Mock election reveals students pick Clinton

By Lauren Villella
Editor-in-Chief

La Roche students are with her. In a recent mock election, 47 percent of students voted for Hillary Clinton for president.

Twenty-six percent of respondents voted for Donald Trump for president. Eleven percent voted for Gary Johnson, less-than-one percent voted for Jill Stein and less-than-one percent wrote in a candidate.

On Oct. 5 and 6, the Courier hosted a mock election in the CC Square. The ballot asked students to vote for one candidate as president. The opportunity to vote in a candidate was available. The ballot also asked students to indicate their major, gender and year in school.

Two hundred and thirty undergraduates and graduate students completed the ballot. The ballot did not exclude international students. According to La Roche’s website, the current student enrollment is 1,555. The 230 students consisted of 64 freshmen, 63 sophomores, 59 juniors, 39 seniors and two graduate students.

Three students did not indicate their year in school.

One hundred and thirty-two female students and 78 male students responded to the ballot. Twenty students did not indicate their gender. The students who completed the ballot belonged to more than 25 majors.

Of the 47 percent who voted for Clinton, 62 percent were female and 38 percent were male. Eight respondents did not indicate their gender. Among the students who voted for Clinton, 30 percent were freshmen. Forty-seven percent of students voted for Clinton.

Unpredictability and business background could dominate Trump presidency

By Sydney Harsh
Editor-in-Chief

With the polls virtually tied, the possibility of a Trump victory is no longer the talk of dark comedy or fan fiction. It is now fair to ask: what would Donald Trump actually be as president?

If Donald Trump wins the presidential election this November, his victory will bring mixed emotions to American citizens. There are multiple political, economic, and social factors that contribute to the type of president Trump will become, as well as the obstacles he will face while serving as president.

Dr. Joshua Forrest, the department chair of history and political science, said that Donald Trump could be a good presidential candidate if he adapted his personality and stated policy goals to the needs of the country. He suggested he become more soft-toned and accommodating.

The department chair said, “If Trump could do that, then it is conceivable that he would become a conciliator and offer (very) moderate versions of his stated policy preferences, and decide to work with many congressional factions, lobbying groups and interest groups on shared solutions to nation-wide problems.”

Dr. Forrest said, if Trump does all of those things, the country’s progress toward economic recovery would be sustained. Dr. Forrest continued to say that Congress would have the possibility to finally create a pathway toward citizenship for undocumented workers. However, economic and social progress would necessitate a major reversal of Trump’s policies.

Trump possesses a few strengths that can help him become a successful president, he said.

One of those strengths include changing his beliefs if there is a practical reason for doing so, the department chair said. He also said that strength could serve him well as president, if he moderates his stated policy preferences.

Is America ready to elect its first female president?

By Lauren Villella
Editor-in-Chief

Is America ready to elect its first female president? If Hillary Clinton wins the presidency this November, her victory will definitively alter the course of American history. The kind of president she would be, and the challenges she would face, depend on a variety of political, economic and social factors.

According to James Werbaneth, Clinton’s political experience may not be the best preparation for the role of president. Werbaneth is an adjunct faculty member in the international studies, history and political science departments.

Throughout her political career, Clinton has served as first lady, senator and secretary of state. The latter position, Werbaneth said, is not necessarily an essential prerequisite for the role of president.

“Hillary will bring her extensive background in international relations, having served as secretary of state,” Dr. Parker wrote via email. “Some say that she will be more willing to employ U.S. troops than President Obama, but she has also argued that diplomacy and development are as important as defense in international affairs.”

Clinton’s tenures as senator and secretary of state indicate that she has the best preparation for the White House. “Hillary will bring her extensive background in international relations, having served as secretary of state,” Dr. Parker wrote via email. “Some say that she will be more willing to employ U.S. troops than President Obama, but she has also argued that diplomacy and development are as important as defense in international affairs.”
Third-party candidates could attract young, undecided voters

By Heather Radick
Managing Editor

At the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the United States had no political parties. The modern two party system as we know it took several decades to form and advance, as such a system was unprecedented in all other developed countries, and the Declaration of Independence left no instructions on how to manage it.

However, an American election does not consist solely of a Republican candidate and a Democratic candidate. Indeed, there are three major third parties that have enjoyed a large, continuous following since the 1970s. They are the Libertarian Party, the Green Party, and the Constitution Party.

Like most political ideologies, they formed as an alternative solution in the midst of massive political and social chaos. The Libertarian Party was prompted to unite against the Vietnam War, the Green Party desired to reduce the consequences of American industrialization, and the Constitution Party advocated for a return to the traditional Christian values that characterized colonial America.

Although a third party has never won a presidential election, they continue to draw attention and recognition from both the public and the media. As of this election, there is one candidate from the Libertarian Party, one from the Constitution Party, and one from the Green Party. Gary Johnson, Darrell Castle, and Jill Stein, respectively.

According to the Libertarian official website, their goal is to “seek a world of liberty, a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others.” The party's candidate, Gary Johnson, was the Governor of New Mexico from 1995 to 2003, though he was a member of the Republican Party at the time. He ran for president in 2012, initially on a Republican platform, but he withdrew his candidacy later that year and stood for the Libertarian nomination instead.

A Johnson presidency would likely be extremely fiscally conservative, but socially liberal, with a philosophy of limited government and American isolationism. Political pundit David Weigel described him in a Washington Post article as “the original Tea Party candidate,” voicing worry that Johnson’s Republican history will promote more conservative policies than the Libertarian Party usually allows.

Despite this, Johnson has identified himself as a “classical liberal,” supporting drug decriminalization, same-sex marriage, and separation of church and state. Comparatively, he opposes military intervention, Internet censorship, and torture of foreign prisoners. Republican philosophies begin to emerge, however, on the subject of America’s economy, as Johnson favors simplifying and reducing federal taxes. He also fervently opposes gun control, and supports the legalization of fully automatic machine guns.

Real Clear Politics reports that Gary Johnson has maintained a solid seven percent of voters since May 2016, though his numbers jump with active troops, likely because he has been a strong vocal proponent of withdrawing troops from overseas and not interfering abroad. Johnson has much experience in the ups and downs of American elections, and continues to attract a passionate following, including former Republican nominee Jeb Bush.

Darrell Castle is a Tennessee-born attorney with privately owned firms planted all over the country. After having been nominated by the Constitution Party National Convention as its vice president in 2008, Castle has remained a member of the party, and again ran for president for the Convention in 2012. As the name suggests, the Constitution Party favors the return of American independence, not just the equal distribution of power and responsibility that the Constitution Party advocates for a return to.

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Why do some college students choose to not vote?

By Mina Holland
Contributing Writer

Will you be voting in the November election?

Many La Roche students have decided to participate in the 2016 presidential election, but there are some that chose not to for various reasons. Studies show that in 2012, millennial turnout has dropped below 50 percent, making this group to be the least active voters.

The millennials are the largest generation in the United States and even though the group ranges from college kids to adults as old as 35, people choose not to vote for many reasons. Some do not know enough about the candidates, some do not like the candidates, and some think the only options we have in this election are the Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, and the Republican nominee, Donald Trump.

Many college students, including ones on La Roche’s campus, choose not to vote at all because they feel it is a better option, rather than choosing one of two people they do not feel are qualified enough to run the country.

“I am choosing not to vote in the election because I believe that neither candidate is right for the job,” a freshman, Miranda Hampsay says. “I believe that younger people are choosing not to vote because they do not want to choose either candidate like me, or they just have no interest in the election.”

Many college students do not inform themselves about the candidates because they feel their votes don’t matter, or it isn’t worth their time. Other millennials do decide to educate themselves on the candidates and feel that they aren’t worth voting for.

“We don’t know when [Clinton or Trump] are being truthful and, to be honest, I’m quite scared of what Trump would do with all that power,” a senior, Andrea Getman, admits.

“I think younger people are torn just like I am. Neither are truly good choices for our country and I believe we are smarter than to vote for either candidate.”

Interested in joining our staff?
The Courier is always looking for new writers and photographers.

Contact either Sydney Harsh or Lauren Villella for more information on writing for the Courier.

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Man in the Street

Entertainment editor, Jess Lee, asked students:
“What was your favorite Halloween costume as a kid?”

Name: Rachel Juristy
Major: Computer Science
Year: Freshman

“I had a very intense police officer costume. It had a note pad and everything. When I was 5 or 6 I went around writing citations and showing people my badge.”

Name: Kenny Swegman
Major: Computer Science
/Computer Engineering
Year: Sophomore

“When I was in 4th grade, I dressed up as a zombie biker. I had everything going on with tattoos and a blue Mohawk! It was homemade by my mom, too.”

Name: Payton Patterson
Major: Graphic Design
Year: Freshman

“Jessie from Toy Story.”

Name: Peter Spagnolo
Major: Marketing
Year: Junior/Transfer

“Buzz Lightyear.”

Name: Justin Magnotti
Major: Marketing
Year: Senior

“I was actually Woody one year, so I’m gonna have to say that.”
Man in the Street
Continued

Name: Nicole Suchin
Major: Graphic Design
Year: Freshman
“I had this Pocahontas costume that I really loved!”

Name: Tom Spagnolo
Major: Management
Year: Junior
“Scream.”

Name: Christie Adamiak
Major: Interior Design
Year: First Year Transfer Student
“A pirate, probably. I really loved pirates as a kid.”

Name: Austin Gorman
Major: History
Year: Freshman
“Jack Sparrow!”

Name: Katie Pavlot
Major: Communications
Year: Junior
“When I was a kid my grandma made a Magenta costume, you know the pink dog from Blue’s Clues?”
“Trump also has a network of business contacts that could form a formidable brain trust, only if he can bring himself to listen to others’ thoughts and opinions.”

- Professor James Werbaneth
who voted for Trump were female and 42 percent were male. The number of students who did not indicate their gender was six. Twenty-six percent of students who voted for Trump said they were accounting, education, criminal justice or marketing majors. The most popular class to vote for Trump was sophomores at 31 percent.

Females accounted for 53 percent of those who voted for Johnson. Thirty percent of students who voted for Johnson and provided their major, 11 percent were psychology majors.

Among those who voted for Stein, 76 percent were female. Freshmen and sophomores accounted for 38 percent of students who voted for Stein. The most popular major to vote for Stein was chemistry majors at 23 percent.

Of the less-than-one percent who wrote in a candidate, 35 percent were juniors. Four female students wrote in Bernie Sanders. A junior male student majoring in computer science wrote in Rick Perry. Michelle Obama was the write in for a junior male majoring in business management.

Two male freshmen students wrote in the independent candidate for president, Evan McMullin.

The most popular major represented in the 230 students was criminal justice. Of the 14 criminal justice majors who completed the ballot, 42 percent voted for Clinton and 28 percent for Trump.

Graphic design and marketing were the second and third most popular majors represented among students who voted. Sixty-one percent of graphic design majors voted for Clinton and 23 percent voted for Trump. Fifty percent of marketing majors voted for Clinton and 33 percent for Trump.

Of the two political science majors who completed the ballot, one voted for Stein and the other for Trump.

The mock election revealed that 52 percent of female students voted for Stein. Twenty-one percent of female students voted for Trump.

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Among freshmen voters, 51 percent voted for Clinton and 21 percent for Trump.

Four students wrote comments on the ballot, but did not vote for a candidate. These four students are not included in the 230 who completed the ballot.

Two male students wrote that they are not interested in politics.

A female senior majoring in sociology and psychology wrote, “I don’t follow election so I am not voting.”

“No one is fit to run this country so why vote for the lesser of two evils,” wrote a male student.

The Courier disqualified 17 student ballots because the respondents voted for two candidates.
He used Woodrow Wilson and Ronald Reagan’s presidency as an example: “Woodrow Wilson tried it with the Treaty of Versailles and failed, but Ronald Reagan was far more successful. I seriously doubt that Trump could ever turn on the charm and be as persuasive as Reagan, and would fail on all counts.”

However, the professor said, Trump might have better luck with judicial nominees. “If he appoints Justices of good character and solid achievement,” Werbaneth said, “then [his policies] might cruise through the senate.”

Dr. Forrest said he suspects that as president, “Trump would announce the policies he favors most and then expect Congress to approve them and the American people to support them.” He continued that he also suspects when Trump gets a push-back from Congress, he is likely to react with disdain and shift to a more combative, assertive posture and behavior.

Dr. Parker said, Trump would also push back against government regulation for carbon emissions, air and water pollution, and medicines. “Regulations like this are seen by conservatives as increasing costs to manufacturers and cutting into their profits,” she said.

The adjunct professor said there is truth to that fact, but is it worth the risk of disease and death to our citizens of the United States? “The need to curb carbon emissions is seen by scientists as necessary to curb global warming,” Dr. Parker said, “but Trump and most Republicans have been arguing that scientists to not agree on this and that it will cut jobs.”

She said, 98 percent of scientists do agree on this matter. As we can see, not many people are in favor of a Trump presidency. “A Trump presidency can become disastrous,” Dr. Forrest said.

“For the next U.S. president to have a chance at success, he or she will need to accommodate the inexorable flow of history and demonstrate true leadership.”

- Dr. Joshua Forrest
Clinton, continued from page 1

“Right now it looks like foreign policy will represent her greatest challenge.”

- Dr. Joshua Forrest

substantial experience in government leadership, Joshua Forrest said. Dr. Forrest is the chair of the history and political science departments.

“There is no question that, technically, she is more qualified not only than her current competitors but also more than many who have served as president in the past,” Dr. Forrest wrote in an email response.

Clinton served as a senator from New York from 2001 to 2009. Werbaneth noted that the skills members of Congress utilize are different from those the position of president requires.

“I don’t even believe that experience in the House or Senate is optimal, even for someone with an outstanding record, as the skills needed for legislative work are different than those of being chief executive,” Werbaneth said.

Executive experience, Werbaneth said, is the best preparation for the White House.

“Donald Trump does have executive experience in the private sector, while Hillary Clinton has very little that we can see,” Werbaneth said. “Trump, on paper, Trump is the more qualified in 2016. However, his business success is not entirely successful or entirely credible; think Trump University.”

Despite Clinton’s diversified political experience, Dr. Forrest said, her critics claim her character is one of her potential weaknesses.

“Which is why the Trump campaign has relied so heavily on trying to demean her character on a personal level and in regard to some of her decision-making,” Dr. Forrest said.

Two examples, Dr. Forrest said, include attacks on choices Clinton made in connection with her email server and during the Benghazi affair.

If voters elect her president, Clinton will bring her liberal ideologies to the White House, Dr. Parker said.

“The first thing to consider is that she is a liberal, maybe not as liberal as Bernie Sanders, but they definitely worked together on the platform and much of what she, in a sense, is in the platform,” Dr. Parker said.

Dr. Parker noted that being a liberal can mean a number of things. A primary characteristic, Dr. Parker said, is the belief that the government should support measures that will benefit everyone. These measures include, Dr. Park-

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Werbaneth said Clinton’s email scandal will continue to be an obstacle for her as November nears.

“It’s huge,” Werbaneth said. “I suspected that it might go away early, but it just keeps on hanging around like Banquo’s ghost in ‘Macbeth’.”

Support for Clinton, Dr. Forrest said, has remained strong despite the email scandal.

“That reflects the fact that her supporters seem to largely accept her apology for using her home server – and it also reflects the fact that there is no evidence she exposed the government or the country to any danger,” Dr. Forrest said.

Although the Trump campaign and Republican Party continue to focus on the scandal, Dr. Forrest said, no ‘smoking gun’ has emerged from the leaked emails.

“Thus far there does not appear to be any dramatic ‘smoking gun’ among the leaked emails from her server which might suggest harmful information that was exposed,” Dr. Forrest said. “Without such a smoking gun, I do not believe that the email issue on its own will significantly affect the election outcome.”

Werbaneth said it is probable that if voters elect Clinton president, her husband would hold the title first gentleman. Bill Clinton’s role as first gentleman, Werbaneth said, would depend on his health and whether Hillary Clinton wants it to be.

“Bill Clinton’s title will largely be positive if voters elect Clinton president, Dr. Forrest said. “Most countries would react positively – major European and Latin American nations have women leaders, so to a large extent this would be almost akin to the U.S. joining the club.”

However, Dr. Forrest said, Clinton’s policies, not her gender, will serve as the basis for how other countries perceive her performance as president.

“If her policies are perceived to be misguided, the warmth shown in the honeymoon period will begin to dissipate,” Dr. Forrest said. “As with any president.”

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Third-Party, continued from page 2

Tennis players serve up reflections about life on and off the court

By Sarah Thomas
Contributing Writer

The La Roche College women’s tennis team is on the path to victory. The team has moved onto the semi-finals this weekend after beating Mt. Aloysius in their last match 5-1. They will play Penn State Behrend on Oct. 15th at 6:00 p.m. Women’s tennis has won four out of their last five games. So, let’s take some time to get to know them. We sat down with some players to ask questions about life on and off the court. We thank our tennis players for taking the time out to answer these questions, and wish them tons of luck on Saturday! Go Redhawks!

**Kylie Banister**
Junior

Q: When did you start playing tennis?
A: My freshman year of high school.
Q: What is the hardest part about being a student athlete?
A: I’d say trying to get sleep, because we have late practices. You’re tired all the time.
Q: Do you play tennis?
A: Probably Buffalo. Last season I really enjoyed it. It’s a good team bonding experience.

**Chardai Guthrie**
Sophomore

Q: Do you have any pre-game traditions?
A: We don’t really have a pre-game tradition. We do give each other pep talks right before the match starts and some of us have certain handshakes we do before we start.
Q: What can you attribute to the success of this season?
A: I believe what led us to it was our new coach. We didn’t lose anybody from last season so we’re all returning players and I just believe having the right coach to actually work with us on specific things and uplift us when we’re having a bad match or practice can really make the difference.
Q: Favorite place you’ve traveled to for a match?
A: Probably Buffalo. Last season I never went to our overnight away games so when we went to Buffalo this year I really enjoyed it. It’s a good team bonding experience.

**Sarah Brunner**
Senior

Q: What made you start playing tennis?
A: I started playing because my mom used to be nationally ranked in the country. So the love of the game ran through my family heavily. Both my older and younger sisters play too! I used to play volleyball. But, I quit since the seasons overlapped.

“I started playing because my mom used to be nationally ranked in the country. So the love of the game ran through my family heavily.”

- Sarah Brunner