed to the traditional seven years. There is no better place to earn this degree due to the fact that Dr. Palmer was the founder of chiropractic. The school's reputation speaks for itself, and I am excited to introduce the study of chiropractic to our students."

At La Roche students will complete courses in biology, chemistry and mathematics, and explore human

anatomy and physiology. Coursework also will examine the principles of chemistry, probability and statistics, nutrition, physics for health science and medical terminology.

Students must meet the following criteria to successfully enter the La Roche/Palmer program:

- Meet the prerequisite requirements for admission to Palmer
- Attain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in coursework
- Receive a positive recommendation from the chair of the Health Science Department

Students receiving a minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA may be considered for Palmer admission but are not guaranteed a seat under the agreement.

Palmer College of Chiropractic is the world's oldest and largest chiropractic school, and has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; Port Orange, Florida; and San Jose, California. The Council of Chiropractic Education has awarded Palmer programmatic accreditation, and the school has been regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

## Dance Department Presents Spring Gala

**S**tudents from La Roche College and the Bodiography Center for Movement Student Company performed at the eighth annual Spring Gala, presented by the La Roche Dance Department.

The performances included a restaging of "Giselle" by faculty members Kirstie Corso and Melissa Tyler, in addition to contemporary works by Kelly Basil, Meg Schriffen, Gia Cacalano, Derrick

Izumi, Judy Adelson, Gabe Ash and Maria Caruso. The gala also featured an opening work by a group of guest performers from Israel, in addition to new creations by Bodiography Student Company Directors Amanda Fisher and Kirstie Corso.

"The La Roche College Spring Gala focused entirely on our dance majors and our college preparatory students in the Bodiography Center for Movement Student Company. The evening highlighted the versatility

of the program's artists as well as the department's support of partnership programming," Department Chair Maria Caruso said.

Modeled after the most elite collegiate dance programs in the country, La Roche's performing arts program focuses on artistic and academic excellence. Under the instruction of Bodiography Founder Maria Caruso, students become confident professionals and master numerous styles of dance.



# Design Instructor Recognized by New York Times and New York Public Library

**S**tacy Innerst, an adjunct professor at La Roche College, is the winner of a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book Award.

Presented by the *New York Times* and New York Public Library, the Best Illustrated Book Awards recognize the best in children's literature and bring great books to young readers. Mr. Innerst received the award for his illustrations in "Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The Case of R.B.G. vs. Inequality," written by Jonah Winter. A panel of three judges, who base their decision purely on artistic merit, selected the winners.

"I'd always been aware of the *New York Times* list and always wanted to be on it, but it didn't really hit me until I was sitting at the awards luncheon at the New York Public Library. I was surrounded by artists whose work I think is stunning and by publishers, editors and art directors who are some of the best in the business," Mr. Innerst said. "The highlight was having a long, engaging conversation with Maria Russo, the children's book editor of the *New York Times* Book Review, who writes beautiful, insightful reviews. Afterward I was standing in front of the New York Public Library, talking to one of the other artists being honored, and we were both struck that this might be a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Mr. Innerst studied art and history at the University of New Mexico. His work has appeared in print, web and broadcast media in the U.S. and abroad, including the *Boston Globe*, *New York Times*, *Washington Times*, Harper Collins, Abrams Books, Boyds Mills Press, Berkeley Press and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Publishers.

Mr. Innerst's clients have included the NFL, MLB, Landesberg Design, Heinz Foundation, Pohly & Partners and the UK-based ARC Music. His projects have ranged from designing a series of mythological creatures for a humane Ringling Brothers Circus, to painting custom football helmets for Jerome Bettis, Hines Ward and Jeff Reed of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Throughout his career Mr. Innerst has received numerous awards, including an Emmy from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, a Gold Award from the Corporation of Public Broadcasting and the Golden Kite Award for Picture Book Illustration.

Born in Los Angeles, Mr. Innerst joined the La Roche design faculty as an adjunct professor in 2013.

"Stacy Innerst brings an extremely high level of award-winning excellence and professionalism to the La Roche Graphic Design Department," Lisa Kamphaus, chair of the Design Division, said. "With



the numerous accolades that Stacy has been awarded, he has remained accessible and eager to teach students. Students value his opinion, his good nature and his critique. His real-world experience, the scope and variety of his work, his demonstrations of design solutions and technique in class have proved to be invaluable to students. Stacy has always valued his time as an instructor as much as his time in his professional work."

Mr. Innerst teaches courses in illustration, editorial illustration and computer graphics.

"I genuinely get excited when I see students push themselves to do really good work. I value good art and design so much that when I see students creating work that they're proud of, it makes me happy," he said. "I also feel that my role is to make sure they leave their comfort zones a little bit — that's where the real discovery takes place."

A full overview of Mr. Innerst's work and career is available at [stacyinnerst.com](http://stacyinnerst.com). For more information about the La Roche Design Division, visit [designatlaroche.com](http://designatlaroche.com).



# STEM Savvy Returns to La Roche

**I**n May La Roche College invited middle-school students in grades six through eight to explore science, technology and math fields at STEM Savvy.

STEM Savvy introduces students to STEM majors and careers through hands-on experiences and informative workshops. Students chose two out of six workshops focusing on chemistry, biology, math, engineering, technology and exercise science.

Peggy Schmiedecke, associate director of admissions, said, "STEM Savvy provides participants with real-world applications of STEM and helps connect majors they could pursue in college to career opportunities that require a strong STEM background."

The event also offered special sessions for parents with a panel of notable speakers in STEM careers and participation in a fun workshop led by Outside the Box Labs.

"I am a firm believer that science can be enjoyed, learned and understood by everyone. STEM activities, if done well, can arouse the natural curiosity of students. Learning-by-doing is often a far more captivating way of studying science than merely reading a textbook or passively watching a video," Chemistry Department Chair Don Fujito, Ph.D., said.



*Professor Charles Caparoso teaches a middle-school student about biology in the "Life in a Changing World" workshop at STEM Savvy.*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**DISCOVER**  
**STEM**  
**Oct. 13, 2018**  
**La Roche College**  
**For high school students in**  
**grades nine through 12**

## MSN Program Ranked Among Best Online Nursing Programs

**L**a Roche College's Master of Science in Nursing was ranked as a 2018 Best Online Graduate Nursing Program by U.S. News & World Report.

U.S. News & World Report, a recognized leader in college rankings, assessed the graduate program through five indicators: student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation, admissions selectivity, and study services and technology. Data for the five

indicators was measured from statistical surveys the program reported and a peer reputation survey.

"We are honored to make the list," Terri Liberto, Ph.D., RN, chair of the La Roche Nursing Department, said. "Our MSN program offers three tracks: nursing education, nursing administration and clinical nurse leader. The programs are rigorous and taught by expert faculty with the convenience of an online method of delivery. Our students also have the opportunity for certifications upon or after graduation."

Accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing Inc., La Roche's MSN program builds on the knowledge and competencies of baccalaureate education. Graduate courses focus on the development of scholarly, critical thinkers and leaders who develop the skills necessary to transform knowledge into advanced practice.

To view La Roche's ranking visit [usnews.com/online](http://usnews.com/online). For more information about the College's nursing programs, call **412-536-1260** or visit [laroche.edu](http://laroche.edu).



# WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE

## Students Mara and Kasey Baronick Hone Major-Specific Skills at Walt Disney World

BY SARAH HEFFERIN

**A** dream is a wish your heart makes, and La Roche College students Mara and Kasey Baronick currently live a dream that they had wished for since they were little girls.

The Baronick sisters applied and got accepted to the Disney College Program, which is an opportunity for students to receive a paid internship in Florida or California. Disney provides an on-sight position for interns, often in food or hospitality services. The program lasts five to seven months, and allows students to gain skills such as guest service, teamwork and problem-solving.

Both sisters explained that Disney World holds a special place in their hearts, and their reason for applying for an internship at the park was simple: they love it.

Mara Baronick said, "We've been coming to Disney since we were a year old. I think it's a great opportunity, and I love the idea of it. My mom and my sister are obsessed with Disney, and I figured, 'Why not? Why not try for this opportunity?'"

Mara is a sophomore criminal justice student with a minor in pre-law, while her twin sister Kasey is a sophomore student majoring in management and marketing. Both sisters said they have found the Disney College Program to be an out-of-this-world opportunity.

Kasey said by completing this internship, she not only hopes to strengthen her knowledge of business and marketing, but she hopes to use the internship as a springboard into working for the Disney Company.

"I love Disney. It's where I always come on vacation, and it's where I want to work



Jeff Baronick visits his daughters Mara and Kasey at Walt Disney World's ABC Commissary.

when I graduate in a year and a half," she explained.

The Baronicks had to go through a multistep application process. After completing applications, they both eventually moved onto a phone interview, which determined whether they were accepted into the program.

"There are about 40,000 people who apply for an internship each semester, and only about 8,000 get accepted," Mara said. "I had to do three separate interviews. I had to complete an application, then I had to do a web-based

interview and, if I made it past both of those, I had to do a phone-based interview."

Neither of the Baronicks applied for a specific job and were both placed in the fast food services within two of the parks. Mara works at ABC Commissary in Hollywood Studios while Kasey works at Casey's Corner in the Magic Kingdom.

The Disney College Program requires students to be willing and able to work all hours on different days of the week, and during holidays.

"It's a lot of hard work and the hours can be very, very long, but it's worth it seeing the people smile and have a good time, and to make a lasting impression. Patrons may only get to come to Disney once, and you are part of their experience. It's a lot of fun, and I wouldn't change it for the world," Mara said.

"Seeing the smiles on people's faces, having fun and enjoying their vacation makes it worth it to me," Kasey said.

Mara and Kasey said the internship program allows them to utilize their people skills. Disney is a vacation destination for people from around the world, and the Baronicks had to work through language barriers and the promise of making every guest's experience pleasant and memorable, no matter what.

"You have to know how to communicate with people to get things done. With having a criminal justice degree and a minor in pre-law, you have to know how to get the information for what you want and what you need. I've been able to do that at Disney by interacting with people from all over the world," Mara said.

"Each person you meet is different, and they all talk about things differently. I've also learned problem-solving skills — how to do things quickly and efficiently. This internship just fit with what I had to do," Kasey said.

Internships play vital roles in preparing students for life in the real world. For Mara and Kasey Baronick, their internships allowed them to step out of their comfort zones while gaining new skills and experiences.

"It really teaches you how to interact with people and how to treat people; internships can show you how hardworking you need to be if you want to make it in the real world," Mara said.

Along with the overall experience, having an internship is a way for students to move forward in their careers. Not only is it a boost for students, but the sisters said internships can bring people one step closer to their dreams.

"The purpose is to follow your dreams. This internship has taught me to work hard and that your dreams can come true. It gives me a step-up; it gives me a taste of what life is like outside of college," Kasey said.



# Sam Hazo Gives Final Reading as Poet-in-Residence

**R**enowned poet and author Sam Hazo concluded his residency with La Roche College during a reading at the Kearns Spirituality Center.

Dr. Hazo became La Roche's Poet-in-Residence in March 2017 when he conducted "The Spoken Page," an eight-week noncredit course exploring the spoken act of poetry. Later he headlined La Roche Literary Society events, taught a credit-bearing Select Literature course, guest-lectured in various classes throughout the College, and dedicated The Poet's Garden outside of Magdalen Chapel.

"The classes and events offered through Dr. Hazo's residency invited us to nourish



PHOTO: RYAN GEORGE

Renowned author Dr. Sam Hazo poses with President Sister Candace Intracaso, CDP, Ph.D., at his final reading as La Roche's poet-in-residence.

our souls — to engage with words, ideas and feelings for the pure joy of it," Janine Bayer, Ph.D., chair of the La Roche English Department, said. "Like all great art, poetry has the power to transform us. Dr. Hazo's presence on campus has brought students and community members together to celebrate the importance of poetry in our lives; it has been a beautiful gift to us."

Considered one of the most enduring poets of our time, Dr. Hazo is the author of poetry, fiction, essays, various works of translation and four plays. The founder and director of the International Poetry Forum and McAnulty Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus of Duquesne University, he served as Pennsylvania's first state poet from 1993 to 2003.

## FBI Special Agent in Charge Visits Campus

**T**his semester the Criminal Justice Club hosted a presentation by Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the FBI Pittsburgh Division Robert Johnson.

SAC Johnson's presentation focused on American law enforcement in the Middle East, and he discussed his career in the FBI, including leadership roles as a representative in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Sierra Anderson, La Roche junior and president of the La Roche Criminal Justice Club, said, "SAC Johnson is someone who holds a lot on his plate, and to have him speak at La Roche College was an honor not only for the Criminal Justice Club, but for the community as a whole. We had a chance to gain knowledge gathered by him firsthand, not by books or presentations based off other stories. How he grew in his field, and his tips for how we can do the same, were valuable and important."



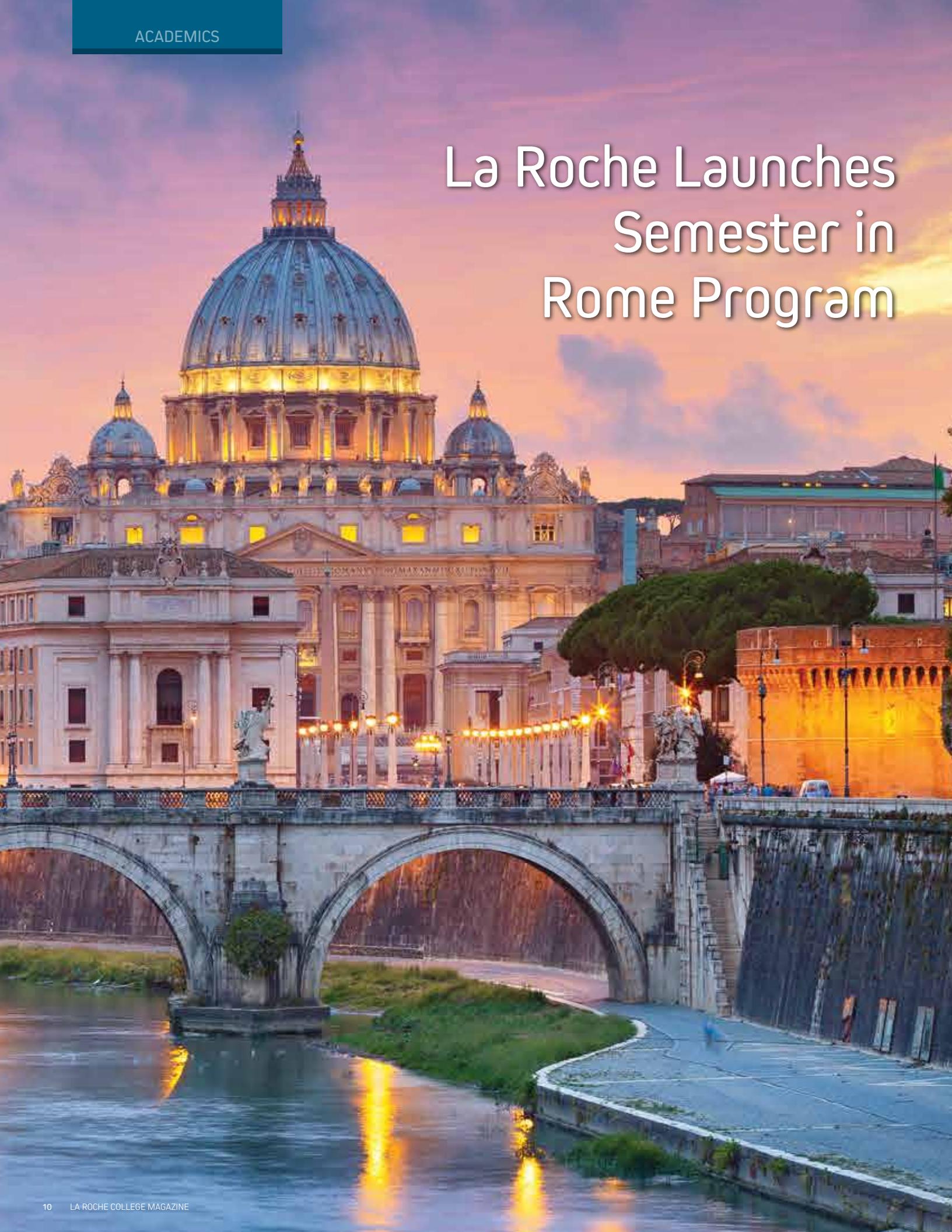
PHOTO: RYAN GEORGE

Special Agent in Charge Robert Johnson speaks about his FBI career during a presentation hosted by the La Roche Criminal Justice Club.

The Criminal Justice Club fosters professionalism in law enforcement personnel, and encourages the

establishment and expansion of higher education and professional training in criminal justice.

# La Roche Launches Semester in Rome Program





## A new initiative at La Roche College provides students the opportunity to study abroad in Rome for a full semester.

The new study abroad program is hosted on the Campus of the School Sisters of Saint Francis in Rome. Students who choose to study abroad are a 20-minute walk from the Vatican with easy access to public transportation. Amenities include single rooms with private bathrooms, access to free Wi-Fi, free laundry and three meals a day.

"This is a significant milestone for La Roche College, and we couldn't do it without the support of the School Sisters of Saint Francis," President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., said. "What better way to use underutilized space as we go through changes within the Catholic Church than to share them with young people in an educational setting. When we are generous and creative and willing to collaborate, everyone benefits."

The program is open to all students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Tuition is equal to the cost of La Roche's regular tuition. Students are responsible for the cost of airfare and travel insurance.

"The top reason why students don't study abroad is the economic barrier, so we kept the cost to study in Rome the same as our campus here in

Pittsburgh," Assistant Director of Study Abroad+Study USA Nicole Gable said.

The semester study abroad program grew from the College's successful Study Abroad+Study USA program, which is included in the cost of tuition and enables students to travel abroad or domestically for 10 to 14 days at no additional cost.

"There are two things that are central to our mission at La Roche. Our Catholic identity, first and foremost, and second is our commitment to producing citizens of the world," Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean Howard Ishiyama, Ph.D., said. "The Semester in Rome program will enable our students to further embrace our mission and better understand the world before they leave La Roche and embark on their own personal journeys."

The program's first group of 10 students spent the spring semester in Rome from Jan. 18 to April 17.

For students Morgan Ward and Jayson Antoszewski, spending the semester in Rome was their first time traveling abroad, and Ms. Ward's first trip on an airplane.

"I applied to the semester study abroad program because I was eager to explore Rome, try authentic Italian food and climb the Spanish steps," Ms. Ward, a film, video and media major, said.

History professor Paul Le Blanc, Ph.D., led the trip as a faculty representative. He taught two classes on site: an enhanced La Roche Experience class and a history course on the framework of modern Europe.

The new program is the result of the groundwork of Father Tom Schaefer, Ph.D., associate vice president of academic affairs, and Ms. Gable.

"Traveling the world and experiencing different cultures has been a dream of mine since high school, and I finally received the opportunity to do so. Spending a semester abroad has always been a part of my plan even before I started college. I just got lucky that La Roche decided to create a program overseas," sophomore Aliyyah Joyner said.

The following students studied abroad in Rome during the spring semester:

- Jayson Antoszewski
- Kristen Ellis
- Felicia Gehres
- Aliyyah Joyner
- Jessica Kefover
- Patrick McCall
- Samantha Scopel
- Cassidy Shaffer
- Morgan Ward
- April Wurst

For more information visit [laroche.edu/rome](http://laroche.edu/rome) or contact Ms. Gable at [nicole.gable@laroche.edu](mailto:nicole.gable@laroche.edu) or 412-536-1022.

## 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

## Professor Lynn Archer pays tribute to retiring professor Don Orr

**I**t is truly an honor to write on behalf of Dr. Don Orr in celebration of his 40 years at La Roche College. Forty years is quite a long time. If you do the math, Dr. Orr began his career at La Roche in 1978.

Perhaps to set the scene, it might be fun to take a trip down memory lane. So, here we go:

When Dr. Orr began his career at La Roche, "Grease" and "Midnight Express" were popular movies. Since we're a college campus, it may be important to add National Lampoon's "Animal House" to the list of trending movies. Popular songs included the Bee Gees "Night Fever" and "Staying Alive" as well as the Commodores "Three Times a Lady"—reminiscent of those days of disco. TV shows included "Laverne and Shirley," "Three's Company" and "Mork and Mindy."

However, since Dr. Orr is an economist, including some economic data of 1978 seems appropriate. Yearly inflation was 7.63 percent, interest rates were at about nine percent and the Dow Jones ended the year at 805 points. A dozen eggs were 48 cents, and gas was 63 cents a gallon. Oh, those were the days.

On the La Roche campus, there also were some interesting things happening in 1978. A press release from 1978 shows the Guess Who was to play on campus. There also was a speaker on the dangers of marijuana, and the attorney for Charles Manson presented a lecture. Full-time enrollment was 602 students with an equally large part-time population. There were 162 graduates that year, and Joseph Katz was the commencement speaker. One might want to consider looking at the picture of Dr. Orr from the 1978 "The Rock" College yearbook.



So now that there's an understanding of what was going on inside and outside of La Roche, let's talk about Dr. Orr.

Dr. Orr received his Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. He was instrumental in establishing the Human Resources Management program at La Roche, one of the College's most successful graduate programs. If asked he may share the story of how he and colleague Astrid Kerstin mapped out the curriculum on a napkin at the Ali Babba restaurant in Oakland.

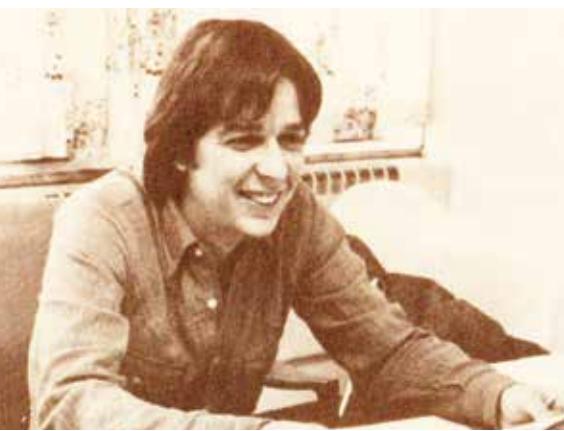
Dr. Orr also was instrumental in the development of the international management and international affairs majors, and he has been the department chair of these programs for many years.

Dr. Orr has taken study abroad trips, and it's evident that he has a skill

for photography. In fact one of his photos hangs on the walls of the Palumbo Science Center. He also was a longstanding member and chair of the Faculty Contracts Committee and always has been a staunch advocate for faculty.

However, compiling a laundry list of Dr. Orr's contributions doesn't quite present the whole picture. Perhaps it should be framed in a different way.

I personally have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Orr for the last 30 years. When I first began at La Roche, there were several very strong, young academicians in what was then called the Administration and Management Division. Dr. Astrid Kersten, Dr. Hezekiah Assefa and Dr. Orr were quite the team. They were idealists, intellectuals, relatively new Ph.D.'s, and I felt very out of my league. I was a young, neophyte who knew very little about higher education, and curriculum design and



development. I would listen to Dr. Orr speak, and he sounded brilliant to me.

The more I got to know Dr. Orr, the more I admired him. In the late 1990s, the College was developing a new core curriculum. I had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Orr and again, I felt his level of knowledge. He would speak in such eloquent, academic terms. The more I listened, the more I learned.

I don't always see eye to eye with Dr. Orr. He is theoretical; I tend to be practical. He was a true academic — me, not so much. I sometimes felt a bit uncomfortable with our differing perspectives, but I learned to embrace those times as true opportunities to broaden my thinking.

Dr. Orr is the quintessential teacher. He is a scholar and a deep thinker. He dares to push us to think outside of our comfort zones. He presents perspectives

that aren't always the popular opinion because as educators and students, we have a responsibility to explore. We have a responsibility to question what we are told and what we read and what we hear. We have a responsibility to be critical thinkers and global citizens.

Dr. Orr is exactly the type of colleague that an educator should hope to have. One who thinks, and explores, and questions and prompts. One who doesn't accept the status quo but instead requires that we question the status quo. One who points out things that are unacceptable and prompts with possible solutions.

I sometimes think of Dr. Orr as the stereotypical image of a professor who wears corduroy pants and tweed jackets with patches on the sleeve. One who speaks with a quiet authority and an air of confidence. One who causes a bit of discomfort by requiring us to

think — to navigate past our own small framework.

Dr. Orr is that professor. Not only has he taught students for 40 years, but he has been the most valued colleague one could imagine for 40 years.

We thank Dr. Orr for the education he provided not only to his students but to his colleagues. We are better for the years we have spent with Dr. Orr, and we will miss his wisdom and wit. We are better people and better at what we do because of him. We wish him all the best as he shares his time between Pittsburgh and Malta.

Thank you, Dr. Orr, for your insight, your contributions, and most importantly your friendship and collegiality. You will be missed.

# FROM CRIME SCENE TO COURTROOM

## Forensic Science Programs Provide Students with Hands-on Training

BY VANESSA ORR | PHOTOS: JAMES KNOX

**A**nyone who has ever watched NCIS or CSI knows how fascinating criminal investigations are. Determining whether a specific person committed a crime — or even if a crime was committed — often requires scientific expertise in a number of areas including chemistry, biology, psychology and computer science, and knowledge of the legal principles that govern the incorporation of science into the criminal justice system.

In La Roche College's forensic science programs, students get a firsthand look at everything that takes place from the moment an investigation starts until the case is brought to trial. The brainchild of now-retired chemistry professor Roberta Hartman, biology professor Gail Rowe and Department Chair of Justice, Law and Security Lawrence Likar, the programs were designed to meet the needs of future employers, including the FBI.

"When we first started the program, it was mainly limited to crime scene examination work," Lawrence Likar, J.D., explained. "Hoping to broaden what we had to offer, Roberta, Gail and I went to the FBI Academy and met

with forensic scientists in the FBI lab who evaluated our science programs and overall forensic approach to the investigative process. We wanted to make sure that what we taught in our crime scene courses and in the criminalistics program had scientific value, and as a result, we ended up with a very comprehensive program."

One of the issues uncovered through these meetings was that the FBI looks for more science-focused graduates. "The FBI wants to hire really strong scientists who also understand forensics," Associate Professor Jane Arnold, M.S., said. "For example, they are looking for computer experts — not for students with associate degrees in computer security or forensics. It's better for students to get a computer science degree with a forensics minor. La Roche's emphasis on science is what sets us apart from similar programs."

Students at La Roche can gain a specialty in cyber forensics and security, in addition to earning a bachelor's degree that prepares them for work in forensic laboratories or in other fields. Biology and chemistry students gain a solid background in the techniques used in modern forensic laboratories, including DNA fingerprinting, blood typing, and analysis of toxins, narcotics and explosives. Because of this strong

science background, students also can work as quality control experts in food and other industries, or in medical labs.

"Because it's such a rigorous program, some graduates also may qualify for employment as FBI special agents or lab analysts, but they don't have to stay in criminal justice," Ms. Arnold said. "This is especially true in cyber security, where every company is focused on making sure that customers' data is secure and available — it's a rapidly growing field."

Cara Plese, M.S., graduated in 2009 from La Roche with a chemistry and forensics degree and a criminalistics certificate, and went on to earn a master's degree in forensics from Virginia Commonwealth University. She now works at Gateway Analytical in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, doing trace evidence forensic work, including hair analysis and gunshot residue testing. She also serves as adjunct faculty at La Roche, teaching criminalistics and the advanced forensic chemistry lecture and lab.

"I was always interested in forensic science, and I liked La Roche's approach, which was to essentially earn an entire science degree in addition to taking criminal justice and forensics classes," she said. "It was different from what other colleges offered, and it was definitely challenging. But I liked that



Students William Hickman Jr. and Rebecca Franks search for evidence in the low-light conditions of the serial killer scene for the Crime Scene Investigation and Forensics course.

the small class size meant that you got a lot of one-on-one interaction, and you were able to take cool classes and labs that you couldn't get at larger schools."

### Investigating Crime Scenes and Analyzing Evidence

One of the most unique aspects of the forensics program is the criminalistics course in which chemistry, biology, criminal justice and computer science majors gather evidence from staged crime scenes. Michael Hochrein, a special agent with the FBI for 29 years, sets up individual scenes which are rotated throughout the semester.

"There are two classes: a crime scene investigation course, and a CSI (criminalistics) course with a combined lab portion for chemistry and biology students," he explained. "Many of the scenes show equivocal deaths; they might be homicides, suicides, accidental or natural deaths. When they first approach each scene, the students are asked to create a narrative, documenting what they see.

"What typically happens at the beginning of the course is that they focus on the body and make a lot of suppositions and conclusions; for example, calling the person a victim, when they don't actually know if it is a victim, or calling it a homicide when it could be a suicide," he continued. "These scenes are important to teach them to look at the situation clinically with an unbiased, objective approach."

Mr. Hochrein said the courses are designed to improve students' note-taking abilities, objective thinking and teamwork. "I tell them that once they enter the mock scenes, I am not only assessing how well they grasp the techniques or protocols we go over in class, but also their ability to work together and act professionally, even though these are pretend circumstances," he explained. "I want to prepare them for the real world."

"I'm impressed by how enthusiastic they are to work on the scenes," he added. "I have to kick them out because they don't want to leave."

Just like in real life, some of the scenes are intentionally graphic. "I want them to understand that most scenes are not as antiseptic as they will encounter in training situations, and that they involve disturbing sights, smells and sounds," Mr. Hochrein said. "In the serial killer scene, for example, there is a lot of blood evidence. This helps students learn blood stain pattern analysis, as well as presumptive blood testing to determine what the substance is and if it's worth sending to the lab. In the bank robbery scene, they learn ballistics and trajectory reconstruction, as well as different techniques such as mapping to get the information they need."

One other benefit of this real-world scenario is that it enables students to recognize their own limitations. "If some scenes emotionally or physically interfere with their abilities to carry out their jobs, they might want to seek other aspects of law enforcement, rather than finding this out once they've been hired," Mr. Hochrein said.



Turner Murdoch photo-documents the sodium rhodizonate reaction with lead on a shirt.



Logan Fairman handles a shirt with a bullet hole.

Junior Logan Fairman has worked on three crime scenes in his criminalistics course. "Because Professor Hochrein has so much experience in the field, the set-up is really realistic," he said. "We have to find all of the pieces of evidence and determine what is needed and not needed, and how much we need to collect. This hands-on experience is what I like most about the course because it's how I learn best."

One scene is saved specifically for chemistry and biology majors to process after they spend the entire course working on other scenes first to hone their techniques. "They work on recovering evidence that is then analyzed in the lab — for example, doing fracture matching on pieces of a broken window to determine if a piece of glass came from a subject's residence," Mr. Hochrein said, adding that they also analyze blood, test DNA, and collect hair and fibers. Computer science students recover a cell phone, computer and flash

drive from the scene that they need to analyze using forensic tools.

"The experience with crime scenes is an important part of the course because a person who only works in a lab with no crime scene experience doesn't know the mistakes that could be made at the scene," he continued. "Someone who only works at the scene doesn't have a good grasp of what tests are being done and how evidence should be submitted. This way, both criminal justice and science students go into their jobs with a better understanding of what the other does, which creates better communication and results."

La Roche senior Ashley Desormeaux, who has taken both courses, said there are real benefits to having this hands-on experience. "I love the interactiveness; book learning is beneficial and a basic and necessary tool, but processing a scene teaches you so much more than sitting in a lecture," she said.

"By physically interacting with the scene and working it yourself, you get a much better understanding of what you'll be dealing with day to day."

### **Understanding the Criminal Mind**

The Forensic Psychology Certificate Program combines legalistic and psychological perspectives on criminal behavior, civil liability and other social issues. The forensic component of the program requires that students take psychology, criminology, and legal courses to understand the federal rules of evidence and engage in team debates on critical issues in the fields of psychology and criminal justice.

"In forensic psychology we explore several connections between psychology and the legal system," Lee J. Markowitz, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, said. "These include the rationale behind and importance of the insanity defense, the strengths and weaknesses



Keesha Stuart, Kayla Ordos, Noah Borland and Logan Fairman document the appearance of a bullet entrance in a shirt.

of criminal profiling, the rehabilitation of criminal offenders, the deterrence of crime and the detection of lies.

"In each unit we explore the current state of psychological knowledge, discuss which recommendations psychologists can confidently put forward to those in the legal system and examine the questions that require further research study," he added.

### Making the Case

To gain experience in testifying before a judge, every other year students in the Criminalistics Certificate Program participate in a mock Daubert/Frye hearing where they have to testify about their work on the crime scene and in the laboratory.

"The mock suppression hearing is the culmination of the criminalistics program and gives students the opportunity to see how the application of scientific principles is introduced into the legal system in a way that the

judge can determine the applicability of the evidence, including how it was analyzed and obtained to meet legal requirements," Mr. Likar said.

"Forensic scientists generally focus on circumstantial evidence, but their testimony is often given more weight than testimony concerning direct evidence like a confession or eyewitness identification," he added. "Students are evaluated on how well they perform under both direct and cross examination."

Students are questioned by former FBI agents and attorneys, including well-known defense attorney Robert Leight, and are expected to deliver their findings as if they were actual expert witnesses. The mock hearing is presided over by Judge Robert J. Colville, a U.S. District Court judge for the western district of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Hochrein said he believes that by being held accountable, students learn

how important it is to collect evidence in context and to document the whole environment. "They also learn ethics — that their obligation is not to who hired them, but to be unbiased and objective," he said, adding that it also subjects them to the same pressures they would face in a real trial.

Ms. Arnold explained that these courses, along with the real-world experience, help students gain a true appreciation of this sometimes misunderstood field.

"People have a lot of enthusiasm for these types of TV shows, but don't understand the rigorous background needed to do the job," she said.

"La Roche's forensics program shows students that crimes are not solved in one hour or one day; it can take weeks, months or even longer.

"There's a lot more that goes on than what you see," she added. "It's a lot of hard work."

## La Roche Announces 'Many Faces, One Vision' Campaign

**T**he public phase of La Roche College's multimillion dollar campaign is now underway to support student success and to expand alumni contributions across the globe.

"As a Catholic institution imbued with the charism and values of our founders, the Sisters of Divine Providence, La Roche is committed to strengthening our place in the region while making an impact throughout the world," La Roche President Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., said. "This campaign will ensure that future generations of La Roche students, drawn from diverse backgrounds, can share our mission to promote a vision of peace and justice, and make a profound impact that is truly best for the world."

The campaign, titled "Many Faces, One Vision: Being the Best for the World," is a philanthropic effort to raise \$12.5 million in support of academics, student activities, athletics, scholarships and student aid. The campaign also will help to fund campus improvements, including a renovation of La Roche's Palumbo Science Center, constructed in 1980.

As Chair of the La Roche board of trustees, Distinguished Alumna and Principal of DRS Architects, Kathryn A. Jolley '81, ASID, has contributed generously to this campaign.

She said, "My husband Greg and I are proud to have funded a scholarship for interior design students at La Roche. As a graduate of that program, I know what a difference a La Roche degree and the

La Roche community of faith made in my work and in my life. I am blessed to be in a position to help students realize their dreams. Education has such power to change lives and make the world a better place, one student at a time."

A primary focus of the "Many Faces, One Vision" campaign is the renovation of the Palumbo Science Center. La Roche received a \$1 million grant from the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to fund a total renovation of the building's second floor, but the College must raise additional private funds to secure this grant.

In order to sustain La Roche's growing enrollment in the sciences and maintain the successful outcomes of students, the entire second floor of the science building will be gutted and completely



rebuilt with an expanded, modern design that exhibits today's most effective learning environments. These efforts will help the College meet the demand for STEM professionals reflected in La Roche's student population. The Division of Natural and Behavioral Sciences is the fastest growing academic division at La Roche; undergraduate enrollment in STEM majors has increased by 70 percent over the past 10 years.

Howard W. "Hoddy" Hanna III, chairman of Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, is a long-time La Roche trustee and generous benefactor. "I am very proud to be associated so closely with La Roche College," Mr. Hanna said. "The College's mission and its impact on our region and even around the world

is remarkable. With Sister Candace at the helm, La Roche has made enormous strides in recent years, and my wife Mary Anne and I are glad to help advance La Roche toward a very promising future. Given the demand for STEM jobs in our economy, the overhaul of La Roche's science center is a critically important piece of this campaign."

La Roche already has reached 65 percent of the total campaign goal, with major donors including Baierl Automotive, S&T Bank, Howard and Mary Anne Hanna, and members of the La Roche board of trustees. Completion of the \$2.7 million renovated Baierl Athletic Complex, which was dedicated in 2016, was among the campaign's early phase projects.

Baierl Automotive President/CEO and La Roche Trustee Lee Baierl said, "La Roche's investment in the athletic complex provides tremendous benefits to student athletes, coaches and the College as a whole. The athletic complex also serves as an accessible resource to local organizations, making it invaluable to the community. We're proud to have the Baierl name associated with an organization that places as much value on our neighborhoods as it does its students."

All gifts given or pledged by the end of 2018 will count toward the campaign goal. For more information or to inquire, contact Vice President for Institutional Advancement Michael Andreola at 412-536-1096 or [michael.andreola@laroche.edu](mailto:michael.andreola@laroche.edu).



## MAX Headlines Spring Concert

**M**ore than 300 people visited campus to see New York City-born pop-soul singer MAX perform at La Roche College's spring concert in April.

In 2015 the "Lights Down Low" singer signed to Pete Wentz's record label DCD2 and opened for Fall Out Boy on the group's Boys of Zummer tour that same year. He has been featured in songs with artists such as Hoodie Allen and Rain Man with his hit single, "Lights Down Low," featuring gnash. Currently MAX is celebrating the success of "Lights Down Low" and his 2016 album "Hell's Kitchen Angel."

Presented by the La Roche College Concert Council, the event also featured Pittsburgh bands A Summer High and Vertigo.

The La Roche College Concert Council's primary goal is to provide the opportunity for students to help bring quality music to the campus while learning the ins and outs of talent-buying and concert promotion. The organization is comprised of students, faculty and staff.



PHOTO: ABIGAIL MCNATT

"Lights Down Low" singer MAX performed in the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center at the annual spring concert, presented by the La Roche College Concert Council.

## The Nest Opens in Kerr Fitness & Sports Center

**A** recent renovation in the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center included the addition of The Nest, a smoothie bar offering smoothies, protein bars, wraps, fruit, snacks and more.

"The Nest was part of a multiyear improvement plan for Athletics. We expanded the weight room last year and wanted to make additional improvements," Colleen Ruefle, vice president for student life and dean of students, said.

Design students assisted in the planning stages of The Nest, and every student had the opportunity to vote on the name of the new eatery.

"Last year a class of interior design students reviewed the space and made recommendations including turning the concession stand into a small grab-and-go type of space and upgrading the lobby," Ms. Ruefle said. "Last September we began the process of taking their design concepts and making them a reality."

The Nest is open Monday through Friday evening and during events in the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center. The facility is run by La Roche's current food service provider, SAGE Dining Services. Students can purchase items from The Nest with their meal plans.



PHOTO: RYAN GEORGE

William (Parker) Baney and Ashley Arend of SAGE Dining Services work at the grand opening of The Nest in the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center.

SAVE  
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DATE



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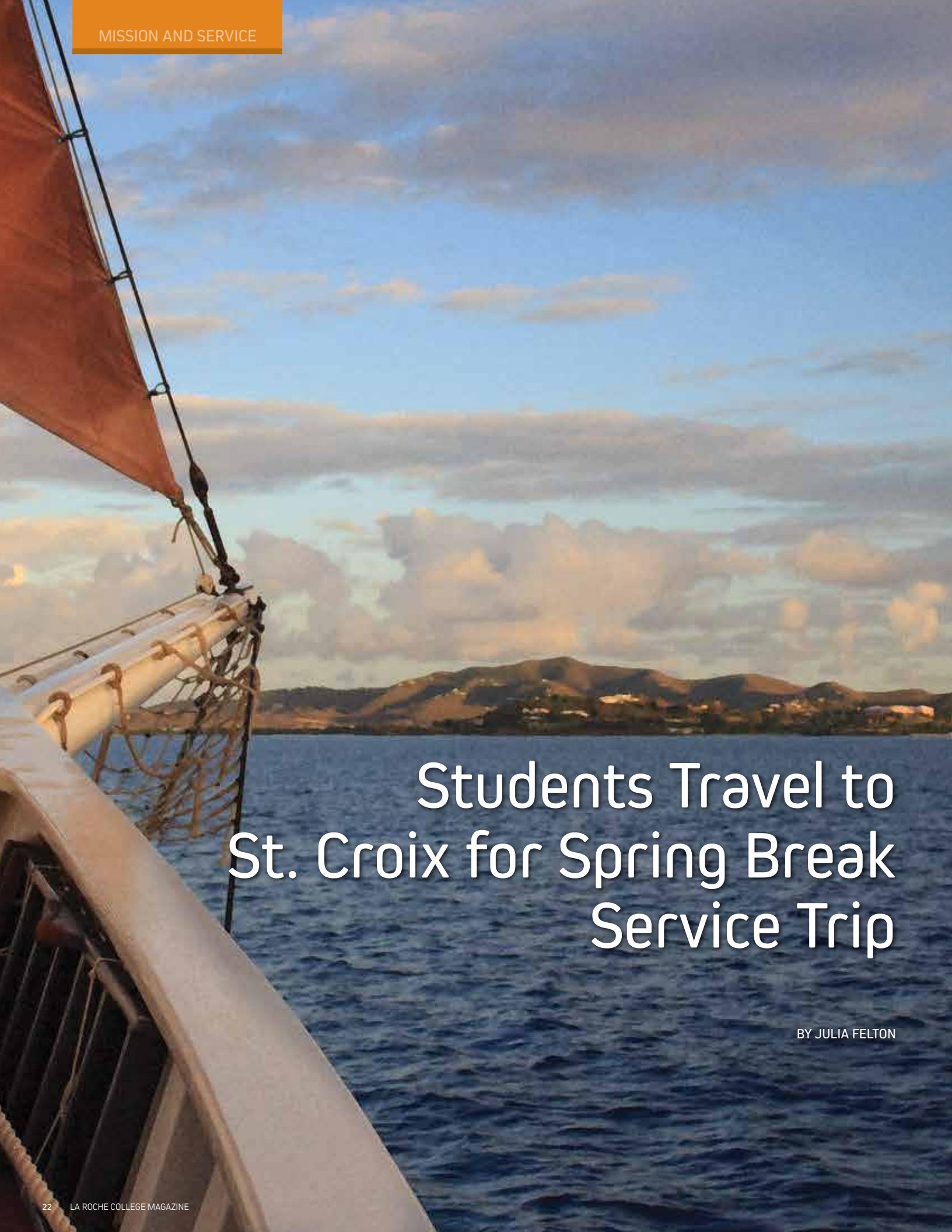
MONDAY, SEPT. 17

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WILDWOOD GOLF CLUB  
ALLISON PARK, PENNSYLVANIA

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A photograph of a sailboat on the water, viewed from the deck. The boat's wooden railing and a red sail are visible on the left. In the background, a large island with green hills is silhouetted against a sky filled with orange and yellow clouds at sunset. The water is a deep blue.

# Students Travel to St. Croix for Spring Break Service Trip

BY JULIA FELTON

**A**fter three hurricanes devastated the U.S. Virgin Islands last fall, La Roche College felt the effects; the storms directly impacted more than 50 La Roche students and their families. In response the College launched an emergency appeal, and most recently, organized a spring break service trip to aid victims of the storms.

Steve Benson, coordinator of campus ministry for service, said the Office of Mission and Ministry quickly began discussing what they could do to help. "After the third hurricane hit, we started throwing around the idea that maybe we should go to the Virgin Islands this year for our spring break trip," Mr. Benson said.

La Roche annually hosts a spring break service trip, which allows students to visit another community to serve and learn. This year the College sent 12 students to St. Croix from March 3 to 10. The group included the following students:

Kristen Spezialetti, Jennifer Kardos, Allison Bosworth, Shelby Oswald, Rachel Hibshman, Carly Wilson, Jessica Welka, Sade Valderrama, Dominique Greaux, Mark Mungai, Kevin Amaud Cyusa and Timothy Antonelli.

The students who participated said they wanted to help the Virgin Islanders. Allison Bosworth said, "I was inspired to go on the trip because some of my classmates were affected by the hurricane."

Though students said they were eager to help the Virgin Islands, Mr. Benson said it was imperative to maintain a mentality of being helpers—not saviors.

"We were coming into a place that had a rough time, but we wanted to push against our internal inclination to think of ourselves as flying in and rescuing these people. We wanted to push a narrative that was more about us coming alongside them and helping where they needed help," Mr. Benson said.





"It was really inspiring, just to be able to be part of that spirit and work alongside them," Jennifer Kardos said.

When they first arrived in St. Croix, the students enjoyed one day at a beach. Then they tackled two major service projects. The group spent two days repairing the Island Center Amphitheater, painting and helping with grounds-keeping.

"It was hard to imagine what the amphitheater was like when it was in its prime because we saw it in a very low state. There were weeds, and the hurricane had caused poles to fall. The roof was exposed, so there was a lot of water damage," Ms. Bosworth explained.

"When we first looked at it, I wondered if we would make a dent at all. But when we were finishing up, it looked really good. We made a huge difference," Mr. Benson said.

The group spent the remainder of the trip building a playground for students at the St. Croix Montessori School.

"The principal told us it felt important to do something more than just repairing,

but to be building something new," Mr. Benson said. "We weren't just fixing all this stuff that was broken. We used a lot of recycled telephone poles that had been broken, so we were kind of taking this bad situation and making something new out of it."

Rachel Hibshman said she enjoyed working on the playground. "We were really motivated once we got there. Once we got started, we got really emotionally invested in what we were doing," she said.

The students were not able to stay long enough to see the completion of the playground. When they began the project, Mr. Benson said there was nothing but dirt. When they left, he said the project was nearly finished.

"We didn't get to see the grand opening of the playground, but I did see a video of it. And I remember seeing the children play on it, and I was like, 'I built that,'" Ms. Hibshman said. "That was really special to me — to see them enjoying something that I helped make."

While these students made an impact on the St. Croix community, the St.

Croix community also made an impact on them.

"A lot of learning can happen when you're removed from your everyday, comfortable existence," Mr. Benson said.

The group also experienced the Virgin Islands culture in a personal way, which included having dinner with the families of several La Roche students, talking with them and learning about the island.

Ms. Bosworth said, "They made traditional food. To have them make it for us homemade, it was so delicious. I'll never forget it. It's a great memory I'll always have."

The trip had such an impact on the students that Ms. Kardos said she is now considering joining the Peace Corps because of her experience.

For those who consider participating in a spring break service trip in the future, Ms. Kardos encouraged students to become involved despite any uncertainties. She said, "If you don't go, who's going to go?"



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[laroche.edu/recruitaredhawk](http://laroche.edu/recruitaredhawk)



# Men's Basketball Advances to Second NCAA Tournament

BY JIMMY FINLEY

**T**he 2017-18 men's basketball team represents how individuals can grow and become a part of something bigger.

The Redhawks earned their third AMCC Conference Championship and advanced to their second NCAA Tournament. But it was not always so easy for Head Coach Hermie Carmichael and seniors Arnes Bajgora and Dion Etheridge. Three years ago the trio was reeling through a 1-24 season.

La Roche had a successful run over Coach Carmichael's first two seasons. The team appeared in two AMCC Tournaments, and Coach Carmichael earned AMCC Coach of the Year in 2013.

La Roche returned just one player from its 2013-14 squad. The following season was a test on the young coach, and it was clear that a rebuild would take time. The Redhawks won just one game in 2014-15, but the foundation was set. Coach Carmichael built a team based around his ideals as well as his predecessors: Coach Matthew Driscoll, Coach Scott Lang and Coach Harry Jenkins.

Mr. Bajgora and Mr. Etheridge witnessed the team's progression from cellar to champions. Starters RayQuan Phifer and Zach Gould joined the rebuild in 2015-16, and Trell Thomas rounded out the starting five in 2016-17.

The Redhawks saw steady improvement. They made the AMCC Tournament Quarterfinal in 2016 and an AMCC Championship Game appearance in 2017.

Mr. Bajgora and Mr. Phifer garnered individual honors, and La Roche was molding into a solid team.

Things came full circle during the 2017-18 season. La Roche went just 5-5 over their first 10 games, but the Redhawks began to grow like they had the prior four seasons. La Roche leaned on Mr. Bajgora and "Uncle Dion" (Mr. Etheridge) for leadership. La Roche responded with 12 straight wins and rolled into the AMCC Tournament as Regular Season Champions.

*"Coaching at the school where you played and graduated from is so special. I remember feeling like I helped put La Roche on the map back in 1999 after going from only five wins my freshman year to 13-12 my senior year, and losing in the conference championship by one point!"*

— Head Coach Hermie Carmichael

This year's AMCC Tournament played out similarly to the team's improbable run in 2010-11. The Redhawks cruised to an 84-67 victory over Hilbert College in the Tournament Semifinal, setting up a meeting with archrival Penn State Behrend in the title game.

The AMCC Championship Game was a classic with La Roche holding off a charging

Penn State Behrend 77-74. Mr. Etheridge celebrated the moment by tossing the ball in the air as the game clock hit zero. Mr. Etheridge, Mr. Bajgora and the Redhawks had trusted the process, and it paid off.

La Roche advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the second time (2011). The Redhawks battled perennial power Johns Hopkins University, but the Blue Jays pulled away late at 52-39 to end La Roche's season.

The loss was bittersweet.

Junior Ryan Norkus reflected on the season. "We grew as a family throughout the season," he said. "We began to trust one another, which allowed us to become as successful as we were."

Mr. Bajgora, Mr. Phifer and Mr. Thomas were named to the AMCC All-Conference Team, and Coach Carmichael was named AMCC Co-Coach of the Year. Mr. Bajgora also was selected by his teammates to represent La Roche on the AMCC All-Sportsmanship Team.

Mr. Bajgora and Mr. Etheridge concluded their basketball careers as champions. They moved on but remain part of a family that is primed to make another run in 2018-19. The responsibility now falls to the underclassmen who are hungry and know what it takes to win a championship.

"We have definitely put La Roche on the map with back-to-back 20 win seasons, and this year 21 wins, an AMCC Championship and a trip to the NCAA tournament," Coach Carmichael said.





## La Roche Welcomes Four Alumni to Athletic Hall of Fame

**L**a Roche College is proud to announce that Ken Elliott '95, Katie Bianco '02, Dylan Grazier '10 and Chantelle Jennings '11 were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

### Ken Elliott — Baseball (1991-1995)

Upon graduating Mr. Elliott ranked among La Roche's all-time leaders in hits, home runs, RBIs and walks.

### Katie Bianco — Women's Soccer (1998-2002)

Ms. Bianco was a three-time AMCC All-Conference performer, team captain and MVP during her senior season, and was the 2002 winner of the Harry G. Austin Award. She was one of just seven players to have 25 goals and 25 assists, and ranks fourth all-time in assists.

### Dylan Grazier — Men's Basketball (2006-2010)

Mr. Grazier was the AMCC Player of the Year runner-up in 2010. He was named to the AMCC All-Conference First Team in 2008 and 2010, and the AMCC All-Conference Second Team in 2009. Mr. Grazier holds the school record for three-pointers and ranks third all-time in scoring.

### Chantelle Jennings — Women's Basketball (2007-2011)

Ms. Jennings was named to the AMCC All-Conference First Team in 2010 and 2011, and the ECAC All-Regional Second Team in 2010. She was a two-time AMCC Player of the Week and ECAC Player of the Week, led the AMCC in scoring and ranked fifth in the NCAA in 2010. In addition Ms. Jennings led the AMCC in free-throw percentage. She is the fourth all-time leading scorer and helped La Roche win its first-ever AMCC Championship.

## Women's Basketball Earns Playoff Berth Johnson and Cole Honored with Spots on AMCC All-Conference Team

**A**ll good things must come to an end. The Lady Redhawks enjoyed a successful 2017-18 campaign despite their AMCC Championship streak ending at seven. The team finished sixth in the AMCC Conference standings and earned a spot in the AMCC Tournament Quarterfinals.

Senior Darrian Johnson was named to the AMCC All-Conference Second Team. Sophomore Jenna Cole made the AMCC All-Conference Third Team and the AMCC All-Sportsmanship Team. Ms. Johnson was the Redhawks' top scorer and the sixth ranked scorer in the AMCC, averaging 16.6 points per game. She ranked third in the AMCC with 52 three-pointers and fifth with 90 free throws.

Ms. Cole was one of the top post players in the AMCC Conference. She ranked 10th in the AMCC at 14.8 points per game and 13th in rebounding, averaging 7.1 a game. At one point in the season, Ms. Cole strung together five straight double-doubles and had six on the season. She also closed the year with 12 straight games scoring in double figures.



Senior Darrian Johnson was the Redhawks' top scorer and the sixth ranked scorer in the AMCC.

~ 2018 ~

La Roche College

**SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS**



# **SOCCE**R

**JULY 23 - 27 / AUG. 6 - 10**

**BOYS AND GIRLS AGES FOUR TO 16**

**CONTACT: [miguel.lozano@laroche.edu](mailto:miguel.lozano@laroche.edu)**

# **VOLLEYBALL**

**JULY 21 | 9 to 11 a.m.**

*Hitting and blocking*

**OPEN AGES EIGHT TO 18**

**JULY 16 - 18 | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

*Skills and game play*

**GRADES EIGHT THROUGH 12**

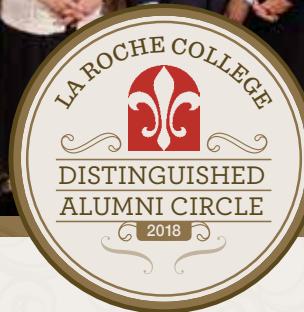
**CONTACT: [nicole.bajuszik@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.bajuszik@gmail.com)**



# CELEBRATE LA ROCHE!



# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI 2018



The Distinguished Alumni Circle, established in 2013, honors graduates for their outstanding professional achievements and dedication to community service. In April 2018 La Roche College inducted 14 notable alumni during the *Celebrate La Roche!* dinner and anniversary gala at the Omni William Penn Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh.

## Anthony Battaglia '95, M.S. RN

*President  
Pocket Nurse*

## LouAnn Brindle '99, MSN, RN

*Director, Medical Staff Services/  
Graduate Medical Education  
UPMC Passavant*

## Donna Brosky '78, OTD

*Supervisor, Home Health & Hospice  
Occupational Therapy  
Bethlen Communities*

## James Dill '77

*Accounting/Finance Manager  
Teledyne Wireless Inc.*

## J. Sean Frank '02

*Lieutenant  
Shaler Township Police Department*

## Karen Hartman '93

*President and CEO  
Corazon Inc.*

## Karen Kersting '79, NCIDQ, ADIS

*Owner  
Alane Design*

## Janice Kusserow '91, RN

*Embedded Care Manager  
Gateway Health*

## Kheir Mugwaneza '04, M.S.

*Immigrant Health Program Manager  
Allegheny Health Network*

## Sister Camille Panich '73, SCN, Ed.D., M.Ed.

*International Baccalaureate  
Coordinator (Retired)  
AP Calculus Teacher (Retired)  
Vincentian Academy*

## Mary Anne Rivera '94, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor (Retired)  
Gannon University*

## Faith Savasta '85, MSN, RN

*Registered Nurse  
Primetime Adult Day Care*

## Laurien Sibomana '04, M.S.

*Research Assistant  
University of Pittsburgh*

## Marsi Thrash '90, MBA

*Regional Field Director/South –  
State Government Affairs  
American Psychiatric Association*



# Interest In Languages, Travel Sparked Donna Reuss' Lifelong Military Career

BY VANESSA ORR

**W**hen Donna Reuss '80 decided to leave La Roche College to join the Army after only attending for a year, she didn't know that she'd be back. She also didn't know that her experience in the service, and a later degree in bilingual business administration, would pave the way to a career that would include working in military intelligence all over the world.

"My plan had always been to join the Army, but my mom was very upset, telling me that I was smart and wasting my life, so I went to college because she wanted me to," Ms. Reuss said of her first stint at La Roche. "I'd gone to Catholic grade school and knew about the Sisters of Divine Providence, and since it was close to home, La Roche was an easy choice. At the time my life goal was to be an artist, and the College had a program that let you attend the Art Institute and transfer credits."

Ms. Reuss said she still felt called by the service, however, and left college to enlist in the Women's Army Corps, where she served for three years.

"I wanted to see the world on my own, but I wasn't strong enough at the time to just pack my bags and move to the big city," she explained. "I figured the Army would give me training, as well as the chance to earn college money on the GI Bill. I could see the world, travel and get real-life experience."

Ms. Reuss served in the Corps from 1974-77 as a German linguist, debriefing escapees from behind the Iron Curtain in Germany during the Cold War. Told that she couldn't reenlist for a tour in Japan, she left the Army and decided to return to college to complete her degree.

"I had gained a huge block of skills in the

military and was able to get equivalent college credit at La Roche," she said. Ms. Reuss earned a bilingual business administration degree from the school in 1980. She later attended California University of Pennsylvania to earn a master's in geography and regional planning.

Ms. Reuss still felt called to serve, so she joined the Army Reserve where she stayed for 24 years. "They needed linguists, and it was a great chance to use my language skills," said Ms. Reuss, who is fluent in German and French, and also picked up a bit of Russian, Japanese and Italian. "It enabled me to have an international career."

Ms. Reuss credits the Catholic nuns at her grade school for teaching her French, and Sister Celesta Rudolph at La Roche for her expertise in German. "I took French from first grade through high school and started with French at La Roche, but then switched over to German," she said. "Since it was already second semester, I had to catch up to get in the German classes, so Sister Celesta taught me once a week in the classroom with her."

"That's one of the things that I really liked about La Roche," she continued. "The professors and sisters were always there if you wanted to learn. Because it was a small school, you could get lots of private mentoring. I also liked that a lot of the classes were taught by adjunct professors, so you actually had business people teaching you business concepts."

Ms. Reuss also enjoyed being in class with students from different backgrounds. "I loved the mix of cultures — not only the foreign students, but also being in class with nontraditional students, like the older ladies who were returning to school after raising their families," she said. "It made for a

wonderfully rich learning environment." Ms. Reuss used the lessons she learned at La Roche throughout her career, which included working as a civilian for the Department of Defense and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from 1981-2010. Her main role was in the area of federal interagency policy, which included the planning, coordinating, training and exercising of capabilities to ensure readiness for major manmade or natural disasters affecting the continuity of the federal government.

"I can't tell you a whole lot about what I did as the interagency senior planner responsible for coordinating all of the different agencies, but I can say that I worked on 'alternate facilities,'" she said. "At the time we were still utilizing Cold War bunkers, which look good on paper, but didn't make much sense in practice. If there was an emergency, how would senior officials get there? Would they leave their families behind?"

"We had to fight hard to get people to understand 'shelter in place' options for when they weren't going to a secure facility," Ms. Reuss said. "It was part of FEMA's changing mentality."

Ms. Reuss had planned to retire from the Army Reserve after 20 years and had six more months of service left when she was assigned as a protocol officer to a two-star Army Signal Command. She enjoyed the role so much that she stayed another seven years, retiring in 2003. She retired from the federal government in 2010.

"As a protocol officer, I was in charge of the front end of events and activities for a two-star general, setting things up and hosting VIPs at our unit," Ms. Reuss said. "One of the highlights of my career was hosting a signal unit contingent from Moldova; I escorted them throughout



Washington, D.C., to the Pentagon, Arlington Cemetery and the White House.

"As former Soviet party members, they had been my sworn enemy; I had been a 'Cold Warrior,'" she explained. "And here we were, together, watching the presidential motorcade driving by on 17th St. in Washington, D.C. Looking at their faces as they saw it and wondering what was on their minds — it was an honor to get to introduce them to what America truly is. I'm sure that they were blown out of the water by what they saw compared to what they had been told their whole lives."

Ms. Reuss said she also is proud of her work designing a training program for her reserve unit to prepare them

for overseas work. "Our reserve unit members did live mission work, debriefing people from other countries," she explained. "People either know the subject (signal intelligence), or know how to talk to people (human intelligence), but not always both. It's hard to keep your language skills up only working two days a month, so I put together a program that active duty members began using to prepare them before they went overseas."

Even though she is now retired, Ms. Reuss hasn't slowed down. She volunteers for a wide variety of nonprofits, including Meals-on-Wheels, Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically, Adopt-a-Block clean-up and American Legion Post 24, among others. A devout Catholic, she is a member of the Knights

of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary and the church choir, and also serves as a Eucharistic Minister and committee member for a variety of fundraisers.

A certified YogaFaith RYT-200 instructor, Ms. Reuss teaches yoga to seniors, and in her spare time she travels, making it to six of the seven continents. She recently returned from Antarctica.

She hasn't left her military background completely behind, however. Ms. Reuss volunteers for City of Alexandria emergency preparedness programs and operations, revising standing operating procedures and coordinating volunteers. For all of her service, she received the City of Alexandria Joan White Grassroots Volunteer Service Award in 2017.

# from my

## Jennifer Popich Finds Her Calling as a Flight Nurse in California

BY KURT HACKIMER '12

**B**eing a nurse in an intensive care unit (ICU) is an extremely stressful occupation. An ICU registered nurse provides care for patients with life-threatening medical conditions.

They are quick to identify and treat dangerous illnesses and injuries all while maintaining proper bedside manner, making sure that the patient is as comfortable as possible.

Now imagine doing this while hovering in a helicopter at up to 10,500 feet in the air. That is the everyday life of La Roche College nursing school graduate Jennifer Popich '09.

Ms. Popich is a flight nurse for REACH Air Medical Services, an air medical service provider based near San Diego, California. The La Roche alumna is part of REACH's 12-person team, which consists of five registered nurses, three paramedics and four pilots.

This small group of trained professionals is responsible for a radius spanning hundreds of miles from idyllic beach towns like Oceanside to the mountainous regions of Murrieta to the dry desert landscapes of Brawley and Imperial.

While these satellite towns all offer their own brand of outside-the-big-city charm, their hospitals are small and often not equipped to handle emergencies even as routine as a heart attack or stroke.

"We are basically medicine in motion," Ms. Popich said. "We provide the highest quality of care that we possibly can to stabilize the patient and give them everything that they need at that very moment, but quickly get them to where they need to go."

REACH has five bases in Southern California that range greatly in mission profile, from inter-facility transports to scene/911 response calls. For instance, while inter-facility transports account for 75 percent of REACH's missions from its desert bases, the exact opposite is true for the bases nearest to the city where 75 percent of the missions are scene/911 response calls. The helicopter often will land on the highway at the scene of an accident and fly an injured person to the hospital.

In all cases REACH's services are for emergency use, and their sole mission is to do what is right for the patients, to stabilize them and to rapidly transport them to definitive care.

"I can't fix anything up in the air, and I can't fix anything on the ground," Ms. Popich said. "But I am able to stabilize that patient. If they need an airway, I intubate them. If it's a trauma patient, we control hemorrhage, provide airway management, pain control and ultimately get them to a trauma center as quickly as possible because they usually need to go to the operating room."

Each week Ms. Popich logs two 24-hour shifts, from 8 a.m. one morning until 8 a.m. the next. The helicopters fly all through the night, and incidents are unpredictable, so these exhausting all-

day shifts can often turn into 26, 28 or 30-hour endeavors.

While on call Ms. Popich will get as much rest as possible. REACH provides on-campus housing for the flight teams that are on duty, and she gets a day off in between her on-duty days (shifts alternate weekly so that she'll work Monday and Wednesday one week, Tuesday and Thursday the other, etc.). But even though there are hours set aside for the crew to nap, the unpredictable nature of the job tends to disrupt any set schedule.

Beyond the grueling daylong schedule, crews also must deal with a variety of different missions based on their geographic location. For instance, Oceanside is nestled right along the Pacific coast. Most of the calls from the nearby beach town are trauma patients, often children, who usually are picked up along the beach.

The bases in the valley, which are more than two hours away by car, present different problems.

Earlier this year Ms. Popich's crew was called out to Shell Reef, a desert area popular with ATV riders and motor bikers interested in testing out their machines among the sand dunes. These unsupervised extreme sports often lead to extreme injuries, and the sandy conditions can become dangerous for rescue helicopters.

As Ms. Popich's helicopter began its descent toward the landing area, the propeller kicked up an incredible amount of dust, and the aircraft lost

# Ms. Popich

visual reference with the ground.

This is called a brownout, which is not uncommon when flying into dry, sandy areas such as those east of San Diego.

When in a situation where the aircraft is surrounded by dust, the crew will yell "abort," and the pilot will try to rise above the sandy storm, circle around and try again. Sometimes the vessel reaches the point of no return, and the pilot is forced to try and blindly land the helicopter.

On that day alone, Ms. Popich's crew experienced two brownouts. These unique challenges of flight nursing, however, are largely what motivate the La Roche alumna.

"The scarier it is, the busier I am, the sicker the patient — it all makes me work harder and makes me think more," Ms. Popich said.

Before she was in the air, Ms. Popich trained to have a more conventional career in nursing. She was working as a licensed practical nurse in St. Louis when she started looking to advance her education. While applying for nursing programs, she found La Roche, located an hour and a half from her hometown of Nanty Glo, Pennsylvania.

"From what I read, La Roche had a really good nursing program," Ms. Popich said. "It was not too big, not too small. I liked the area, and the College accepted my practical nursing credits. It was a good campus. I liked it there."

During her clinical trials at Allegheny General Hospital, Ms. Popich got her first exposure to the trauma scene at the ICU. She said that if it were not for her positive experiences at La Roche and Allegheny General, she might not have had the same motivation to pursue her career as a flight nurse.



*Top: Jennifer Popich '09 (second left) with a group of flight nurses and paramedics who volunteered to provide CPR and survival skills training to teenage girls ages 14-18 at a girls empowerment camp. Bottom: EMS crews at a scene call to "the dunes" in Glamis, California.*

It was while Ms. Popich was working as a nurse in an intensive care unit, often receiving patients via helicopter, that she became fascinated with flight nursing.

"I always thought that they had really good bedside manner and were highly intelligent people," Ms. Popich said. "You have to be really qualified to get this job, so I just started learning about it and just did everything that I could to eventually become one."

In 2015 Ms. Popich was working as a travel nurse. While in San Diego for a conference her travel recruiter contacted her about a trauma center position that was open in San Diego. She interviewed and was hired the next day under a travel contract. It was during that time she became networked with the Flight MedEvac companies, which eventually led to an opportunity with REACH as a flight nurse in 2017.

# ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2018

More than 250 alumni reunited with friends, faculty and staff this spring.



## 25th Anniversary of Pacem In Terris

In honor of the 25th anniversary of the Pacem In Terris Institute, 46 Pacem graduates and 55 guests returned to campus for special programs and events.



## Mass at the Motherhouse

Nearly 180 alumni, guests and general attendees gathered at the Mother of Divine Providence Chapel to celebrate Mass with Father Peter Horton, La Roche's former campus minister.



## Athletic Events

Former members of the men's and women's soccer teams competed in the alumni games at the Baierl Athletic Complex.

## Class Reunions

Homecoming 2018 featured special receptions for graduates from 1990 to 2009.



## 1K Fun Walk and 3K Race

Homecoming concluded April 22 with a fun walk and timed race around the La Roche campus.



## General Cocktail Party and Dinner

All alumni, guests, faculty and staff gathered in the Zappala College Center Square for dinner and drinks.



## SAVE THE DATES



### Holiday Alumni Reception

**Dec. 7, 2018**

Join us for one of the most popular holiday traditions in the North Hills. Reunite with other La Roche graduates and their families, and celebrate the holiday season at the alumni reception on campus.



### Spain and Italy Trip

**May 13-23, 2019**

Experience the best of two worlds during a trip to Spain and Italy with the women's soccer team and Head Coach Miguel Lozano. Explore Vatican City, the Isle of Capri and Pompeii, and beautiful Sorrento.

For more information contact Gina Miller, director of alumni relations, at [gina.miller@laroche.edu](mailto:gina.miller@laroche.edu) or **412-536-1085**.

# CLASS NOTES

La Roche alumni celebrate professional and personal achievements in life after college



**Andrew '16 and Eva (Ciccotelli)**

**Anderson '10** welcomed baby Jack Nicholas in January 2018.

**Tiffany Babinsack '16** graduated from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. She earned a Master of Public Administration.



**Nicole**

**Bandurski '07**

is an account supervisor for Mindful Kreative Inc., an award-winning, full-service marketing communications agency headquartered in Pittsburgh. She manages multiple accounts and leads projects across communications disciplines such as public relations and marketing to meet client needs.

**Anne M. Bowers '10** graduated with her Ph.D. in disability studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research focuses on transforming health systems to improve service accessibility and quality of care for high-need patient populations. Dr. Bowers was selected as the 2017-2018 Phyllis Torda Health Care Quality Fellow by the National Committee for Quality Assurance in Washington, D.C.



**Lynn Brockman '79** traveled to Orlando, Florida with **Jim Brockman '79** for the annual meeting of the United States Power Squadrons, where she received her Life Member Award for 25 years of service teaching safe boating.



**Dr. Tammy Andreyko '01** was inducted into Kent State University's College of Education, Health and Human Services Hall of Fame. She was presented with an award for Service to the College for her work with STEM programming and student recruitment.



**Lisa (Snider) Bergquist '01** and her husband Nickolas live in Penn Hills with their three children: Cole (16), Laura (12) and Milena (2). She earned an MBA from Rochester Institute of Technology and works for the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute (PPI) in marketing communications. PPI offers interfaith behavioral health care in churches, and continuing education for professionals and church leaders all over the Pittsburgh area.

**Craig Arlet '17** married his longtime girlfriend Laura Arledge at their home in Ross Township. He also began working for Enkompas Technology Solutions, an IT outsourcing/staffing company located in Ross Township.

**Michelle Bushée '04** accepted a position to serve on the board of directors for Treasure House Fashions. A former legal professional, Ms. Bushée spent much of her career helping families navigate the process of adoption. Today she is a multimillion-dollar real estate producer with Northwood Realty in Cranberry Township.

**Laura Carney '99** is a senior benefit communication and compliance specialist at WVU Medicine.

**Jennifer Celender '12** and her significant other welcomed daughter Peyton Marie to their family in summer 2017. Ms. Celender also finished a master's degree in education at Point Park University and graduated with a 4.0 in the K-12 curriculum and instruction program with a supervisor certificate.

**Christopher Churilla '10** moved back to Pittsburgh after spending three years in Monterey, California. He now works for Mars Area School District as a library media specialist, where he teaches library, media and STEAM content lessons to students in grades two through four. Additionally he is finalizing his third children's book.

**LeRoy Crawford Jr. '98** completed a doctoral program in education at Argosy University in Seattle, Washington.

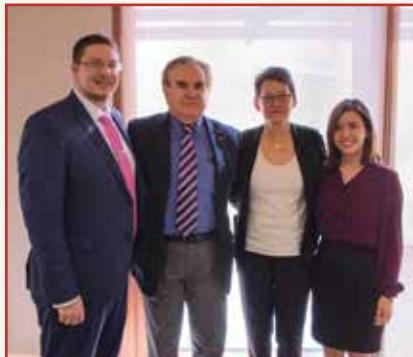
**Ryan DeFazio '15** is a paraprofessional at Peters Township High School.



**Joe Egan '04** completed his second full-distance Ironman Challenge, which requires participants to complete a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile marathon without stopping. He had a rigorous 20-week training schedule leading up to the race, which included pool swims at 5:30 a.m., six-hour bike rides and 20-mile runs. Mr. Egan finished the challenge with a time of 11 hours and 28 minutes.

a blessing to see green trees, flowers, and the first harvests of bananas and pumpkins alongside the damage caused by Hurricane Maria," she said. "It was a wonderful opportunity to be with my Sisters, visit people on the Island and hear firsthand their experiences of this tragedy. The faith and hope of the people were an inspiration to me."

**Father James Holland '86, RN, MSN** is now an approved FACTS speaker who can deliver an up-to-date presentation on natural or fertility awareness-based methods. The Fertility Appreciation Collaborative to Teach the Science (FACTS) is a nationwide network of trained speakers—physicians, medical students and other health care professionals—who are available to present to a wide range of groups. Presentations are designed for both medical professionals and for more general/nonmedical audiences. FACTS is affiliated with Family Medicine Educational Consortium.



**Michael Dye '17** received the Dr. Mehdi Heravi Internship Award. He is a student in the Global Governance, Politics and Security Program at American University in Washington, D.C.



**Cara Giannandrea '12** was accepted to Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business and will begin the program in fall 2018. She is a volunteer land pilot with Pittsburgh Aviation Animal Rescue Team.

**Nicole (Loskoch) Flaherty '04** lives in Gibsonia with her husband Michael Flaherty and daughter Ella Dai Flaherty, born July 6, 2013. From 2015 to 2016, Ms. Flaherty created a public garden space out of city-owned vacant land, in conjunction with GTECH strategies. The garden space is called Biggs Hillside Garden, located in Pittsburgh's Northside neighborhood of Fineview. In August 2017 Ms. Flaherty was promoted to senior manager marketing and sales support for Atrium Innovations.

**Ginny Giles '04** launched a consulting firm called Community Equip'd. The firm is specifically designed to serve small community-based nonprofits. Ms. Giles serves clients all over the country.

**Sister Donna Marie Gribschaw '74, CDP** spent several months with her religious community, the Sisters of Divine Providence, in Arecibo and Bayamón, Puerto Rico. She arrived in December 2017, three months after Hurricane Maria. "It was

**Timothy Layman, MSN '13** joined Thomas Jefferson University and Health System as the vice president of innovation and entrepreneurship. He is a board-certified nurse executive and an active member of the American College of Health Care Executives.



**Sara Makin '13, M.S.Ed., NCC** became a best-selling author overnight in August 2017, with the successful launch of "From Depression to Joy: A Parent's Handbook for Teenage Wellness." She also opened Makin Wellness, a premier therapy and life-coaching center located in downtown Pittsburgh. She specializes in comorbid mental health and addiction treatment.

**Lisa McDougal '00** is an account executive for Office Furniture Warehouse.

**Monica (Adams) Merrell '01** married William Merrell in 2004 and settled in Peters Township. In 2015 Ms. Merrell established a consulting company, Vesta Business Services Inc., to help businesses handle administrative, operational, personnel and facility issues, as well as the evaluation and redesign of processes, management of construction projects and delivery of safety training.

Ms. Merrell was elected to Peters Township Council for the first time in 2007 and has served continuously since then. Her new term runs through 2021. Her husband William is an elected director for Peters Township School Board and chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee.

In 2009 Ms. Merrell was appointed to the Washington Symphony Orchestra Board and is the board president. Through the years she has been active in grant writing, fund development, strategic planning and orchestra operations. She also supports various local nonprofit groups including Zonta and the Peters Township Library Foundation.

**Rebecca (Brinski) Peplinski '94** is celebrating her first anniversary as an independent contractor. She is employed by Trillium Health Resources as a medicaid encounter data analyst and works remotely from her home in Charlotte, North Carolina.



**Dana Rakes '07** and her husband welcomed baby boy Grant James Rakes on June 20, 2017. He joins big brother Jack.



**Jeff '07 and Lauren Saporito '08** announced the birth of their third child, daughter Phoebe Jolene, on Dec. 7, 2017.



**Francine (Hunt) Schumacher '87,** **BSN** is a patient service manager at Albany, VNA Home Health. She and her husband Rainer have traveled to Dubi, Florence, Sardinia, Munich, New Orleans and Colorado. This year the couple plans to ski in Colorado, fly fish in Montana and travel to Italy for a family vacation. Their oldest son David married Carlie Smith in Danby, Colorado, and their daughter lives in Boston.



**Kacy Scott '15**, an alumna of La Roche's medical imaging program, was hired as a full-time radiology technologist for MedExpress after graduation. In 2017 she became engaged to her boyfriend and also opened her own business, Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery and Crematory in Hermitage, Pennsylvania. Her wedding is set for Sept. 1, 2018.

**David Slemmer '81** and his wife live in Outer Banks, North Carolina near their grandchildren.

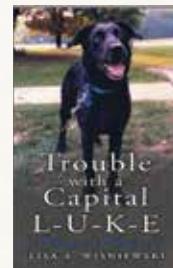
**Leanne Smollen, M.S. HRM '15, SHRM-SCP** relocated to North Carolina, where she is now the director of human resources for Hutchens Law Firm, a firm of roughly 275 employees across both North and South Carolina.

**Racquel Walters '09**, after years of working as a medical social worker in one of New York City's top hospitals, successfully launched a Career and Relationships Coaching Program.

**Greg Weimerskirch '90** started art directing "The Space Age," directed by Richard Linklater for Paramount Pictures in Austin, Texas. The film stars Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig and Jacob Tremblay, and will premiere in summer 2019.

**Rachel Whitligner '15** is a designer for the Pittsburgh Pirates. She is responsible for a majority of the design work for the minor league team, the Bradenton Marauders.

**Scott Wilson '97** is a retired teacher and coach living in Lubbock, Texas.



**Lisa Wisniewski '13** had a second book published by WestBow Press. "Trouble with a Capital L-U-K-E" is a true story about time and the value created through lessons learned in a special relationship with a dog. Told from a first-person perspective with transparent honesty, the story is a testament to a relationship that requires faith, patience, diligence and prayer. The book also is an example of how God works in ways we do not see to provide the things we need most in life.

**Courtney Yuska '16** was promoted to a recruiting administrative specialist position at BNY Mellon.



**Jesse Zafiratos '06**, head coach for Penn State Brandywine's men's soccer, was voted Penn State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC) Coach of the Year.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Emil M. Kuhar '78** (Distinguished Alumni Circle inaugural member) on May 11, 2018

**Anthony J. Mastellino '94** on Nov. 11, 2017

**Sister Mary Rene Procopio '70** on March 10, 2018

**Wilimina Stajduhar '77** on Oct. 25, 2017

**Mary (Ginger) Wardale '89** on Dec. 29, 2017

## SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES!



Share your news with La Roche College and fellow alumni.

Submit announcements regarding career changes, promotions, marriages, births, volunteer service and other major life events at [laroche.edu/alumni](http://laroche.edu/alumni).

Submissions may be edited for length and content.

**Dorothy "Dottie" Arnold (1929-2018)** passed away peacefully on Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018 at age 88. Often referred to as the "Mayor of La Roche," Dottie worked for more than 20 years at the College in administration and served as an unofficial "counselor" for many students.

"Dottie greeted students, staff and faculty every day with a warm welcome. She was the perfect person to be at the information desk. She made everyone feel special, often stopping people and asking about their lives. She was a great listener, as countless students would stop at 'Dottie's Desk' for a quick hug, some advice and always a patient ear. She was one of my favorite people, and I cherished my relationship with her," Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Colleen Ruefle said.

Dottie adored her eight grandchildren, filling them with stories and wisdom using her own unique language. She was proud of her Irish heritage, craved chocolate ice cream, was very involved in the community, and kept her hands



busy with crafts. Above all she cherished her faith, family and friends.

For 41 years Dottie was the beloved wife to John Arnold, who passed away in 1995. The College's baseball field is named in his honor.



La Roche College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, founded and sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, fosters global citizenship and creates a community of scholars from the region, the nation and around the world. The College integrates liberal arts and professional education in creative ways, empowering all members of our community to become lifelong learners, achieve success in their chosen careers and promote justice and peace in a constantly changing global society.

# Celebrating 55 years of Service Commencement Throughout the Years



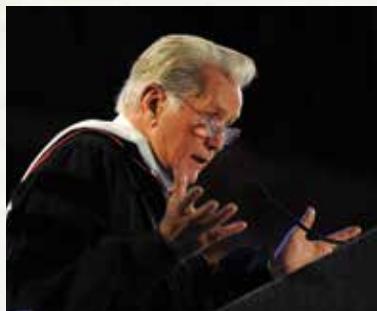
The first graduating class of La Roche College contained seven Sisters.



Monsignor William Kerr, the sixth College president, presents a diploma to a female graduate in 1993.



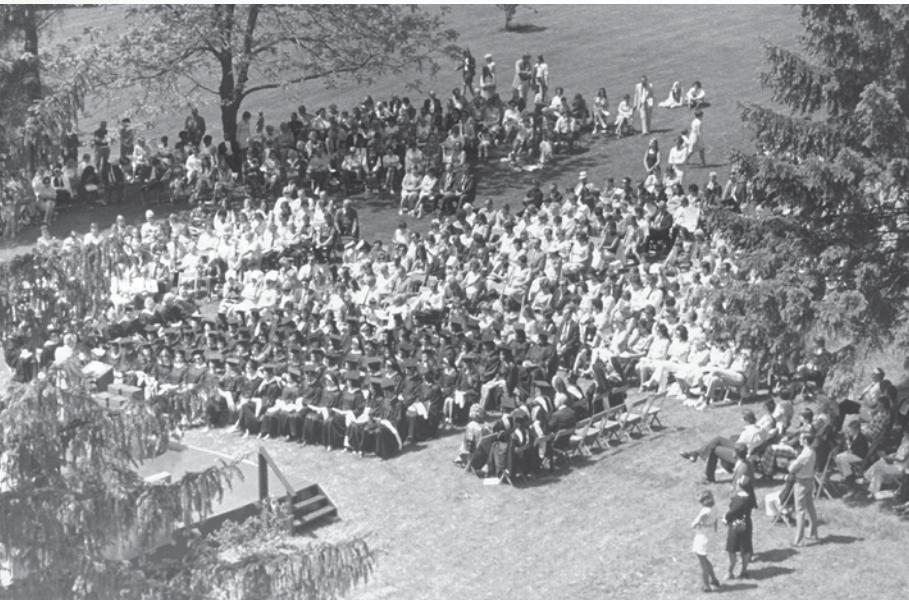
President Sister Candace Introcaso and Board Chair Kathryn Jolley '81 present Roberto Clemente Jr. with an honorary doctorate degree at the College's commencement ceremony May 5, 2018



Martin Sheen delivers the commencement address during La Roche's 50th anniversary year.



Two graduates stand with Sister Mary Joan Coulter, the fourth president of La Roche, in 1980.



Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan gives the keynote address at commencement in 2002. Queen Rania served as honorary chair of the board of governors of the Pacem in Terris Institute.

An aerial view of the Class of 1974.



# GRADUATE PROGRAMS

M.S. ACCOUNTING

M.S. HEALTH SCIENCE (NURSE ANESTHESIA)

M.S. HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

M.S. INFORMATION SYSTEMS

M.S. NURSING (ONLINE)

Administration | Clinical Nurse Leader | Education

MASTER OF EDUCATION

with Autism Spectrum Disorder Endorsement Certification

with PreK-8 Special Education Certification

DOCTOR OF NURSE ANESTHESIA PRACTICE (ONLINE)

***Classes begin Aug. 27***

[laroche.edu/graduate](http://laroche.edu/graduate)



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# HELP US WELCOME NEW STUDENTS INTO THE REDHAWK FAMILY.

*Share your words of encouragement with our incoming freshmen.*

A large, red, feathered Redhawk mascot is sitting at a desk, wearing a black t-shirt and a black telephone receiver. The desk is cluttered with papers, a keyboard, and a mug. In the background, there are bookshelves and a potted plant.

[laroche.edu/alumniadvice](http://laroche.edu/alumniadvice)

We'll share your message with students during orientation weekend  
and across La Roche College's social media. **PLEASE SUBMIT BY AUG. 10, 2018.**