

CONNECTED

the LA ROCHE COLLEGE Magazine | FALL/WINTER 2019



Communications, Media and
Technology Department Leverages

**INDUSTRY EXPERTS AND
HANDS-ON LEARNING**

IN THE MOMENT ...





LA ROCHE COLLEGE INVITATIONAL

The cross country team celebrates its victories at the La Roche College Invitational on Oct. 20. Seirra Anderson (pictured at left, smiling) paced the women's cross country team to a second place finish. Zachary Bauerle won the men's cross country race and was named the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Runner of the Week.





PHOTO: BECKY THURNER BRADDOCK

At the midpoint of our 56th academic year, I am reminded of how important our friends and supporters are, as we strive to educate students to be leaders in a very challenging global society.

This issue of *Connected* includes the names of individuals, corporations and foundations making donations in the past year. By doing so, they have endorsed La Roche's mission and have soundly positioned us for continued growth and success. For each of them, we are most grateful.

One particularly encouraging sign is the dramatic increase of support from our alumni. Last year 703 graduates donated to the Annual Fund, an all-time record and an increase of 63 percent from four years ago. This is a sign that our graduates recognize and appreciate the value of their La Roche degrees — and is an inspiration for our faculty and staff as they continue their dedicated service to our students.

Gifts and pledges to our comprehensive campaign — Many Faces, One Vision — so far total more than \$10 million, and are already being used to enhance student experiences in academics, athletics, student life — and most importantly, faith and service-based initiatives. Embedded in that campaign is funding for the much-needed renovation of our Science Center — critical to our already well-respected academic programs in the sciences and health-related majors. We continue to aggressively seek donors for this phase.

With every challenge in our fast-paced world, comes opportunity. The opportunity to make a difference, one action at a time. The opportunity to provide guidance toward, or along, a rewarding career path. The opportunity to help mold responsible global citizens who appreciate the value and strength of diversity. The opportunity to foster trust and respect for each other — on our campus, in our community and in our world.

As we welcome those opportunities, the generosity of our supporters gives us confidence. We greet each day with a renewed commitment to fulfilling the mission of our founders. And we pray that our Provident God will continue to bless La Roche and all who support us in our efforts.

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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the LA ROCHE COLLEGE Magazine

FALL | WINTER 2019

ACADEMICS

- 2 Director of Wright Library Retires After 32 Years of Service
- 2 Ordained Minister Turned FBI Agent Visits La Roche
- 3 Graduate Nursing Student and Professor Advocate for Federal Health Bills
- 3 Fourteen Students Inducted into Delta Mu Delta
- 4 Design Students Create Next-Level Space for Vincentian Home
- 6 Alumnus Offers Advice to Class of 2022
- 7 Literary Society Announces 2018-19 Schedule
- 7 Performing Arts Students Take Byham Theater Stage
- 7 Campus Celebrates International Education Week
- 8 High School Students Discover STEM

COVER STORY

10 Communications, Media and Technology Department Leverages Industry Experts and Hands-On Learning

CAMPUS NEWS

- 16 La Roche Recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*
- 16 Former Academic Dean Passes at 82
- 17 La Roche Named a "Best in the Northeast" College
- 17 Advancement Updates

MISSION & SERVICE

- 18 Global Problems, Global Solutions Explores Peace
- 19 Campus Community Gathers in Prayer Following Tree of Life Tragedy

ATHLETICS

- 20 Athletes to Watch
- 26 Redhawks Win Sixth AMCC Baseball Championship
- 26 Redhawk Continues Career in Pros
- 27 Sports Update

ALUMNI

28 Alumna Releases First Book, Shedding Light on Modern Immigration

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

30 Listing of Donors During the 2017-18 Fiscal Year

CLASS NOTES

40 Alumni Celebrate Achievements

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

44 Remembering a Special Friend: Richard B. Fisher (1923-2018)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

46 The Madrigal Dinners

10

28



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INSIDE COVER PHOTO: RYAN GEORGE

Director of Wright Library Retires After 32 Years of Service

BY DANIELLE DINATALE AND SARAH HEFFERIN

La Roche College recently said goodbye to its beloved Wright Library Director, LaVerne Collins, who retired this past fall.

Although she never had an interest in being a librarian until attending college, she joined the Wright Library staff in 1986 and served as director for the past 18 years.

She witnessed many changes the last 32 years, noting that over time the library shifted from card catalogues and printed indexes to electronic search systems.

"I enjoyed working at La Roche immensely," Ms. Collins said. "All of the changes that have taken place since I've been a librarian, all those databases were in their infancy — if you wanted a search you'd have to have a librarian do it for you."

When Ms. Collins took on the role of Wright Library Director, La Roche had been struggling to meet quotas for academic journals and books for student use. Through her work she opened La Roche to thousands of academic

journals and books when students needed them the most.

"I would try to find things that faculty wanted, especially e-journals. Students really want a lot of the databases to have full text," Ms. Collins said.

The best part of her job, she said, was getting people the information they needed.

"I didn't need any of those things personally," she said. "It just gave me a lot of satisfaction to know students and faculty got what they needed."

Ms. Collins said what she misses the most about her job is the people and helping them.

"When people would say: 'You helped me,' 'You found it,' 'I couldn't have done it without you,' that was the best part."

Ms. Collins received her bachelor's degree and master's in sociology from Duquesne University before



PHOTO: MEGAN JOHNSON

continuing on to the University of Pittsburgh where she received a master's in library sciences.

Along with her role at La Roche, she has been the vice president of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Catholic Library Association, president of the Western Pennsylvania/West Virginia Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries, and the Association's legislative liaison. As legislative liaison she was often in charge of planning meetings and getting the committee together.

Now that she is retired, Ms. Collins plans to travel, read and garden.

Ordained Minister Turned FBI Agent Visits Campus

Special Agent David S. Foster of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spoke at La Roche College in November.

Special Agent Foster's presentation focused on why he made the career change from ordained minister to FBI agent and how the two professions are much more similar than they appear.

William Crowley, J.D., assistant professor of the Justice, Law and Security

Department, said, "Special Agent Foster's presentation positively impacted both our students and the entire La Roche community by exposing them to someone who went from one interesting career of service based on faith to another based on the rule of law."

In addition to being an investigator on the Joint Terrorism Task Force, Special Agent Foster's current duties for the Pittsburgh office of the FBI include crisis negotiation coordinator, employee

assistance peer coordinator and joint terrorism task force religion outreach coordinator.

The event was co-sponsored by the La Roche Criminal Justice Club and the Office of Alumni Relations.

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.

Graduate Nursing Student and Professor Advocate for Federal Health Bills on Capitol Hill

This summer graduate nursing student Jess Colissimo and Assistant Professor Dorothy Kurylo, DNP attended the annual American Nurses Association (ANA) Hill Day through the Health Policy & Global Considerations course.

ANA Hill Day is organized for nurses to come to Washington, D.C. to meet with their representatives and senators to discuss key health care and nursing legislation.

This year's Hill Day, attended by 300 nurses from 45 states, was directed at lobbying for four federal health bills that directly impact nurses and patients. The Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2017 was the most pressing of the day's discussion. The act

would permit all Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to prescribe medical addiction treatment to increase access to treatment for those suffering from opioid addiction.

Ms. Colissimo and Dr. Kurylo asked representatives to vote no to the Dunn Amendment, which would have removed the ability of APRNs to prescribe medical treatment to opioid addicts. The Dunn Amendment was defeated.

Part of the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2017 was combined into The SUPPORT for Patients and



Assistant Professor Dorothy Kurylo (left) and graduate nursing student Jess Colissimo visit Senator Robert P. Casey's (D-PA) office during their trip to Washington, D.C.

Communities Act, a comprehensive piece of legislation aimed at combatting the opioid epidemic that is ravaging America. The act became law in October after passing through the House of Representatives, the Senate and President Donald Trump.

Ms. Colissimo and Dr. Kurylo will attend Hill Day next year.



PHOTO: RYAN GEORGE

Back left to right: Michael R. Wetmiller Jr., Luc Jaromir Tyler, William Steinmetz, Ian Dee Muchiri Theuri, Cameron Smith, Professor Mark Sipper, JD, Courtney Knobeloch, Professor Mark Dawson, Kasey Baronick and Angela Cisneros. Front left to right: Thomas Vukson, Audrey Swanderski, Dr. Michaela A. Noakes, Barbara Slade, Jessica Nakamura and Emily Aftanaz. Not pictured: Alysa Gumto

Students Inducted into International Business Honor Society

Fourteen La Roche College students became members of Delta Mu Delta, the international honor society in business, in November.

Delta Mu Delta membership is the highest recognition a business student can earn. The organization promotes higher scholarship in training for business and recognizes scholastic attainment in business subjects.

Interior Design Students Create Next-level Space for Vincentian Home

BY VANESSA ORR



From left to right, Associate Professor Maria Ripepi Diven, Tran Chi Duc (Kevin) Bui, Rachel Hibshman, Christie Adamiak, Maria Cross, Sloan Hoye, Angela Chusko and Associate Professor Lisa Kamphaus.

One of the biggest challenges of interior design is working with clients to understand their specific needs and creating a space that meets their requirements. And one of the biggest rewards is seeing the joy on a client's face when that vision becomes a reality.

In most college interior design classes, students rarely get a chance to work with real clients. This past spring sophomore students in La Roche College's Interior Design Program not only got the chance to work with an actual client — Vincentian Home — but had the opportunity to design a massive space to meet the needs of residents, their families and staff.

"Our sophomore-level interior design students took on the project of redesigning common and community spaces within Vincentian Home — an approximately 24,000 square foot project that included a new entry, living space, a coffee bar, game room, a café, private dining areas, offices,

staff and volunteer lounges, a library, a multipurpose room, gift shop, restrooms, corridor space and an outdoor courtyard," Associate Professor and Design Division Chair Lisa Kamphaus, MSIA, ASID, LEED-AP ID+C, said. "It was quite an achievement."

"So often in class, students work on hypothetical projects that are more about the style or design that they like," Associate Professor of Interior Design Maria Diven, who led the project for La Roche, said. "This time they weren't just designing what they wanted to, but had to meet the needs of a certain audience. They were designing for someone else's vision and creating something real."

From Walk-through to Reality

When Vincentian Home first approached La Roche about participating in the redesign of its facility, they were looking for innovative solutions.

"We're always looking for new partners, both in health care and in other opportunities, and since we had an older building that needed renovations, we

decided to look for new, fresh ideas," Nathan Doherty, executive director of facilities and support services of Vincentian Collaborative System, said. "We thought, 'Why not ask our neighbors?' It made sense for us to collaborate; the students could give us ideas, and we could give them a chance to try their designs in the real world."

The sophomore class, which included Maria Cross, Christie Adamiak, Rachel Hibshman, Sloan Hoye, Angela Chusko and Tran Chi Duc (Kevin) Bui, first toured the facility and met with administration and staff to discuss their vision.

"The students were very nice, very professional, and represented the College well. They had a lot of great questions and were very inquisitive," Mr. Doherty said, adding that knocking out walls and raising roofs were just some of the early suggestions. "I loved their enthusiasm."

In addition to taking the tour, the class also worked with students in La Roche's Management Program, who designed surveys to be distributed to staff, residents and family members.



The answers to these surveys, as well as one-on-one interviews with residents and staff, were used to guide in the design process.

The students received more than 100 survey responses; and analyzed the information, noting what amenities residents and staff found important or not important, or found lacking or missing.

"What students came up with was the concept of Connections — creating a natural and transcendent space which promotes connectivity while instilling community through independence," Ms. Kamphaus said.

Before beginning the design, the students researched regulations governing senior communities in Pennsylvania, and reviewed the latest trends in the industry. They also measured the space and took note of places that needed improvement.

"One of the biggest issues was space planning; there were doors that swung

out and blocked hallways, and places where wheelchairs couldn't pass through," Christie Adamiak, interior design student, said. "There were a number of lighting concerns. There also was a beautiful courtyard, but they weren't using it. And there were a number of spaces that had potential, but were just sitting there unused."

The students, who were split into groups to work on specific aspects of the design, worked both in and out of class on the project. "It was just like a working studio — together, we developed an overarching scheme for the space, then students had different areas of responsibility," Ms. Diven said. "Each incorporated certain design and architectural elements so that there would be continuity among spaces.

"Just like in a division meeting, they were expected to give reports and show their work, and the first 45 minutes of each class was spent getting input from each other," she said of the project that began at the end of February and finished in May.

Among other design elements, Ms. Adamiak and her partner, Sloan Hoye, chose to add a café/bistro area to the floorplan. "We wanted a place where families could come and relax, and where residents could congregate with other residents," she explained. "We gave it a very open feel, and we also created some areas against the windows where people could work if they wanted, which might encourage college students to visit. We wanted to give it multigenerational appeal."

In response to residents' survey responses, the students also created a garden area in the courtyard containing handicapped-accessible planters and a calming water feature, and an outdoor eating area that connects to the café, so residents can enjoy dining inside or out. Additions to a game room included more card tables, a large TV and gaming consoles to keep younger generations of visitors entertained.

Maria Cross and her partner, Angela Chusko, worked on the entryway, opening it up so that visitors could come in from the front or back of the building.

"We also created a little rocking chair space that looks out into the garden, so that it would have some familiar elements to remind people of home," Ms. Cross said. "We also added comfy sofas, a coffee area and a fireplace to create a really nice common area where residents can feel comfortable sitting down with friends."

While the project was very rewarding, it also had its challenges. "It was very different from just working in class; we were given floor plans, but they weren't to scale, so we had to measure everything," Ms. Adamiak said. "Doing a renovation was so different from working on a new building; I'm just hopeful that what we did helped to meet residents' requests."

"When we're doing theoretical projects, we make up our own clients and get feedback from our professors," Ms. Cross added. "In real life you get a lot of

different ideas that you wouldn't expect, and both positive and negative input. The site visit was especially eye-opening.

"I loved the experience," she added. "I love working with the elderly, and it's exciting to try to make their lives better. Design is often overlooked when you consider the role it can have in improving people's lives; this project actually changed the way I think about design."

While the students' reactions were overwhelmingly positive, so was the response at Vincentian Home.

"We were blown away by the designs; they were way better than we had imagined for the space," Mr. Doherty said. "The students provided phenomenal designs that included an incredible open concept with very comfortable interiors that could meet

the needs of our residents and families. They also took into account accessibility for staff and improved workflow. There were a number of ideas that I would love to incorporate."

Any changes to the facilities need to undergo an extensive review process from the Department of Health. While changes may not happen immediately, the sophomore interior design students gave Mr. Doherty ideas for the future.

"There are a lot of old buildings out there, and the senior population is changing," he said. "We're not building a place for my grandmother now; we're building for two generations down the road when people will be expecting more of a hospitality or hotel-type experience. This type of design takes a facility to the next level."

Alumnus Offers Advice to Class of 2022

This year's convocation speaker, Peter Biernesser '16, M.S. '17, challenged freshmen to stand out from the crowd.

"Don't just be another face or another name because someone in that class is going to remember you for something," he said. "Who knows, they might be the next hiring manager at a job you want or a future coworker."

Mr. Biernesser earned a master's in information systems and bachelor's degrees in management information systems and business management from La Roche College. He is a Quality Assurance Engineer II at Smith Micro Software, where he develops process and strategy improvement for software deployment implemented on millions of devices. Mr. Biernesser also is a business manager for American Worm Growers, LLC.

"Be present in everything you do. Be active in the classroom and on campus. Leave an impression, and make a mark," Mr. Biernesser told students. "Be someone to remember and someone you would recommend."

As a La Roche student, Mr. Biernesser was the president of the Delta Mu Delta Business Honor Society and led the chapter to achieve a national award based on the leadership of the chapter administration. He also was president of La Roche's student chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals.

Academic Convocation was held in the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center during Freshman Orientation.



PHOTO: RYAN GEORGE

Literary Society Announces 2018-19 Schedule

The La Roche College Literary Society invites the public to a free, on-campus series featuring a book reading and lessons of faith found in Broadway productions.

“Motherlands”

Friday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.

Ryan Room | Zappala College Center

Natasha Garrett '96, Ph.D., moved from her native Macedonia to the United States to attend college. In this presentation Dr. Garrett, La Roche's director of international student services, will read excerpts from her book, “Motherlands,” and discuss the changing patterns of immigration.

Dr. Garrett's poetry, personal essays and translations have appeared in Transnational Literature, Gravel, Allegro Poetry Magazine, Arts and Letters, and other publications.

Stages of Faith

Friday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

Room 201 | Palumbo Science Center

Examining some of the classics as well as newer Broadway productions, Father Peter Horton, former La Roche campus minister, will speak on lessons of faith coming from the theatre.

There are images of redemption being brilliantly portrayed on the stage through the work of composers, authors and actors from the past and the present. Through great music and great lyrics, Broadway has much to offer as we travel on this wonderful journey of life within the context of human experience and the gift of faith.

Father Peter is currently the pastor of St. Thomas More and St. John Capistran.

Initiated in the early 1980s, the La Roche Literary Society provides a forum for scholarship and discussion on literature and other issues. For more information about the upcoming presentations, contact Sister Rita Yeasted, SFCC '68, Ph.D., at 412-536-1216 or rita.yeasted@laroche.edu.



PHOTO: ERIC ROSE

Performing Arts Students Take Byham Theater Stage

Student dancers from La Roche College performed at the Byham Theater during Bodiography Contemporary Ballet's “Multiplicity” in November.

Presented in partnership with The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, “Multiplicity” featured collaborative and artistic work

while exploring each choreographer's vision and talent.

All performers were La Roche guest artists or faculty members. Five La Roche performing arts majors were integrated into different works.



Campus Celebrates International Education Week

From Nov. 12 to 16 students, faculty and staff celebrated La Roche's multicultural community during International Education Week.

Activities included a food truck fest, a global game day and Global Snapshot Day, a celebration of La Roche's many cultures featuring desserts from around the world.

High School Students Discover STEM at La Roche

La Roche College invited high school students to explore the fields of science, technology, engineering and math at Discover STEM in October.

High school students participated in hands-on STEM workshops prepared by La Roche faculty. Workshop topics included chemistry, biology, math, engineering, technology and exercise science.

"A general introduction to STEM concepts is very helpful to students considering a STEM-related major in college," Chair of the Computer Science

Department Jeffery Perdue, M.S., said. "Students may discover one or more areas of interest for further study."

Panel discussions for students and parents focused on careers in STEM. Additionally parents attended information sessions on college access and financial aid.

Discover STEM was sponsored by the Brooks Foundation and supported by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) North Hills Pittsburgh, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Top: Dr. Don Fujito and students explore the uses and properties of dry ice. Bottom: Alumnus Talman Charters, co-founder of Outside The Box Labs, leads students and their parents in a germ-filled experiment. Right: Students engage in faculty-led experiments.



PHOTOS: RYAN GEORGE

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Communications, Media and
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INDUSTRY EXPERTS AND HANDS-ON LEARNING

BY VANESSA ORR | PHOTOS: JIM JUDKIS

Communication is key, whether talking one-on-one, training employees in the workplace or reaching out to massive audiences via the big screen. With technology changing so quickly, there are more opportunities than ever before to connect with people.

La Roche College's Communications, Media and Technology Department always searches for innovative ways to get a message across and now leverages novel technologies, industry experts and hands-on experiences to teach students.

The College's Film, Video and Media (FVM) major, for example, gives students the chance to use the most up-to-date technology while also studying with award-winning filmmaker Crystal Fortwangler, Ph.D., La Roche's first-ever filmmaker-in-residence.

"We're hoping that students can take what they learn from Dr. Fortwangler and leverage it into something creative," Jeff Ritter, Ph.D., department chair of communications, media and technology, said.

Teaching Assistant Rishi Sethi, Meg Koleck and Filmmaker-in-Residence Crystal Fortwangler instruct students on the proper way to use various equipment.



Each week students meet with Dr. Fortwangler in a film and video colloquium where they explore filmmaking and work on group projects. Teaching Assistant Rishi Sethi, a Pittsburgh-based filmmaker who has worked on numerous film crews, provides day-to-day support.

"Our students have access to people who work in the field," Dr. Fortwangler said. "One of my goals is to keep students connected to the broad and diverse Pittsburgh film community."

One way students stay connected is by meeting and working with local and national filmmakers, who attend classes in person or via Skype during the weekly colloquium. Past presentations have included Meg Koleck on the topic of 360-video production and a teleconference with Ricardo Sarmiento, a cinematographer and first camera on Spike Lee's recent film, "BlacKkKlansman." David Majcher '15, a graduate of La Roche's FVM program, also returned to campus to discuss his work as a freelance sound mixer and boom operator.

Dr. Fortwangler's presence on campus, Dr. Ritter said, gives students the

opportunity to receive feedback from a real-world professional, and the colloquium allows for a hands-on, collaborative experience.

"The students' reactions have been great; they seem to be enjoying the colloquium and the chance to share the different projects that they're working on," he added. "Some students also are shooting projects together."

Due to the unplanned closure of Pittsburgh Filmmakers, La Roche modified the FVM program to ensure students still meet required competencies. Grounded in the humanities, the program provides a unique blend of technical training with a liberal arts focus. Students gain experience using the latest digital cameras, color correction gel kits and LED lighting, and they gain essential higher-level skills such as storytelling, writing and critical thinking.

"The hardest things to create these days are ideas and imagination," Dr. Ritter said. "Young people have the edge on this, and we want to give them opportunities to find their creativity and express themselves — that's where new



ideas, perspectives and ways of making movies comes from."

The liberal arts focus, he added, allows students to build a necessary foundation in literature, science and history, and to develop an understanding of mass media and its influence on society.

"We are not a technical college; the emphasis will still be on critical thinking and writing, and the social and cultural impacts of what we do," Dr. Ritter explained. "This program is not geared toward just getting students jobs; we are in the thinking business."

La Roche officially will introduce an updated FVM program guide and new course structure in fall 2019.

Game Studies Program Introduced

In 2018 La Roche added the field of game studies to its academic offerings. Students may choose between a certificate or minor.

"Gamification is one of the fastest growing fields," Dr. Ritter said. "Industries all over the world are using games to train new employees, or to 'upskill' current employees. Augmented reality, virtual reality and artificial intelligence also are going to bring gamification into a new realm of capabilities and imagination."

Formerly known as instructional technology, Dr. Ritter said gamification has expanded exponentially, in part due to market demand. "As other jobs disappear, jobs are being created that require more skills. Industries aren't waiting for schools to teach these skills — they're creating the tools themselves," he said.

La Roche's program is designed for students from any major who want to get involved with the creation and use of games and gamification in a variety of organizations. The game studies certificate gives students a background and understanding of games, gaming,

gamification and the games industry from a variety of perspectives. The minor provides a more in-depth exploration of gamification capabilities for training, business and education, and introduces students to a wide variety of career paths within the field, including writing, producing, managing, promoting and creating new games.

Introduction to Game Studies, for example, is designed to teach students to look at games beyond their roles as consumers.

"This course gives a different perspective on games, looking deeply at what games are, how people engage with them, the economics of the game industry, gender issues, games and violence and more," Nadav Lipkin, Ph.D., assistant professor of communications, media and technology, said. "The Games, Culture and Society course enables students to take and apply what they've learned to create real-world games — not using any programming — to hopefully apply

Students Jade Walker and Jasnoor Kaur modify settings on a camera.





Rishi Sethi, Crystal Fortwangler and students prepare to film an interview.

gamification in a responsible way in the workforce.

"These types of courses are rare," Dr. Lipkin added. "We're teaching a targeted skill set that game development programs generally do not offer."

The gamification courses are not for those looking to program or design games for entertainment and fun, but for students who want to learn how training and education industries use games and e-learning.

"For example, retailers may have employees play a stop-loss game that teaches them methods to identify shoplifters. There's also a virtual reality

game company in Pittsburgh created to train Navy recruits in ship engineering," Dr. Ritter said. "Another game might be used by a light manufacturing company to teach employees how to use new software. It's a good way to teach new skills and to measure how fast employees learn. You can't just hand them a book anymore."

As the field continues to grow, companies need people who not only understand the theory of game studies, but how to create, deploy and correctly analyze the data collected.

"There is a really big need in the workforce for people who have these skills. This certificate or minor will really stand out on a resume," Dr. Ritter added.



Meet New Filmmaker-in-Residence Dr. Crystal Fortwangler

Dr. Crystal Fortwangler spent five years as a professor but often wondered what it would be like to pursue her artistic vision outside of academia.

"I often incorporated small film projects in my classes, but I never thought of myself as a filmmaker, per se," she explained. "And while I was happy writing articles and doing research, I realized that I wasn't really reaching the volume of people that I wanted to; only so many people read your dissertation and articles."

Hoping to share her interest in environmental issues with a larger audience, Dr. Fortwangler began attending classes at Pittsburgh Filmmakers, where she spent two years learning from other artists. "My first film was successful for an independent film," she said, noting that her film about the influx of green iguanas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, "It Ain't Easy Being Green," was accepted into 12 film festivals, and was named Best Documentary in one and Best Short Film in another.

That success piqued her interest in teaching about film, and she began working at Tzohar Seminary in Pittsburgh, where she collaborated with young women on dozens of short films that featured a religious focus. She also taught youth workshops in the U.S. Virgin Islands, showing students in grades six through 12 how to make short films in a week's time.



When a hurricane hit the islands last September, Dr. Fortwangler decided to do more. "I wanted to use the power of film to help people heal and move forward, so I am currently working with a wide range of individuals there on a short film about how mask-making serves as a type of art therapy—how community members share their post-storm stories through the masks they make. It is a phenomenal experience."

"As a trained anthropologist, it was easy to move into film," she added. "You learn people's stories, analyze and interpret them, and share them with others. Filmmaking is telling a story in a visual way, pulling people in emotionally to learn about important topics."



Celebrate LaRoche

An evening showcasing La Roche College and
the Presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Circle Awards

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

The Westin Convention Center

1000 Penn Avenue | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
6 p.m. Reception | 7 p.m. Dinner and Program

Proceeds benefit the President's Fund for Excellence

laroche.edu/celebrate



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COLLEGE

U.S. News & World Report Recognizes La Roche College

According to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2019 Best Colleges Guidebook, La Roche College is a Best Regional College, a Best College for Veterans and a Best Value School. La Roche also is ranked among the Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs and Best Grad Schools for Nursing-Anesthesia.

"These rankings by *U.S. News & World Report* demonstrate the value of a La Roche education, the high-caliber of our faculty, the rigor of our academic programs and the success of our students and alumni. We are proud to be recognized for our academic excellence and for offering our students a high-value education which balances the reality of career preparation with the essentials of a classical liberal arts curriculum," Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean Howard Ishiyama, Ph.D., said.

La Roche ranks 23rd on the list of Best Regional Colleges in the North. Schools listed as Best Regional Colleges focus almost entirely on the undergraduate experience and offer a wide range of liberal arts programs at the bachelor's level.

La Roche also ranks 15th on the list of Best Colleges for Veterans in the North. These top-ranked institutions make a college education affordable by offering benefits to military veterans and active-duty service members. Qualifying private schools had to be certified for the G.I. Bill and participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Additionally, an institution, for the second consecutive year, must have enrolled a minimum of 20 veterans and active service members in the 2017-18 academic year and be in the top half of its *U.S. News* ranking category to be eligible.

La Roche appears 20th on the list of Best Value Schools in the North.

The calculation used for this ranking takes into account a school's academic quality and the 2017-18 net cost of attendance for a student who received the average level of need-based financial aid. The higher the quality of programs and the lower the cost, the better the value. An institution must be ranked in or near the top half of its *U.S. News* ranking category to be eligible.

Finally La Roche's Master of Science in Nursing program ranks among the Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs, and the Master's in Health Science/Nurse Anesthesia program ranks among the Best Grad Schools for Nursing-Anesthesia. Rankings are based on factors such as graduation rates, academic and career support services offered to students and admissions selectivity.

Visit usnews.com/colleges to view the 2019 Best Colleges rankings.

Former Academic Dean Passes at 82

Father Eugene "Gene" Lauer (1936-2018) unexpectedly passed on Sunday, May 20, 2018, surrounded by loved ones. He was 82.

Father Lauer's relationship with La Roche College goes back to the 1970s when he served as chair of the Department of Theology and academic dean. He was instrumental in obtaining La Roche's initial accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Father Lauer was a recognized scholar and was a popular pastoral minister, conference speaker and retreat master.

He later served as an adjunct professor for religious studies.

As a regular celebrant of Mass at the Magdalen Chapel, he always amazed the worshipping community by his ability to memorize the Gospel reading and deliver it eloquently in a conversational tone. The Catholic Common Ground Initiative was established in his honor.

Father Lauer is survived by his brother, sister-in-law, many nieces and nephews, and countless friends, students, colleagues and partners in Christ.



La Roche Named a 'Best in the Northeast' College

According to *The Princeton Review*, La Roche College ranks among the nation's best colleges in the Northeast.



The Princeton Review, a nationally renowned education services company, lists La Roche among its Best in the Northeast recommended schools in its 2019 Best Colleges: Region by Region website feature. For 15 consecutive years, *The Princeton Review* has ranked La Roche as one of the region's best colleges for students to earn undergraduate degrees.

The feature is accessible at princetonreview.com/bestNEcolleges. Only 225 colleges in 11 Northeastern states made *The Princeton Review*'s Best in the Northeast list for 2019.

Sidewalk Project Phase II Completed

With the assistance of a grant in the amount of \$222,000 through the PA Multi-Modal Transportation Fund, La Roche College completed the installation of new sidewalks.

Phase I, last year, included a new sidewalk along La Roche's main entrance. Construction recently concluded on Phase II, with new sidewalks extending from the main entrance road, along Babcock Boulevard, to the intersection of



Duncan Avenue and to the intersection of Providence Boulevard.

These sidewalks will benefit the safety and convenience of our students who use public transportation or walk to McCandless Crossing for work, shopping or recreation.

Grant Received for Science Center Renovation

The Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) for the Science Center Renovation recently awarded La Roche College a competitive grant.

This grant of \$500,000 brings total RACP funding to \$1.5 million and the

total amount committed to the Science Center Renovation to more than \$2.4 million, which is 55 percent of the project's goal.

Surpassing the 50 percent threshold is an important milestone and makes La Roche much more attractive to foundations and other potential funders as it pursues the final piece of the Many Faces, One Vision campaign.

Donors Propel Campaign

Gifts and pledges to La Roche's comprehensive campaign — Many Faces, One Vision — have now topped \$102 million, which represents 82 percent of the campaign's ultimate goal of \$12.5 million.

Gifts so far have been designated by donors for:

- Academics, Faith and Student Activities: \$2.4 million
- Scholarships and Student Aid: \$2.1 million
- Baeier Athletic Complex and Student Athletics: \$2.8 million
- Science Center Renovation and Other Campus Improvements: \$2.9 million

Alumni Participate in Giving at Record Levels

One measure of success for any college or university is the level at which the institution's alumni are engaged through volunteering, good will and financial support.

La Roche's alumni have continued to make great strides in support of their alma mater, with an outpouring of generosity.

Last year 703 alumni made a donation to La Roche, which was an all-time record number of annual alumni donors. This represents a 63 percent increase in alumni donors from four years ago. Thank you, alumni!

La Roche Global Problems, Global Solutions Conference Explores Peace

In November La Roche College hosted its annual Global Problems, Global Solutions conference with the support of UPMC and the Brother's Brother Foundation.

Global Problems, Global Solutions is a free, annual conference focusing on the progress, plans and initiatives related to the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. The sustainable development agenda seeks to improve and examine global issues such as child mortality, disease prevention, education, environmental sustainability, and peace, justice and strong institutions. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

This year's conference examined the topic of peace through a variety of student activities, panel discussions and volunteer opportunities.

"We are constantly being exposed to news headlines and stories that conjure up a range of different emotions. For this year's conference, we felt it was important to find a way to balance these emotions by highlighting examples of peace in many forms," Assistant Director of Global Engagement Emily Markham said. "We emphasized both what has been done to promote peace on a local and global level, and also addressed ways in which we can find inner peace as an individual and community."

Barry Kerzin, M.D., a personal physician of the Dalai Lama, presented the keynote address, "Finding Peace in Turbulent Times."

Barry Kerzin, M.D. Keynote Speaker

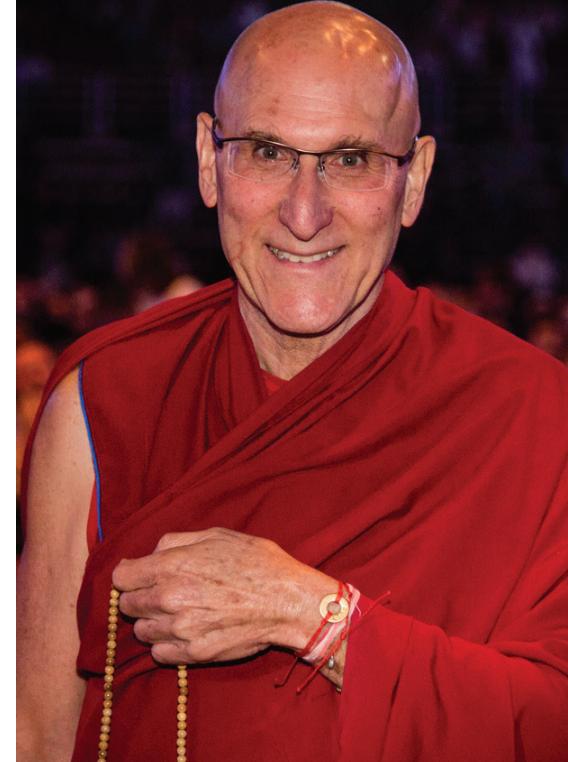
Dr. Barry Kerzin is an American physician, author, teacher and Bikshu, a Buddhist monk fully ordained by the 14th Dalai Lama. He received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of California at Berkeley and went on to

receive a doctorate in medicine from the University of Southern California.

For the past 30 years Dr. Kerzin has been residing in Dharamsala, India, where he has been providing free medical care to the poor, up to the highest lamas. As one of the personal physicians of the Dalai Lama, he travels the world teaching programs on compassion and resilience to medical professionals and corporate leaders in Japan, Hong Kong, Russia, Mongolia, Taiwan, Korea, Europe and North America.

Dr. Kerzin is the founder and president of the Altruism in Medicine Institute and the founder and chairman of the Human Values Institute in Japan. The goal of the Altruism in Medicine Institute is to increase compassion and resilience among health care professionals and their patients. Founded in 2010 the Humans Values Institute is committed to educating people about essential inner human values in a non-religious context.

As a long-term meditator Dr. Kerzin's brain was studied at Princeton University and the University of Wisconsin,



Madison. He also is consulting on compassion trainings for the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig, Germany. Some of his many public appearances globally include medical and surgical grand rounds, and as a White Coat Ceremony keynote speaker.

His books include "No Fear No Death: The Transformative Power of Compassion," "Nāgārjuna's Wisdom: A Practitioner's Guide to the Middle Way," "Tibetan Buddhist Prescription for Happiness" and "Mind and Matter: Dialogue between Two Nobel Laureates."

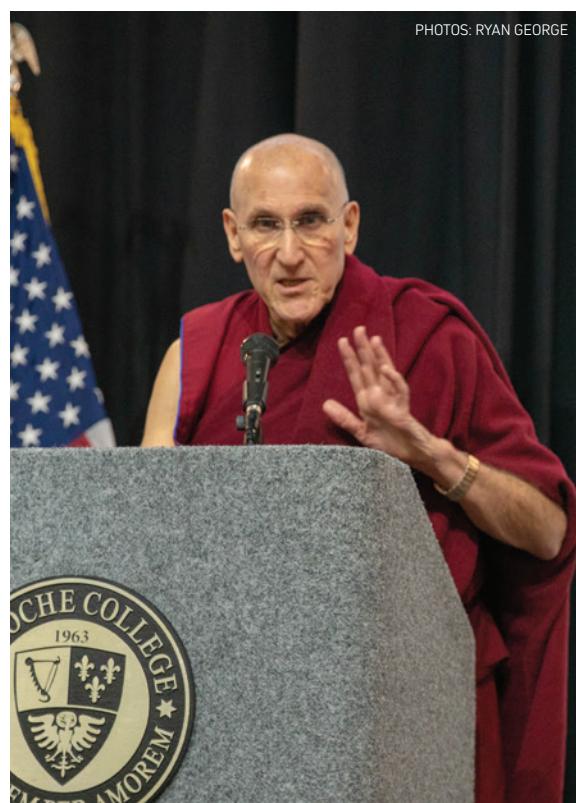




PHOTO: MEGAN JOHNSON

Campus Community Gathers in Prayer Following Tree of Life Tragedy

Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., president of La Roche College, led the La Roche community in prayer during a memorial service honoring the victims of the Tree of Life synagogue shooting.

"In the brutality of the attack, we see the power of one individual. One negative decision. One evil act. But as we recoil from this attack, we also must understand and appreciate the

power of every single one of us," Sister Candace said. "Every positive decision we make. Every hope-filled step we take in this battle for justice and equality.

"We are La Roche. We are stronger than hate," she added.

The campus community gathered in the Zappala College Center Square around 11 lit candles, in honor of the victims.

ATHLETES TO WATCH

They're competitive.

They're dedicated.

They know the value
of teamwork.

Meet the student athletes
who will lead La Roche's
spring sports and basketball
teams to hard-earned wins.

PHOTOS: MARKETING & MEDIA



Edward (Tre') THOMAS III

YEAR: Junior

MAJOR: Marketing Management

HOMETOWN: Ambridge, Pennsylvania

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- All-American Honorable Mention
- All-Region First Team
- AMCC Pitcher of the Year
- AMCC All-Conference First Team
- Last season he went 9-1 with a 1.47 ERA and 70 strikeouts in 61.1 innings
- Led AMCC in wins and ERA
- Two-time AMCC Champion

WHAT HE LIKES ABOUT PLAYING

BASEBALL AT LA ROCHE:

"I like playing baseball because it's a way to clear my mind. I feel free doing something I love, and it allows me to create bonds with other teammates or opponents on and off the field."

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE:

"I would like to give back to my community, while continuing to play baseball. Only time can tell, but until then I just want to be the best man I can be day-by-day."

WHY HE CHOSE LA ROCHE:

"I chose La Roche simply because it was a smaller school in a nice area with a very good baseball team."

HOW BASEBALL HAS ENHANCED

HIS COLLEGE EXPERIENCE:

"I am more socially involved and manage my time better."



Kaylee GRASSMYER

YEAR: Senior

MAJOR: Radiology Technology, Medical Imaging and Health Science Degree Completion

HOMETOWN: Johnstown, Pennsylvania

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Four-year starter
- Senior captain
- Helped the Redhawks to a 2016 AMCC Tournament Semifinal appearance

WHAT SHE LIKES ABOUT PLAYING SOFTBALL AT LA ROCHE:

"I have always enjoyed intense competition as I am a fierce competitor myself. Softball has had a positive impact on my life and taught me a lot about myself. It is an escape for me, and I have met some of my best friends through the sport."

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE:

"My goal is to work either in orthopedics, a doctor's office or an outpatient clinic as an x-ray technologist."

WHY SHE CHOSE LA ROCHE:

"I chose La Roche because of the campus and the small class sizes. La Roche was one of the few colleges that had my major. The school is far enough but also close enough to home."

HOW SOFTBALL HAS ENHANCED HER COLLEGE EXPERIENCE:

"Playing softball has enhanced my college experience in all positive ways. It has helped me grow as a person and makes the rough times a little less rough. My teammates have become some of my best friends. Through all the ups and downs, I couldn't imagine my college experience without playing the game."



RayQuan PHIFER

YEAR: Senior

MAJOR: Business Management

HOMETOWN: Youngstown, Ohio

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Two-time AMCC All-Conference
- 2018 AMCC Champion
- Ranked 10th in the AMCC in scoring at 13.7 PPG in 2018
- Scored 1,000 career points in November
- Ranked sixth in the AMCC in steals last season
- Ranked seventh in the AMCC in blocks last season
- Ranked 11th in the AMCC in assists last season
- Four-year starter
- Senior captain

**WHAT HE LIKES ABOUT PLAYING
BASKETBALL AT LA ROCHE:**

“I like the brotherhood and how close everyone on the team is. I like the coaches and how versatile they are.”

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE:

“My goal for the future is to have a great senior year, then I want to go play professionally overseas. After that get a job and coach on the side.”

WHY HE CHOSE LA ROCHE:

“I chose La Roche because I saw an opportunity for me to play on the team as soon as I got here. Also I wanted to move away from home but not too far.”

**HOW BASKETBALL HAS ENHANCED
HIS COLLEGE EXPERIENCE:**

“It has opened many doors, and I've met some great people through basketball.”



Dalezsa **REGAN**

YEAR: Senior

MAJOR: Criminal Justice

HOMETOWN: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Won two AMCC Conference Championships
- Four-year player
- Averaged 4.7 PPG and 5.1 RPG last season
- Twice scored a career-high 16 points last season

**WHAT SHE LIKES ABOUT PLAYING
BASKETBALL AT LA ROCHE:**

"I've built a bond with my teammates I've played with for years, and we became a family. My teammates are people I can rely on years after I graduate from La Roche. We share everything and don't look for anything in return."

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE:

"I'm not quite sure yet. I either plan to become a homicide detective or work in the juvenile justice system."

WHY SHE CHOSE LA ROCHE:

"La Roche has a great basketball program, and it was a chance to play under Coach Kamela Gissendanner."

**HOW BASKETBALL HAS ENHANCED
HER COLLEGE EXPERIENCE:**

"The older players helped me out with whatever I needed. They helped me with financial aid and class work."



Shawn McDANEL

YEAR: Sophomore

MAJOR: Finance

HOMETOWN: Baldwin, Pennsylvania

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Led the whole NCAA Div. III in ground balls in 2018
- Led the AMCC in face-off wins
- Ranked fourth in the AMCC in caused turnovers
- Starter as a freshman

**WHAT HE LIKES ABOUT PLAYING
LACROSSE AT LA ROCHE:**

“I enjoy the family atmosphere of the team and the competitiveness of playing in college.”

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE:

“I would like to break the school record for ground balls, graduate and find a job that I enjoy.”

WHY HE CHOSE LA ROCHE:

“I picked La Roche because I like the small school atmosphere.”

**HOW LACROSSE HAS ENHANCED
HIS COLLEGE EXPERIENCE:**

“Playing lacrosse has enhanced my college experience because it has helped me meet some of my best friends, and it helps me set goals for myself so that I am always working hard.”



Redhawks Win Sixth AMCC Baseball Championship

BY JIMMY FINLEY

La Roche College Baseball won its sixth AMCC Championship this season. The team has won the AMCC Championship five years in a row, claiming the title six times in the past seven years. La Roche also advanced to the NCAA Mideast Regional this season. The team went 1-2 against some of the best teams in the country.

The Redhawks' success on the field translated into individual accolades. Relief pitcher Shane Emrich became the first player in program history to be named to the D3Baseball All-America First Team. Starting pitcher Tre Thomas earned AMCC Pitcher of the Year and D3Baseball All-America Honorable Mention.

Outfielder Dylan Urban and Head Coach Chase Rowe received national

recognition. D3Hero named Mr. Urban Newcomer of the Year for having the best first year in the nation. Mr. Rowe earned D3Hero National Coach of the Year Runner-Up.

Mr. Emrich, Mr. Thomas, Joe Professori and Jon Spina were named All-Region players. Hudson Novak earned AMCC Co-Newcomer of the Year, and nine Redhawks were named to the AMCC All-Conference Team.

Redhawk Continues Career in Pros

BY JIMMY FINLEY

Former La Roche College baseball player and All-American pitcher Tanner Wilt is living his dream as a professional baseball player. Mr. Wilt signed a professional contract in the spring and played the 2018 season as a relief pitcher for the Frontier League's River City Rascals. He made 30 appearances for the Rascals.

Mr. Wilt concluded his collegiate career in 2016. He helped the Redhawks win the NCAA Mideast Regional and earn a spot in the NCAA Div. III College World Series. He closed the regional championship game and picked up a victory over Wisconsin-Whitewater in the first game of the NCAA Div. III College World Series. He was named an All-American and All-Region player, AMCC Pitcher of the Year and to the AMCC All-Conference First Team.



Men's Golf Takes Third Place at AMCC Championships

The golf team finished third at this year's AMCC Golf Championships at Avalon Lakes Golf and Country Club in Warren, Ohio. Pat McCall shot a two-day total of 155 to place fifth and medal.

Earlier in the season, Mr. McCall shot a 2-under-par 70 to win the Penn State Behrend Invitational, helping the Redhawks take the team title. His efforts earned him a spot on the AMCC All-Conference First Team. Tom O'Toole was named to the AMCC All-Conference Third Team.



Women's Tennis Returns to Postseason

The women's tennis team returned to the AMCC Tournament in 2018, displaying veteran leadership and depth to pick up the AMCC's final postseason spot.

Alexandra Mroczkowski was named to the AMCC All-Conference Second Team, and Miranda Lasher was named to the AMCC All-Tournament Team.

Men's Soccer Earns Trip to 12th Straight Playoff Appearance

The men's soccer team earned a berth by defeating Penn State Altoona 4-1 in an elimination game on the final day of the regular season. They traveled to Mt. Aloysius for their AMCC Tournament Quarterfinal game, but came up short and fell 1-2.

Ximo Vicent was named to the AMCC All-Conference Second Team and AMCC All-Tournament Team. Firas Abduljawad was on the AMCC All-Conference Second Team, and Ty Savochka was named to the AMCC All-Conference Third Team.

Volleyball Advances to AMCC Tournament Semifinals for Fifth Straight Year

La Roche clinched a spot in the AMCC Tournament Semifinals for the fifth straight season, but was eliminated by Penn State Behrend one match short of the finals. The Redhawks had one of their best regular seasons on record, winning seven conference matches for the first time since 1999.

Laura Nath and Hannah Scott were named to the AMCC All-Conference First Team. Sarah Storino made the All-Conference Third Team and AMCC All-Tournament Team.

Bauerle Paces Cross Country to Win at La Roche Invitational

Each Bauerle enjoyed a quality first season with the La Roche College cross country team.

Mr. Bauerle helped the Redhawks defend their home turf, winning the La Roche Invitational and guiding the men's cross country team to a victory.

The women's cross country team ran a strong race with Seirra Anderson pacing the Redhawks to a second-place finish.



PHOTO: RYAN GEORGE

Women's Soccer Players Named to All-Conference Team

The women's soccer team came two wins shy of reaching the 2018 postseason. Despite falling short, the team closed the season with a big 2-1 victory over Penn State Altoona. Seniors Kerri Phillis and Marissa Johnson, and freshman Alondra Gonzalez, were named to the AMCC All-Conference Third Team.

Alumna Releases First Book, Shedding Light on Modern Immigration

BY KURT HACKIMER '12

Nataša Garrett '96, Ph.D., the director of international student services at La Roche College, has been part of the College's fabric for decades.

Since she ventured to Western Pennsylvania from her hometown of Skopje, Macedonia, as a part of the inaugural *Pacem In Terris* class in 1993, Dr. Garrett has been recognized both locally and internationally for her accomplishments in educational and language study.

Despite spending more than half of her life in America, if one asks her where she's from, Pittsburgh is not the first place that comes to mind.

"I've been in Pittsburgh for 25 years, but when I think of home, I think of my home country," Dr. Garrett said. "But when I go there, I realize that's not 100 percent my home because I have left. People have continued with their lives, and I will go and visit and pretend that it is my home."

In her debut book "Motherlands," Dr. Garrett explores this nebulous biculturalism and the nuances of the often-generalized migration experience. In the book, which was released this past August through Legas Publishing, Dr. Garrett uses transnationalism as a springboard for discussing a wide range of topics such as home, motherhood, identity, bilingualism, family, education and travel.

While "Motherlands" is ultimately a literary and academic study of modern migration theory, Dr. Garrett opens up and uses her personal experiences as a vehicle to present this information.

"I chose personal essays because I feel like migration is talked about in a very

abstract way," Dr. Garrett said. "I wanted to provide a day-to-day textured view of the life of a migrant. In the periphery, it seems like an okay life, but there is still a sense of loss, and it's a challenge."

Every migrant has his or her own story, but modern-day transnationalism is largely more manageable than it was in the past. Generations ago, people who came to America looking for steady work, or to escape religious persecution, knew that they would likely never return to their homelands. Today's migration, known as voluntary migration, is different.

With modern conveniences, Dr. Garrett is able to stay in regular communication with family members overseas and visits her family in Skopje each year. Her 11-year-old son, who is raised bilingual so that he can remain both in touch with his heritage and communicate with his grandparents, can freely trumpet his Macedonian heritage while experiencing life as a young American.

But one of the points made in "Motherlands" is that even when migration is voluntary, it is still challenging. Dr. Garrett admits to frequently battling with homesickness.

For instance, in an essay from the book, she recalls how she missed Macedonia when her child was born. Unlike in America, most new mothers in Macedonia receive a year of paid maternity leave and have the benefit of affordable, government-run daycare. And when daycare is not an option, there are grandparents willing to watch the children. This caused Dr. Garrett to reminisce about the days she spent at her grandparents' house in the country, picking tomatoes and searching for four-leaf clovers.

Dr. Garrett's life in Pittsburgh is rich. She lives with her American husband and son in the bustling Lawrenceville neighborhood. In addition to her employment at La Roche and consistent writing projects, she is a member of the advisory board for GlobalPittsburgh, volunteers to welcome recent U.S. citizens, and acts as a liaison between international students and their respective national groups in the area.

Despite her prominence in Pittsburgh's migrant community, she often grapples with her own cultural identity and finds that it sometimes changes depending on her company.

"I feel like when I open my mouth, people know that I'm not from the States. But in Macedonia, people will say, 'Oh, you're American now,'" Dr. Garrett said. "So I am either not American enough, or I am only American, depending on who I am talking to."

Recently Dr. Garrett has been making stops at local libraries in support of "Motherlands," trying to connect with the community. Dr. Garrett said that these meet-and-greets have been enlightening for her, too, as she listens to others reminisce about their family histories and similar experiences.

Even her colleagues at La Roche, many of which she has known for years, have remarked about the candidness and relevancy of Dr. Garrett's essays.

"I thought only people who shared similar experiences would really get me, but I see that isn't the case," Dr. Garrett said. "But I talk about gardening, cooking and drinking, so there is always something in the book that resonates."

After graduating from La Roche in 1996, Dr. Garrett received her master's in English literature from Duquesne



PHOTOS: MARKETING & MEDIA

University and, years later, obtained her doctorate in social and comparative analysis in education from the University of Pittsburgh.

In her years as a writer, Dr. Garrett has had multiple personal essays, poems and translations published in various books, magazines and online publications. In addition to her role as director of international student services, she works as an adjunct professor for La Roche's International Studies Department.

"I feel like when I open my mouth, people know that I'm not from the States. But in Macedonia, people will say, 'Oh, you're American now.' So I am either not American enough, or I am only American, depending on who I am talking to."

— Natasha Garrett, Ph.D.
Director of International Student Services

In 2014 the United Macedonia Diaspora named Dr. Garrett to its first-ever 40 Under 40 list, which recognized Macedonian leaders and community role models who have excelled at their professions. La Roche also honored Dr. Garrett as a distinguished alumna in 2015.

Visit natashagarrett.pittsburgh412.com to read Dr. Garrett's poetry, view her public event schedule, or purchase a copy of "Motherlands."



2018 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

La Roche College is profoundly grateful to the following donors for their generous donations during the 2017-18 fiscal year (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018).

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In Memory of Sister Anna Marie Muck
Anonymous

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Yvonne Mulzet

In Memory of Georgia Nolker
Lonnie Nolker '06

In Memory of Patricia O'Donnell
Karen Watson

In Memory of Alyson Perry
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Eileen M. Petrone '03

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In Memory of Sister Mary Celeste Rudolph
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Alyssa Martin '11

In Memory of Lisa Vernacchio
Pam & Al Vernacchio

In Memory of Charles E. Winschel
Christine A. Saber

In Memory of Dorothy Wojciechowski
Andrew J. Wolf '16
Cynthia D. Wolf

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Gretchen E. Wolkiewicz '80

In Honor of Sister Colette Baran, VSC
Marjorie Zalewski Bryner '73

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Angela J. Longo '89 ♦ *

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In Honor of Sister Maura Dunn '71
Anonymous

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Linda Jordan Platt
Thomas L. King II '88

In Honor of Derek J. Yohn, CRNA '09, '11
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CLASS NOTES

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

Deborah (Weightman) Allen '97

recently accepted a position at Carnegie Mellon University in the Marketing and Communications Division, where she is a production artist for the Web & Creative team. Ms. Allen also has worked as an organizer with Handmade Arcade for more than a decade and now serves on its board of directors.

Thomas Arteritano '03 married Amy Lawrence on Sept. 30, 2017.



Rachel Bachri '14 and Eugene LaBorde '14 were married in North Park on June 16, 2018.

Amanda (Gilliland) Barron '12 was married at Disney on May 16, 2017. Ms. Barron worked at Hospitality Furnishings and Design. She recently moved to Tampa, Florida, with a job offer from Gensler as an interior architect.

Jim Binz '77 is the western field director for Special Olympics Pennsylvania where he recently designed and facilitated a leadership training course for new volunteer managers. His granddaughter celebrated her first birthday in August.

Lynn Bourchier '13 is a part-time faculty member at Butler County Community College. She teaches classes for the Human Resources Management Certificate Program.

Sarah Beauchamp '02

was a speaker at TEDxYoung-CirclePark 2018 in April. Her speech was entitled "Find Love in What You Are Doing." Ms. Beauchamp has more than a decade of experience teaching high school English and is a freelance writer.



Joe '76 and Donna Broksy '78

completed the Tour Du Mont Blanc hiking circuit through France, Italy and Switzerland in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary. They also visited the Notre Dame Cathedral, where they lit a candle to Our Lady of Czestochowa, whose feast day falls on their wedding day.



Kristen Buccigrossi '09 is now on-air radio talent for 100.7 Star and Pittsburgh's Country Y108 radio stations.



Toni Burley '15 now works for Treloar & Heisel in the Risk Management Department as a customer service representative.



Ashley '08 and Phil DiRenzo '07 welcomed twin baby boys to their family. Santino and Marco join big sisters Mela (4) and Lena (2).

Courtney (Yuska) Emery '16 married Everett Emery on May 19, 2018.

Francis Feld '97 recently traveled to Guatemala on a medical mission with Operation Walk Pittsburgh. The surgical teams performed knee and hip replacement surgery on 40 patients during three days of surgery. Two weeks later he was deployed to North Carolina by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of the National Disaster Medical System. While assigned to the Alabama 3 Disaster Medical Assistance Team, he worked in an evacuation center established in High Point, North Carolina, for people with significant medical needs. Mr. Feld is a nurse anesthetist at UPMC Passavant Hospital.

Stephen Ferber '81 is now chief operating officer of Strassburger McKenna Gutnik & Gefsky in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Jill Ferguson '92 published her eighth book, "Creating a Freelance Career," through Routledge in August.



Sam Flori '10 married Elham Rabiei on Aug. 4, 2018 in York, Pennsylvania.

Natasha Garrett, Ph.D. '96 published a collection of personal essays, titled "Motherlands." In the book she explores various facets of the modern migration experience and offers a look into migration both as a global phenomenon and as a deeply intimate experience.

Cynthia (Orpen) Gilkey '00 began working as a staff attorney for Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLSA) in August 2018. NLSA was established in 1966 as a nonprofit, public interest law firm to provide civil legal assistance to poor and vulnerable residents of Allegheny and later Beaver, Butler and Lawrence Counties.



Carolyn Castor Garver '98 was the recipient of the prestigious American Association of Nurse Practitioners 2018 Pennsylvania State Award for Excellence. The award is given annually to an individual nurse practitioner in each state who has demonstrated excellence in clinical practice. She currently works as a senior nurse practitioner in the Department of Anesthesiology at UPMC St. Margaret Hospital.

Laura Kalchthaler '87 earned a master's in business administration from California University of Pennsylvania in August 2018.

Dave Kasievich '98 continues to serve as the head of school at St. James School, an Episcopal middle school for low-income children in Philadelphia. The school has reached several milestones, which include adding a fourth-grade class and embarking on its first capital campaign to establish an adult education program and construct a new building to expand the school's reach. St James' oldest graduates are now applying for college.



Karen (Hughes) Kersting '79 and a number of her team members accepted the Don Turner Award aboard Old Ironsides for restoring the only fully operable WWII-era PT boat in the world. Ms. Kersting volunteered for seven years as a painter on the project.

Pelican Publishing accepted Ms. Kersting's manuscript, "Jack and the Devil Boats" for release in fall 2019. It is a middle school-grade book based on actual events about a young boy in New Orleans and his adventures with PT boats.

Tia Glomb '05 is a playwright, producer and director. Since 2009 Ms. Glomb has been volunteering at a nonprofit community theater on Maryland's Eastern Shore. A box office attendant and production assistant, she has been affectionately dubbed the theater's "Bio Wrangler" for her skill at collecting cast bios for production playbills.

Marie (Kretz) Green '04 has been teaching English at Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia since fall 2011. She said it is a marvelous experience teaching military men and women.

Michael Hassett '11 and a group of Peace Corps volunteers launched the nonprofit Friends of Tonga. Mr. Hassett currently serves as its president. Friends of Tonga is a charitable organization that supports educational and developmental opportunities in the Kingdom of Tonga.

Becky (Ostrominski) Jarold '81 has owned an interior design business specializing in corporate, hospitality and residential design for the last 27 years. She also has been blessed with a daughter.

Sandra Marsh-McClain '15 is currently the program manager of Refugee and Immigrant Services for Employment at Pennsylvania Women Work, a statewide workforce development nonprofit with a mission of transforming lives through empowerment, employment and economic independence.

Courtney Mason '17 was recently promoted to branch manager at Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

Michael Naughton '86 recently celebrated 35 years with Westinghouse Electric Company. He is currently the manager of global learning and America talent development, and also is a consultant for Leaders Imago, LLC, specializing in team manager development assessments and coaching. Mr. Naughton married Roger Lindler in January 2017. They have four sons, two daughters, two grandsons and two granddaughters with two more grandchildren expected this winter.

Gail Niermann '78 is in her 18th year in a private psychotherapy practice. She is a licensed clinical social worker and has three adult children.

Lonnie Nolker '06 left Commonwealth Charter Academy to begin a new adventure as a third to fifth grade special education teacher at Deer Lakes School District, his home district.



Abbie Nosal '00 welcomed son Quinn Roberts Nosal on June 19, 2018.



Dan '10 and Becky Pasqua '11 had their first child, Louis. Born Aug. 29, 2018, Louie weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces.



Brittany (St. John) Phatak '06 welcomed her first baby, Pierce Phatak, on July 14, 2018.



Laura Powers '16 married Eric Chiesa on June 30, 2018. She also began working for UPMC this year as a surgical nurse.

Devin Pratts '16 graduated from the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in March 2018. Mr. Pratts currently works for the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement.

Mike Radich '05 was invited to Harrisburg in September by the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) to be formally recognized as an outstanding young leader within the organization. Mr. Radich currently serves as vice chair of the PICPA Federal Tax Board, has blogged for the PICPA, and facilitates and teaches CPEs for the PICPA. He lives with his wife Mandie and their children, Ben and Allie, in Shaler Township.

RONALD RADWANSKI

Dallas, Texas, United States



Alberto Contrepose Demme 20K Gold
30 x 30 cm or 11.8 x 11.8 in

Right: Alberto Contrepose Demme 1 24K Gold
40 x 40 cm or 15.7 x 15.7 in



Contrepose Wendy Acrylic on canvas 24 x 72 in. or 61 x 183 cm
WWW.RONRADWANSKI.COM | RON@RONRADWANSKI.COM
78 International Contemporary Masters XI

Ronald Radwanski '77 was recently recognized and published in the 12th volume of International Contemporary Masters. Mr. Radwanski presently resides in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. This year he is continuing his contemporary art career and public services by organizing charity events to help local agencies for the care and adoption of dogs, and to educate children for the care of their pets in The Banderas Bay of Puerto Vallarta.

Samantha Ramsey '17 accepted a job with the Pennsylvania State Police as a chemistry technician. At the end of July 2018, she was promoted to forensic DNA scientist trainee.

Wendy (Wright) Renzi '01 accepted a new job at Ritchey Metals as human resources director. She started on Oct. 14, 2018.

Peggy Schmiedecke '12 was appointed to serve on the American Association of University Women PA State Board as the college/university representative to the state of Pennsylvania.

Dorinda (Kish) Spaid '81 made her freelance design business official and named it DESIGN KITCHEN. She specializes in greeting card designs and print collateral. Ms. Spaid was married in May.

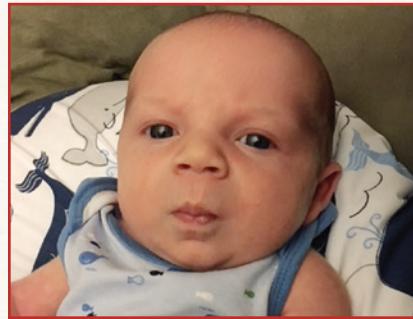
Lisa (Adkins) Schmigel '03 is happily married with two boys. She currently works as a full-time realtor at RE/MAX Select Realty in South Hills of Pittsburgh and Washington County.



Sarah Turnbull '16 started graduate school at Chatham University in August 2018.

Greg Weimerskirch '90 is art directing the feature film "You Are My Friend," starring Tom Hanks as Fred Rogers. The story centers on the transformative influence Mr. Rogers had on a journalist from *Esquire Magazine*. Filming is taking place in Pittsburgh and New York City. The film will premiere in October 2019.

Patricia Simmons '82 is currently president of the PA Delta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa and is on the executive board for Three Rivers Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. She also is the president of the Auxiliary Board for the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Baden. Ms. Simmons works the Box Office at the Strand Theater in Zelienople, Pennsylvania. She has been working with Westat for the past five years, conducting educational assessments in her region.



Melissa Wolff '09 welcomed a baby boy into her family. Tucker Robert Mazzanti was born July 24, 2018 at 10:13 p.m., weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Douglas Wilhoit '88 announced his retirement from Lenzner Coach Lines, in Sewickley, after 26 years in operations and safety. He and his wife Donna are relocating to Fairfield Glade, Tennessee.



Ashley (Ferrari) Zunic '12 welcomed baby girl Cheyenne Frances Zunic on Aug. 5, 2017.

IN MEMORIAM

William R. Cummings, M.S. '97 on Sept. 18, 2018.

Joan Dori, M.S. '83 on Dec. 19, 2017.

Jesse David Flati '00 on Oct. 26, 2018.

Ellen Fleming, M.S. '96 on May 22, 2018.

Mary Ann Geiger '80 on May 17, 2018.

Judith J. Henry '95, MSN '02 on Aug. 14, 2018.

Kristopher Kindle, M.S. '14 on Sept. 9, 2018.

Sarah Kleifgen '15 on Sept. 19, 2018.

Angeline (Angie) Manganaro '74 on April 26, 2018.

Louis Smith '77 on June 21, 2018.

Submit announcements regarding career changes, promotions, marriages, births, volunteer service and other major life events at laroche.edu/alumni.

JAMES DUNN

James "Jimmy" Dunn (1933-2018) passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 21, 2018, surrounded by his family. He was 85. Though never an employee or student at La Roche, he was a fixture at sporting events and an avid fan of the College.



Jimmy was a prolific freelance writer, and he recounted successes of La Roche's sports teams in the local papers. Jimmy often walked around campus visiting folks, and he enjoyed having lunch with students and faculty in the dining hall. In 2016 he was an honorary inductee into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame. He also was an associate member of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

A Korean War veteran, Jimmy was born and raised in Beechview. After a chance encounter with Helen Dadey on a trolley, they were married in 1958. He is survived by his daughter and two granddaughters.

MARY ELLEN ADAMS

Mary Ellen Adams (1941-2018) passed away unexpectedly in her sleep on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. She was 77. For 13 years Mary Ellen served faithfully as the faculty secretary in the Zappala College Center before retiring in January 2017.

She was a steady force in what could sometimes be a hectic reception area. Mary Ellen was a kind woman and a good friend to many.

She is survived by her husband, son, two daughters, grandchildren, brother and sister.

Remembering a Special Friend

Richard B. Fisher (1923-2018)

The La Roche community lost a dear friend on Oct. 23, 2018 when Richard B. Fisher, generous benefactor and emeritus trustee, passed away peacefully at home at the age of 95.

In Pittsburgh and global financial circles, Richard Fisher distinguished himself as one of three Central Catholic graduates who founded Federated Investors in 1955. Along with the late Jack Donahue and the late Tom Donnelly,

benefactors of that program, which has made a difference in the lives of more than 450 young people from 40 nations.

In addition to the individual students he solely supported, he established an endowment in honor of his friend, the late Monsignor William A. Kerr, founder of the Pacem program and my predecessor as president. For the past six years, alumni of the Pacem program from all over the world have given back to that endowment — and Dick matched every single one of their gifts. By his example Dick Fisher gave rise

Richard Fisher distinguished himself as a visionary who believed that an education, anchored by faith, could change lives.

he built the firm into what is now one of the largest independently owned mutual fund companies in the U.S. All three founders were very committed Catholics who gave back to their community and to Catholic higher education.

At La Roche Richard Fisher distinguished himself as a visionary who believed that an education, anchored by faith, could change lives. Dick, as he was known to most of us here, was first elected to the La Roche Board of Trustees in 1984. For more than three decades, he greatly influenced the spiritual wellbeing of countless students and helped prepare them for life in a global society. Let me give just two of many possible examples.

Dick and his late wife Barbara, along with Dolores and Walter Bold, were instrumental in their support of the construction of a chapel on campus. Their interest and commitment made Magdalen Chapel a reality for La Roche in 1991. Dick personally was involved in discussions about the design and religious artifacts that are part of this visible sign of our Catholic identity. For more than 25 years now, countless La Roche students and community members have made Magdalen Chapel the center of their worshipping community. That would not have happened without Dick's vision and generosity.

In the 1990s La Roche began a humanitarian program called Pacem In Terris (Peace on Earth), which brought students from war-torn and developing countries to the college for their education, with the goal that they would use their educations to better their homelands. Dick was one of the key

to the next generation of philanthropists. What greater legacy could there be?

While known as an astute businessman, Dick also was a man of the arts. He recently funded La Roche's first Poet-in-Residence program with the renowned Sam Hazo, because he wanted all members of our community to engage with the beauty and art of poetry as a spoken act. He was well read and often sent me books and articles that he felt would broaden my perspective as a college president. He and I had many spirited conversations, and while we may not have always agreed on things, we always held each other in great respect and affection. I treasure those memories.

Over the course of Dick's association with La Roche College, he served as more than a faithful trustee. He was a good friend and confidante to three La Roche presidents and countless fellow trustees. He and Barbara were extremely generous to La Roche for close to 40 years, and they stand among the most significant benefactors in the College's history.

But perhaps most importantly, Dick Fisher loved his family and his friends. He was a man of great faith, a devoted Catholic who gave witness to the primacy of Jesus — in his life, in his actions and in his words. I know I speak for so many of us at La Roche when I say that Dick Fisher will be greatly missed.

Rest in peace, my friend.

Sister Candace Antrosio



Top: Former Board Chair Steven Massaro and President Introcaso award an honorary degree to Mr. Fisher at commencement on May 3, 2014.

Below left: Sister Candace Introcaso and Sister Michele Bisbey enjoy a conversation with Richard and Barbara Fisher.

Below right: Walter and Dolores Bold and Richard and Barbara Fisher at the opening of Magdalen Chapel on May 5, 1990.



The Madrigal Dinners



Medieval Christmas Tradition Celebrated on Campus

BY RACHEL M. LANDAU | COLLEGE ARCHIVIST

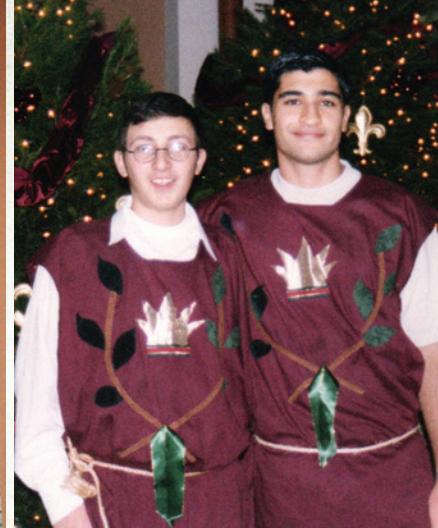
For more than 17 years, the first weekend in December heralded the beginning of the Christmas season in the North Hills when the Zappala College Center was transformed into a medieval castle for the annual Madrigal Dinner.

The Community Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees created the dinner in 1988 as a way to attract people to the campus. The Madrigal Dinner event welcomed the community for a night of novel food and charming entertainment until its final program in December 2003.

Reminiscent of the Christmas feasts held during the 16th century, the Madrigal Dinner consisted of traditional fare such as a wassail bowl, heaping bowls of trifle and flaming plum pudding. As part of the College's commitment to authenticity, a real boar's head dressed the Grand Hall's table. However, it quickly became apparent that the head was quite smelly and unappetizing after a few days. This practice was dropped and a faux fur boar's head with a real lemon in its mouth took its place.

Entertainment included carols sung by the Pittsburgh Camerata — Pittsburgh's only a cappella chamber choir — magicians, jesters and even a pickpocket or two. The La Roche College Performing Arts dancers, under the direction of then-manager Ken Nickel, would perform Christmas pieces throughout the evening. The king served as master of ceremonies as he and his court acted out skits in between courses. Even the attendees were expected to participate in the festivities. The court jester instructed the crowd to make appropriate cheers, hisses or noises when directed and were reminded to maintain courtly virtue and decorum at all times.

The event required many volunteers and numerous donations from the local community. Months prior to the first event, notice went out to faculty and staff that it would be greatly appreciated if anyone could secure an 18-foot Christmas tree, 630 Cornish hens, 75 loaves of brown bread, 50 gallons of apple cider, swords, trumpets and knights armor. More than 200 volunteers from faculty, staff, students and alumni were enlisted to sew costumes, create the stage, serve dinners and perform in the show. The decoration committee spent hours making all the ornaments that adorned the Christmas tree and the holiday



*"Wes hale, good Lords and Ladies fair,
We bid thee welcome, we bid thee share
Our feasting and our revelry,
Our music and our company."*



centerpieces for the tables. Students dressed as "knaves" and "wenches" served the dinners. Rumor has it that even Sister Georgine left the library briefly to help in the kitchen.

Throughout the years the Madrigal Dinner underwent a number of changes. The dinner was moved from the College Center Square to the campus dining hall. More contemporary fare was included on the menu, and the event became a scholarship fundraiser. Profits from the dinners went to the Madrigal Scholarship Fund, which was established in 1995 to provide scholarships to part-time, non-traditional students. Plays replaced the skits that were performed, and local celebrities were often knighted as part of the festivities.

While the early years of the event replicated English Madrigal dinners, other countries were represented as time went on. For example, the 2001 guests were transported to 18th century Ireland for an Irish Madrigal Christmas feast, complete with the Burke Irish dancers and the late Dottie Arnold, the College's former switchboard operator, as Queen Fiona. The following year, Italy was the host country for the "Natale Madrigale d'Italia"

dinner, where guests were invited to experience the Christmas traditions of Italy in the mythical village of La Rocci.

In 2003, the final year La Roche hosted the event, the dinner was German themed and actors performed a musical comedy production called "The Foundling King." Sister Rita Yeasted '68, SFCC, Ph.D., current Dr. Dorothy Saladiak Distinguished Professor of English, played Queen Sieglinde; Bill Pearce, former chairperson of the Marketing Department, was evil King Siegmunde; and Jeff Ritter, Ph.D., current department chair of Communications, Media and Technology, played Schmertz the Dragon.

The yuletide celebration became an annual Christmas tradition for many in the local community, with some guests even traveling from other states to attend. More than 6,000 people attended the event over the 17-year period. Although they started as a way to bring more visibility to the campus, the Madrigal Dinners became a successful community relations event and brought the College community together in the spirit of the season.



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