Hurricane Maria impacts LRC community

By Heather Radick
Managing Editor

The National Hurricane Center describes the period between June 1st and November 30th as the Atlantic hurricane season, an annual cycle in which tropical hurricanes are most commonly formed.

In late August, Hurricane Harvey began to devastate the southern and eastern coasts of the United States, as well as certain northern South American countries. Weeks later, Hurricane Irma caused catastrophic damage to Cape Verde and other small islands in the Caribbean. Finally, Hurricane Maria swept through the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

By Jess Lee
Entertainment Editor

promoting a major humanitarian crisis as thousands were left without electricity, food, or clean water. Before making landfall as a Category 4 hurricane in Puerto Rico on September 20th, Maria ravaged St. Croix, the largest of the US Virgin Islands. Although there were no reports of casualties, the storm unleashed powerful winds and heavy rainfall. According to the U.S. Virgin Islands Emergency Operations Center, power grids across the island were decimated.

Two other main islands, St. John and St. Thomas, were pummeled by Hurricane Irma just fourteen days earlier. The back-to-back storms delivered a crushing blow to the islands, tearing off roofs and downing trees.

Dozens of La Roche College students and their families have been harmed in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Communities have been ravaged, homes have been destroyed, and families have been left with nothing. Unfortunately, the true horror of the situation is often unknown to those who have not lived it for themselves.

Alyssa Rhymet, a junior majoring in health science, said that the people of the Virgin Islands are “struggling to get news outlets to bring awareness to...”

Hurricane Maria caused major flooding in the Virgin Islands © COURTESY OF ADDIS MILLER

Hurricane victims raise funds for drowned islands

By Jess Lee
Entertainment Editor

The La Roche College marketing club raised $7,453 at their spaghetti dinner and service raffle event to benefit the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The dinner was held on Oct. 19 in the Zappala College Center Square. According to Nikole Scappe, the president of the marketing club, the original fundraising goal was $5,000.

Scappe said 250 people came to the dinner. The total amount of funds raised combines the money from the dinner, service raffle, and online donations.

Scappe said the marketing club will be working with Brother’s Brother to ship supplies to the islands and Puerto Rico. The cost to send one crate full of supplies is $3,000, and Scappe estimates they can ship two or three full crates.

“I am very happy with the outcome and funds raised. The marketing club had two weeks to plan the event, collect donations, and gather volunteers. For such a short time frame, I think the students, staff, and I executed a spectacular event,” Scappe said.

Some of the items raffled off at the dinner include: two Captain Morgan Suite tickets for a Penguins game, a gift card collage, a lottery tree, a money tree, and a home goods basket.

Kristen Specialetti (left) and Nancy Birckbichler attend the La Roche Marketing Club’s spaghetti dinner benefiting the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico © Jess Lee

Maria devastates the Virgin Islands

By Tiara Phillips
International Advisor

First-hand account

Imagine sitting in the library doing homework thinking nothing but the best and then you get that call. That’s the one call that you were looking forward to all day because you haven’t heard from any of your family members.

On September 19, 2017, around 11:45 p.m. was when I got that call. I was in the library doing my homework when my roommate started showing me pictures and videos that individuals were posting on Facebook and Snapchat about how bad the hurricane was. I decided to surf the web myself to see how bad the damages were because when I checked the weather channel, they stated that the eye would be passing over St. Croix between the hours of...
Students

Senior Brittany Craig receives $30,000 interior design scholarship

By Lauren Villella
Editor-in-Chief

A

La Roche College interior design student is one of the recipients of the 2017 Angelo Donghia Foundation Senior Student Scholarship Award.

Brittany Craig, a senior, said she was thrilled to receive the scholarship, which is worth $30,000. According to a La Roche press release, 13 students nationwide received the scholarship, which benefits aspiring interior designers.

“I was absolutely thrilled when I heard the news that I won,” Craig said. “It was not only an honor but a complete surprise that the panel of judges found my design to be worthy of such an award, especially among other design students from all over the country. I am endlessly appreciative to the Donghia Foundation for their support in my senior year at La Roche.”

Craig’s winning submission was a corporate office design for Graduate Hotels, a collection of hotels located in college towns throughout the United States. Craig said her submission had been a class requirement, but she devoted time to correcting and enhancing it.

“The corporate office design for Graduate Hotels was a fun project for me,” Craig said. “It captured a unique and different interpretation of what would be considered a typical office design. I was able to create a one-of-a-kind space that reflected the town in which it would reside, including colonial and classical elements evident in Providence, Rhode Island.”

In order to apply for the scholarship, Craig noted, she had to meet several requirements. According to Craig, interior design applicants must be rising seniors who are enrolled in an accredited program. As well as submitting a design with images and plans, Craig added, she needed to provide a written program and product description. These elements contained information about clients and concept of design.

“I had a few projects that were under debate to submit,” Craig said. “Ultimately, I chose the corporate office due to its complexity, hoping it would appeal most to the judges.”

Craig, a graduate of Connellsville Area Senior High School, said her interest in interior design is long-standing.

By Heather Radick
Managing Editor

Outstanding volunteerism earns LRC student and charity founder an award

State Representative Frank Burns recently presented La Roche junior and founder of Cuddles for Kids Conner Hagins with the Charlie Vizzini Volunteerism Award.

The award is named after Charlie Vizzini, who amassed more than 8,000 hours by volunteering in Burns’ legislative office.

Hagins, too, has made his community a better place through extensive volunteering and a commitment to helping those in need.

Hagins established his charity, Cuddles for Kids, when he was just 10 years old. Since its creation, the nonprofit has donated more than 107,000 items or roughly $500,000 worth of goods to children’s agencies around the world. It has sent toys to Haiti, to orphanages in Mexico and to children in Afghanistan — and well as supplying them to the area Ronald McDonald House.

“From a young age my parents have taught me that the littlest things go the longest, and it feels better to give than receive,” Hagins said. “Once I started Cuddles for Kids and saw the difference we were making in the lives of others, and that people and agencies depended on us, it was something that I wanted to and needed to continue.”

Hagins has brought his nonprofit to the La Roche community. This year alone Mr. Hagins teamed up with the College on initiatives benefiting the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh and the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC Oncology Department.

As founder of Cuddles for Kids, Hagins has launched multiple partnerships with local police departments and the district attorney’s office, and has purchased new bicycle helmets for children whose families cannot afford them. Another of Hagins’ initiatives provides police officers with toys to be used in crisis situations.

“This award is not only for me, but for my charity and all of the people that help Cuddles for Kids,” Hagins said. “I could not do any of this without the support of my hometown and my new hometown, Pittsburgh.”

More recently, Hagins established a scholarship to benefit local, service-driven high school students in Cambria and Somerset counties. He’s also been involved in organizing large events throughout his home area, as well as at Children’s Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Read more at courier.laroche.edu
The La Roche Courier - November 3, 2017

LRC Scrapbook

Rebecca Boles (left) and Madison Barton do the electric slide © Ryan George

Sarah Fuchigami, Maura Fallone, Halle Mathieson, Eric Onofrey, and Heather Kincaid, a.k.a. the Peter Pan crew, won the Halloween costume contest © Ryan George

Left to right: Heather Kincaid, Barrington Ratliff, Patrick Dailey, Lauren Ranalli, Brooke Audino and Erica Deluliis kick it 80's style © Ryan George

Tray Johnson (left) and Dominique Greaux partnered for life at the Halloween dance © Ryan George

Read more at courier.laroche.edu
**Faculty**

Pittsburgh’s own American ninja warrior

BY DANIELLE DI NATALE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

First came Mud on the Mountain. Then in 2015, it was the Tough Mudder. Summer of 2017 brought the Terrain Race. This month, the unusually warm fall weather made way for the Spartan Race. Apart from being mud races, all of these have one thing in common: Andrea Peck has faced them all.

Now that she’s tackled the Spartan Race and earned her medal, Andrea Peck is onto her next challenge: becoming an American Ninja Warrior. On October 7th, 2017, Peck participated in the Spartan Race: an extreme obstacle course spanning five miles of rocky, muddy terrain. The race was founded in 2010 by Joe De Sena, and features intense courses that are meant to challenge the racer’s physical and mental capabilities. Peck ran the competitive heat, and while she’s done plenty of races, this was her first try at Spartan.

“It was different from other races that I’ve done before, but in a good way,” she said. “I loved it.”

Despite it being her first Spartan experience, Peck, 39, came third in her age group. The race took her one hour, 28 minutes, and three seconds to complete. She faced obstacles such as rope climbing, swinging on rings, and carrying sandbags. Other obstacles were unique to Spartan such as jumping over fire—which, she added, was on her bucket list.

Not many people would choose to spend their Saturdays participating in such extreme events, but Peck is the small exception. She said she finds it to be almost relaxing, and enjoys seeing all the time she’s spent training and being healthy put to the test.

“I think that it pushes me, it challenges me, and I sort of have always craved that. For me, it’s exciting to go out of your comfort zone and see what you can really do,” she said.

On the other hand, Peck said that she sees these races as a sort of escape. It’s a way for her to get in the zone of the race, but at the same time allows her to check out of daily life and give her time to think.

“For me, to be out in some random trail in the mud in these races is something that is indescribable,” she said. “It’s something that everything else disappears, and it’s time for yourself.”

Even when she woke up that morning, Peck said she couldn’t be more excited. And Peck placed third in the Spartan Race, an extreme obstacle course that required her to jump over fire.

SEE NINJA, PAGE 11

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**New director of housing and residence life strives to bring student-focused mindset to role**

BY LAUREN VILLELLA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

La Roche College’s director of housing and residence life strives to bring a student-centered and reinvigorating initiative to her new role.

Ashley Testa, a native of Saltsburg, Pennsylvania, began her position in October. Testa earned her undergraduate degree in English and her master’s degree in student affairs and higher education, both from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Testa said she mostly recently worked at the University of Pittsburgh, where she served as housing assignments coordinator and oversaw the housing assignments for 8,000 students. She noted she also has experience working in housing and residence life at the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville and Moravian College.

According to Testa, her interest in student affairs began when she was a student worker in IUP’s housing office. IUP was undergoing a major campus renovation at the time, Testa noted, and she enjoyed helping students understand their new housing options.

“I really liked helping students and finding their fit,” Testa said. “I really enjoyed working with and the people I was around, and a lot of the people I worked for had gone through the student affairs program. So I was inspired by them to go through it and dedicate my life to working with students.”

When she was in school, Testa said, she interned in admissions and student activities offices. The bulk of her experience, however, has been in housing and residence life. She added

SEE TESTA, PAGE 10

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**Sam Hazo plants daisies in memory of an extraordinary class**

BY HEATHER RADICK  
MANAGING EDITOR

Rain taps gently on the damp stone of the peace garden, moistening the soft soil and weighing down the slim leaves of the brush there. Fog sweeps sluggish through the trees, and the air seems heavy with the burden of the clouds.

Despite the gloomy weather, the attitude in the peace garden is jovial. On October 25, Samuel Hazo, renowned author and Poet-in-Residence for La Roche College, planted daisies with those who participated in his poetry course, The Spoken Page, last spring.

The Spoken Page was offered as a non-credit course for all members of the community, including La Roche faculty. During the eight weeks that the course was held, Hazo examined the importance of reading poems aloud, and explored the emotional impact of poetry as an art form.

The reunion drew back many of Hazo’s dedicated disciples, including Sister Rita Yeasteed, a longtime admirer of andrea hazo, page 11

SEE HAZO, PAGE 11

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**Sam Hazo plants daisy bulbs in remembrance of his community poetry course**

© HEATHER RADICK

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**Andrea Peck placed third in the Spartan Race, an extreme obstacle course that required her to jump over fire**

© COURTESY OF ANDREA PECK

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**Read more at courier.laroche.edu**
Man on the Street

Entertainment Editor Jess Lee asked students: “Did you have an imaginary friend?”

Name: Haley Ebersole  
Year: Sophomore  
Major: Professional Writing and Journalism  
Quote: “A friend named Joe the Hobo.”

Name: Austen Lunt  
Year: Freshman  
Major: Finance  
Quote: “I don’t think it had a gender. I just talked to it as if it were there. We liked making forts together.”

Name: Andre Parker  
Year: Senior  
Major: Communications  
Quote: “At one point in my childhood, I had 100 imaginary friends.”

Name: Tiffany Atkins  
Year: Senior  
Major: Engineering  
Quote: “My friend was a tiger named Tigro.”

Name: Tea Miksch  
Year: Junior  
Major: Marketing and Management  
Quote: “I had an imaginary kitten. He followed me around and I put him in my pocket all the time.”

Name: Jadien Ray  
Year: Junior  
Major: Health Science  
Quote: “I made up my own dog.”

Interested in joining our staff?

The Courier is always looking for new writers and photographers.

Contact either Lauren Villella or Heather Radick for more information on writing for the Courier.

Lauren.Villella@stu.laroche.edu
Heather.Radick@stu.laroche.edu

Read more at courier.laroche.edu
Men’s soccer team appoints 6-year-old as honorary captain

By Mina Holland
Associate Editor

The La Roche men’s soccer team elected an honorary captain. Leo Zambori, a 6-year-old fighting leukemia, received the chance to be the captain on Oct. 7. Having served as captain once before, Leo is a proud Redhawks fan with a heartwarming smile through his treatments and on the field.

La Roche has given generous donations toward Leo as he continues to inspire many, including Conner Hagins, member of the men’s soccer team and the founder of Cuddles for Kids, a non-profit charity for children in need.

How exactly has Leo inspired you and changed your life?

CH: Since meeting Leo, he has definitely inspired me. He makes you look at things in life differently. He’s always smiling even when he’s going through all he is with treatments and appointments. I try to always have a smile on my face through thick and thin. He’s changed my life in the way that you don’t realize how big a moment is or how much something small can go a long way. When we walked into his room at Children’s Hospital and Ronald McDonald House. Or they can donate to Children’s Hospital directly. Every dollar goes a long way in helping brighten the day of others.

Have your perspectives changed since you’ve met Leo and how have they changed?

CH: I kind of answered some of this in the question above. But you appreciate all the blessings you have in life. There are always others who are going through things that myself and others probably couldn’t imagine going through. I never take my life and health for granted and I try to make the best out of each and every day.

Aside from the t-shirt fundraiser, are there any other possible donations people can contribute toward Leo and the Children’s Hospital Oncology Department?

CH: I would say if people would like to support, their tax deductible donation may be made to my charity, Cuddles for Kids. We support a variety of initiatives benefiting children and hold several events per year at Children’s Hospital and Ronald McDona
dald House. Or they can donate to Children’s Hospital directly. Every dollar goes a long way in helping brighten the day of others.

How was the La Roche soccer team able to make Leo the honorary captain twice? Did they have to get permission from the school?

CH: Coach (David) Day has been very supportive and encourages the team to do things in the community. From the moment he heard about Leo and his story and how much Leo loves soccer, Coach Day contacted our opponent and spoke with the referees and every-

Global engagement inspired sister to be a missionary

By Julia Felton
Contributing Writer

When she was a child, Saint Frances Cabrini enjoyed making little boats and setting them afloat in a stream in her backyard, pretending to send the word of God to foreign lands with imaginary miniature boats and make-believe stories about the plight of South American refugees, who were forced to flee their countries amid violence. She and her sister spent their summers with their father, who, though he was not Catholic, would take them to Mass and Reconciliation. She praised him for being a good man, respecting the religion that his daughters practiced.

Her father’s second wife also influenced young Hooks. Her step-mother would take Hooks to the United Nations headquarters, where Hooks was in awe of “all of those people from different countries, cultures, all colors and languages.” She said she remembered them being friendly to one another. Hooks said she enjoyed attending programs about the diverse cultures of the world. Particularly, Hooks reflected on a plain, simple chapel where she said she was “one of the holiest places.”

After many years of finding subtle inspiration, Hooks knew she wanted to become a religious sister by the end of her senior year of high school. Once she became a sister, it became apparent that she would serve God by serving the global community, she added.

In the 1980s, Hooks said she heard stories about the plight of South American refugees, who were forced to flee their countries amid violence.

Read more at courier.laroche.edu
La Roche is opening up their very first semester study abroad program; it’s starting in the spring, and will take place in Rome, Italy. It will last 12 weeks, starting in mid-January and ending in mid-April 2018.

Typically here at La Roche, students only participate in the 10-day Study USA study abroad trip. This new Rome semester program will provide a completely different kind of experience.

“The semester program is about immersion. It’s about living there. Not about staying at a hotel, not visiting. It’s about living there and being a member of that city,” Nicole Gable, Assistant Director of Study Abroad, said.

At the La Roche Rome campus, students will take Elementary Italian I and II, Independent Study: European Topics, and LRX course of your choosing, and an online course of your choosing.

The campus includes single dorms with private bathrooms, a meal plan that serves three meals per day, classroom and study/lounge space, free laundry facilities, Wi-Fi, and telephones in every room. It is also only a 20-minute walk from Vatican city, and there is a beautiful chapel on campus.

Perhaps one of the most exciting parts is that the cost of this trip for students is the same tuition and room and board as if you were living right here on campus, in Bold Hall with a Providence meal plan. So even for students facing economic barriers, if they are able to pay for airfare and other travel expenses, then they will still be able to have a semester abroad experience.

Another very exciting element to this program is the immersive nature. Not only will students be taken on a weekend excursion to another city in Italy like Venice or Florence, but they will also take frequent trips into the city, doing different activities and learning about Italian language and culture.

Gable said, “I’m really excited for our students to have the immersive nature. Not only will students be taken on a weekend excursion to another city in Italy like Venice or Florence, but they will also take frequent trips into the city, doing different activities and learning about Italian language and culture.

Gable said, “I’m really excited for our students to have the immersive Italian language class. I’m a language learner myself, I spent 10 years learning Spanish, but it wasn’t until I actually went to Spanish-speaking countries that I actually learned the language. So I’m really excited for our students to have that experience.”
Sarah Hefferin remembers past events...

This Day in History

This one took place on Nov. 3

BY SARAH HEFFERN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

November 3rd, 1793 - The French government guillotined Olympe de Gouges, a French journalist and playwright, for her writings against both the revolutionaries and the ruling monarchy in France. In 1793, France suffered under the Reign of Terror, a period of time during the French Revolution where those in power put thousands of people to death because of the rising opposition to the political leaders in France. Over 16,000 people were sentenced to death from June of 1793 to July of 1794, including Olympe de Gouges.

De Gouges was an outspoken advocate for the equal rights of women, and wrote over 40 works on the subject throughout the course of her lifetime. She wrote her most famous work, “Declaration of the Rights of Woman, and the Female Citizen,” which she published shortly after the publishing of the French Constitution in 1791. De Gouges' work resulted from her efforts to push for reforms addressing the lack of representation and the clashing of interests within the country. The newspaper, The Times of India reported, By doing this, Knight fought for a paper free of censure. Olympe de Gouges became an outspoken advocate for equality in marriage for women as well, as it was male dominated. She fought for women so they could divorce their husband and have custody over their children.

She spent the last three years of her life advocating for women and wrote extensively to expose the monarchy or Revolutionaries for the exclusion against women. November 3rd, 1793 - 45 years later in Mumbai, The Times of India publishes its first edition, which contained news from Britain and the world, as well as India. Now regarded as the oldest Indian-English newspaper in circulation today, the Times of India's first manager was Raulshahdur Narayan Dinanath Velkar. In 1860, editor Robert Knight fought for a paper free of influence, and fought against any outside agencies that wanted to change the publication. By doing this, Knight led the paper to fame.

The Times of India reported through multiple ownership changes, along with the “State of Emergency” that the Indian Prime Minister called in 1975 regarding internal disturbances within the country. The newspaper took a satirical approach to the violent situation the country became stuck in. An issue featured an obituary for the death of democracy within the country, which read: “D.E.M.O’Crae, beloved husband of T.Ruth, father of L.I.Bertie, brother of Faith, Hope and Justice expired on 25 June.” Today, both Olympe de Gouges and the Times of India are still major influences on journalism and on the importance of reporting the news. Olympe de Gouges’ work is continually studied in classroom settings, and the Times of India continues to connect people across the continent of Asia and the world.

At La Roche college, students have the opportunity to be connected through the news reported in the Courier. Not only does it report on issues on campus, but it puts issues in the proper context to be understood. “Student writers are taking (complex or unknown issues), that you might not know until (a writer) explains it.” Rebecca Jeskey, former member of the Courier staff currently the Marketing and Relations Manager at La Roche, said.

Newspapers and the journalists that write for them in general have the ability to relate stories to students which could otherwise go undetected; this could mean personal stories of others, or controversial reporting found within governmental or power driven settings.

“What I get out of journalism is, I get to produce other people's stories, so just learning through their experiences, you get to put yourself in their shoes.” Sarah Rezile, also a former member of the Courier and current Marketing Assistant at La Roche said. “You also get to hold people accountable for their actions...you're reporting.” Reporting in a newspaper offers a perspective of the world, and the Courier does so with La Roche. Not only does it feature unknown stories of classmates or faculty, but it also has the ability to advocate for change, or be controversial when needed. Like public newspapers that broadcast to a much larger audience, the Courier finds it important to tell their viewers what they need to know and understand.

“It's all about keeping an informed public. The Courier is similar because you can use that as a voice for the student body; you can talk about issues on campus that affect students...being informed and holding elected officials accountable, I think that's really important.”

Being a part of a newspaper allows students to have an inside look at complicated issues, and writers function as the base of sharing that knowledge. It is a journalist's job to report the news as it happens, and they are the first group to receive that news and push it out to the public or, in the case of La Roche, the student body.

“If you didn't have a newspaper, you'd end up feeling very censored. You would have no outlet then to do those things and to report on what's happening,” Jeskey said. “You're doing your job if you're putting a spotlight on things that are uncomfortable.”

- Becky Jeskey

Craig, continued from page 2

am able to continue being an artist and visionary throughout my career, which is part of what I need in order to enjoy life, post-college.”

Small class sizes and the interior design program's stature, Craig added, influenced her decision to pursue a degree at La Roche.

“My initial visit to the college played a significant role in my decision,” Craig said. “The small campus atmosphere initially sparked an interest. Not to mention, the small class sizes meant personal and meaningful relationships with professors. The interior design program also has a great reputation and positive impact on prospective designers, which continues to grow.”

Retail and office design, Craig noted, are her favorite classes she has taken at La Roche. Craig added it is difficult to precisely describe her particular style of interior design.

“I tend to gravitate toward boldness of form and color,” Craig said. “I also like to experiment throughout my designs, resulting in a unique and eclectic flavor.”

After graduation, Craig said, she hopes to focus on historical preservation.

“I have an immense passion for the value that is created through history and historic buildings and sites,” Craig said. “I hope to save and bring new life to such places.”
By Heather Radick
Managing Editor

In the early 1940s, comic books became one of the most popular artistic mediums in America. During the apex of World War II, the public desired a storytelling format that presented them with a common enemy, and a way to connect with each other through it. Thus emerged the comic book, an exciting collection of action stories in which, at the end of the journey, the villains always got their just desserts.

La Roche College’s Literary Society sponsors literacy and community engagement by inviting Pittsburgh area writers to lead presentations on various topics and experiences. On Oct. 13, Wayne Wise, a comic book writer, artist, and scholar told the story of Wonder Woman and her immense influence on both comics and the world.

Wayne Wise is a published author and pop culture journalist. He has used his experience and his passion for comics to teach classes at Chatham University and Point Park University. During his lecture, Wise retold the long and full history of Wonder Woman’s creation, which dates back all the way to 1941.

At the time, Wonder Woman was the only female superhero. Even now, said Wise, she is still the most popular and influential one across the world. No other heroine has had quite the cultural impact, or received quite as much controversy, as Wonder Woman has. In October of 2016, CNN reported that the United Nations named Wonder Woman a “UN Honorary Ambassador for the Empowerment of Women and Girls.”

Less than two months later, she was dropped from her role because her overtly sexualized image was not culturally sensitive.

“The image did not originate in the past, nor can it be blamed on large publishing companies like Marvel and DC,” said Wise.

Another reason for comic books’ shrinking audience, said Wise, is audiences’ perception of them as being altered. Comic book readers are less tolerant of Wonder Woman’s progressive stories and illustrations while leaving them with very little financial interest. “Creative people just aren’t giving their best ideas to Marvel and DC,” said Wise.

Another movie that was meant to be a deliberate DC Comics fan turned out to be a surprising treat for those of us that are not avid comic fans. "Girls need heroes to look up to!"

By Lucia BouDargham
Contributing Writer

The 2017 version of “Wonder Woman” is the greatest one yet. We have seen many versions of Wonder Woman throughout the years, but this modern version is strikingly powerful.

The movie, which is directed by Patty Jenkins, delves into Wonder Woman’s past. This teaches us more about how she came to be, and how her past holds the key to her future. It takes us on a journey, and in a way, enables us to grow with the character and see things from her point of view.

Gal Gadot is the modern day Wonder Woman in this action/adventure movie. She has done an amazing job with carrying the immense responsibility that comes with playing such an iconic character.

The star cast also includes: Chris Pine, Robin Wright, Danny Huston, David Thewlis, Connie Nielsen, and Elena Anaya. Despite the movie’s fantasy elements, and its obvious objective of entertaining the audience, it carries some important underlying messages.

One of these messages is strength. It projects women as powerful and independent figures. It showcases how women don’t need to be rescued by a man, but can in fact be the saviors themselves.

Another message that really grabbed my attention was how we all have the potential to be evil. The movie talks about something that involves all of us as human beings. It talks about our constant struggle between good and evil, between distinguishing what’s right and what’s wrong. We come to acknowledge that yes, we all have it in us to be cruel and ruthless, but we also have an inner voice that guides us. It shows how our choices help make us who we are.

A movie that was meant to be a delight to DC Comics fans turned out to be a surprising treat for those of us that are not avid comic fans.
she enjoys the varied opportunities for leadership, residence life offers, including student conduct, housing operations and construction projects.

“You get to do a multitude of things,” Testa said. “There are so many different things you’re doing just in residence life and housing. It really makes you a well-rounded professional.”

Testa credited her undergradate degree in helping her to augment several skills integral to the student affairs field. In particular, she said, public speaking and writing classes provided valuable preparation.

“I was an English major in college, so I did a lot of writing,” Testa said. “I wrote for my college newspaper. I’ve always been a strong communicator and I think that’s a critical element of working with college students. You need to know how to help them with issues or problems and talk to them about different things they’re concerned about.”

Testa said she appreciates the friendliness and close-knit quality of the La Roche community.

“It’s cool to be able to walk down the hall and know everyone and they know me,” Testa said. “We all sort of need each other in different ways. I’m really big on relationships, so I think I can definitely tell just from being here that everyone here strives to have good relationships with students and I think that’s so important.”

Testa also noted the care and personal attributes of the housing and residence life staff.

“I’ve always appreciated when a student walks in the office and they’re not necessarily an RA, they’re not necessarily a highly involved student leader, but our staff knows their name and knows where they live and knows their story,” Testa said. “I think that’s really cool and that’s unique, and I’m sure from a student’s perspective it makes them feel comfortable.”

The intersectional opportunities her position provides are enjoyable, Testa said.

“I’m a person who, so I enjoy any time I get to communicate with student leaders,” Testa said. “I really enjoy training season in the summer. You get to really know your staff and you get to go through specialized training with them and teach them skills and it’s educational-based, too, which I really enjoy.”

In her new role, Testa said, she strives to emphasize student support and comfort.

“My goal is to make the residence hall a destination place that students want to be,” Testa said. “I really want the residence halls to be a place where students are excited to be and are interested in living on campus.”

Testa added she hopes to revitalize campus living through staff training, renovation projects and other events.

Testa said, in order to stay up-to-date with evolving trends, “I think it’s (renovation) important to keep with the times and to keep up with what students are looking for,” Testa said. “The whole reason we have residence halls on campus are to cater to the students. I think it’s important we take into account what they’re looking for in their college experience.”

La Roche buildings are older, Testa noted, and require renovations periodically.

“We want to make sure that we’re meeting the needs of our present-day students with those renovations,” Testa said. “And I think the kitchenette is a testament to that. We really took the feedback students were giving to us to make that renovation happen.”

Testa said she also strives to increase housing and residence life’s social media presence in order to stay current with students.

“Our presence as a department is important to me, and we’ve talked about exploring and enhancing our social media presence,” Testa said. “I would love to utilize social media a bit more. I think it’s important for us to meet students where they are, and our students are using Twitter and they’re using Snapchat, so I want to make sure that we have a presence on those platforms.”

Sister, continued from page 6

and civil unrest. Hooks, who describes herself as a “very inclusive” person, pitied those who did not feel safe in their homelands. Using cassette tapes to teach herself Spanish, Hooks prepared herself to help these refugees across the U.S., while also providing transportation, English language lessons, and life skills classes.

“Hooks’ global experiences reach beyond the refuge she founded in Texas. She also shared the experiences she had in El Salvador, where she said she witnessed the nation’s first democratic elections. She was humbled to watch “the yearning for people to be free,” which was prevalent among those eager citizens who were proud to take part in the milestone election.”

When Hooks reminisced on the good she has done for the global community, she said she feels grateful. Upon further reflection, she added that she feels humbled “to see how good people are no matter where they are.”

As someone who dedicated most of her adult life to bettering the global community, Hooks emphasized the importance of being an active global citizen. According to Hooks, “Each one of us is part of a mosaic.” This makes it imperative that we help those in need, she added.

Even now, years after she left her post at La Posada Providencia, Hooks cannot seem to stop doing good for the world. She now teaches English as a Second Language at La Roche College, where she exemplifies the school’s motto by embracing the world.

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Ashley Testa (above) is La Roche’s new director of housing and residence life. Her very inclusive approach to help those in need is a testament to her ability to reach out to students and get some feedback and incorporate that into future renovations.”

Renovation is important to a college campus, she added, in order to stay up-to-date with evolving trends. “I think it’s (renovation) important to keep with the times and to keep up with what students are looking for,” Testa said.

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The whole reason we have residence halls on campus are to cater to the students. I think it’s important we take into account what they’re looking for in their college experience.”

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lieve that she was running the race. In fact, by the time she made it through registration, Peck said, she barely had time to process that it was happening before it began. “I walked up to the finish line, did a couple streches, and I was off. No time to back out,” she said.

The whirlwind of the race didn’t leave much time for her to think about anything other than going forwards. With her blonde hair pulled back and her body covered in mud, she pushed through one obstacle after another. When she received her results at the end of the race, Peck said that she was completely surprised by them. “I didn’t feel like I was pushing as much as I could have. I guess it was because it was a race I was somewhat unfamiliar with,” she said.

Although she didn’t expect her stats to be so high, she gladly accepted her accomplishment. In the end, she said she admired herself with what she had been able to do for her first Spartan Race. “You never think of yourself as that strong, that strong. I didn’t see a lot of women while I was running out there. You go off in that group, but you spread out and you start moving,” she said.

With a bright smile and her blue eyes shining, Peck added, “It’s that prevalent to feel good. It gives you a little bit of the shakes.”

Now that she’s checked the Spartan Race off her list, Peck’s focus is on American Ninja Warrior. While it is something that fits in with her extreme fitness interests, Peck said that the show came to her attention this summer after her friends insisted she join the next season. “I started watching it and saw that they’re built like me, they do the same things as me, and they have a real life outside of the gym life,” she said.

After looking into the show and its requirements, Peck sought out a gym to begin training. She now attends Steel City Parkour, the only ninja gym in Pittsburgh. She will be applying for American Ninja Warrior this winter. If she qualifies for the show, Peck will be participating in reality TV. “Laughing at the thought of it, she said, that the idea sounds a little silly. But the thought of it doesn’t deter her in another way how do you just find that zone, that pathway?”

But, true to her personality, she refuses to let that get in her way. Slightly struggling with and a small smile she added that it will be something new for her to learn.

In her teaching career, Peck is all about being professional. By participating in American Ninja Warrior, she will be doing something completely opposite. Despite her emphasis on professionalism, Peck said it doesn’t worry her, nor does she feel self-conscious about her races or her potential TV appearance. “I think my students seeing and knowing I do this stuff is pretty cool for them,” she said. “I think it’s important as a teacher that you share your authentic self with your students. With a grin she added, “Pittsburgh needs a ninja.”

A huge part of American Ninja Warrior is both the TV and live audience. For her, Peck said that is one of the scariest parts of the show. “Even during her races, she gets nervous when there are spectators watching her. Taking that to another level, she said, is intimidating.

Peck added, “When you have all those people watching and cheering me on in a way it’s awesome, but in another way how do you just find that zone, that pathway?”

While this may be the last class Hazo will teach, La Roche welcomes him back in the spring to offer wisdom in others’ classrooms. “It’s never long enough,” he said, but for now he will continue to administer various nuggets of perspicacity in whatever class is lucky enough to hear them.

Janine Bayer, chair of the La Roche English department, said, “The La Roche community cherishes our deeply-rooted relationships with Sam Hazo.” Indeed, many of those who took his course were previous students of his, and didn’t seem to forget how astonishingly thoughtful he can be. “I could listen to him recite poetry forever,” said Adria Kelleher, another La Roche professor who attended the reunion. “It may sound crazy, but the truth is I now hear his voice and pacing when I read poetry to myself.”

“I’m not getting younger. So if I’m going to do this, I better do it now. This stuff makes me happy, and you should do what makes you happy.”

- Andrea Peck

Hazo, continued from page 4

of Hazo’s work. She, along with many other Roche professors, were thrilled to welcome back “our first, and probably our last poet-in-residence.”

Hazo is the founder and director of the International Poetry Forum, an organization committed to introducing the community to the world’s finest poets. Shirley Stevens, a member of the Poetry Forum, also attended Hazo’s class. An English professor for over forty years, Stevens said he is enchanted by the feeling of a spoken poem. “Once you hear it in a poet’s voice,” she said, “you never hear it the same way again.”

Indeed, Hazo insisted that a poem is never truly understood unless it is delivered aloud. He illustrated this point by reciting his poem “Let Live” while the frost chilled the newly planted daisy bulbs. “They prophesy that doing what’s impossible is possible as soon as someone’s done it,” he crooned, instantly capturing the attention of every person standing there in the garden. Hazo is currently working another collection of poetry, temporarily titled “Bolero.” Bolero is a genre of Spanish music, often for its gentle yet intense passion and deep, rich sound. Hazo said he uses this term because “all work comes from breath,” just as music does.

Similarly, Hazo’s work has exhilarated more than just writers. Karen Lehman, a La Roche professor, said that Hazo directly inspired her “Poetry for the Soul” series, community sessions that encourage emotional reflection of poetry and discussions of that connection. “I’m not an English major,” said Lehman, “but I was so mesmerized by [Hazo].”

In addition to the non-credit course, Hazo also taught a credited course over the fall offered exclusive-ly to students. Hazo said that he had not taught a class since 1989, and was therefore anxious to see if the new generation of students were as enthusiastic about poetry as he hoped.

“They didn’t know who Cary Grant was!” he lamented, but overall described the experience as “marvel-ous.”

Left to right: Karen Lehman, David Junker, Mary Lou Ellen-Magonick, Adria Kelleher, Sister Rita Yeasted, Shirley Stevens, Samuel Hazo, and Mickey Bateson all participated in Sam Hazo’s community poetry course

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While the La Roche Community cherishes our deeply-rooted relationships with Sam Hazo. Indeed, many of those who took his course were previous students of his, and didn’t seem to forget how astonishingly thoughtful he can be. “I could listen to him recite poetry forever,” said Adria Kelleher, another La Roche professor who attended the reunion. “It may sound crazy, but the truth is I now hear his voice and pacing when I read poetry to myself.”

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show that we exist." A native of St. Thomas, Rhymer has seen firsthand the devastation a storm like this can cause, and just how little attention it can receive.

"After all, we are a part of the United States," said Rhymer, "and it saddened many of us to see that news outlets were focused on areas that were not damaged as much as the Virgin Islands."

Soraya Benjamin, a senior majoring in biology, was a speaker for the President’s Circle Fund. "The La Roche campus has been very busy," she said. "Helping to coordinate efforts to help the community has been an amazing experience."

Hurricane, continued from page 1

can only talk to her family when they are in public areas, and circumstances often prevent them from doing so. "They call whenever they can," she said. Rhymer added that even when cellular service is achieved, phone calls are cut short due to poor connections.

Despair rapidly creeps up on those for whom life has become a constant battle. "They still do not have electricity in most places," said Rhymer. "Some people don't even have running water." Daily living requirements become luxuries when power is lost; sewage disposal, food storage, transport, and temperature control systems are all basic amenities that have suddenly vanished for the people of the Virgin Islands. It will be difficult, if not impossible, for many students' families in the hardest hit areas to continue funding the students' short term living and educational expenses. Benjamin said that her future plans to attend law school upon graduation have been postponed because of her family's extreme financial needs. La Roche faculty, staff, and students banded together to raise funds and collect supplies to help the victims of the storm. Empathetic to the stress of their students, certain professors have eased deadlines and requirements for assignments. Benjamin said that her professor Dr. Bill Crowley has been "super accommodating" with her particular situation.

The past month has been exceptionally challenging for the La Roche Virgin Islanders, but they have been able to remain positive and work together. "They call whenever they can," said Rhymer. During the most horrible occurrences, the best is humanity surfaces. This is what humanity is all about -- compassion and empathy. "We are resilient and hardworking folks," said Miller. The worst of the storm is over. Miller believes that the most pressing challenge now is to "keep the faith."

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12:4 a.m.

About five minutes later, my roommate got her first phone call from home. I knew this would be the only time I got a phone call in a while. When I answered, I couldn't hear anything but water boiling down and the wind blowing extremely hard over the phone. When I heard my dad's voice, I knew he was instantly startled because I didn't know what the upcoming hours might bring.

He told me that everyone was safe and that the house was shaking, the roof was leaking, the windows were blown out, the house was filling up with water, the cistern was overflowing and his phone was dying. He was telling me not to worry about anything. Then the phone line disconnected.

Can you image not knowing when you will be able to talk to your family members again?

The La Roche Foundation's Spaghetti Dinner, a fundraiser that took place on October 6th, donated all of the proceeds to the Brothers Brother Foundation, a Pittsburgh-based international charity, which has sent much needed supplies directly to those impacted. In addition, she, along with several other islanders, helped organize and conduct the Hurricane Spaghetti Dinner. The storm and flooding destroyed countless buildings in both St. Thomas and St. John.

The storms and flooding destroyed countless buildings in both St. Thomas and St. John.

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and the controversial. In this way, individuals are made aware of current problems and can choose to act based upon what they read.

In a college setting, journalists are prepared for real life scenarios, but they also have the ability to tackle problems on their own level. This in turn makes problems more personal to them, along with more passionate.

To have even the basic skills of a journalist can be a benefit for anyone; they learn how to advocate for issues in a non opinionated way. It makes arguments stronger, and can reach more people to get them involved.

“Journalists really get you thinking too, they provide one big piece of the puzzle and it gives you the option to learn more or not. It’s a starting point for someone to be updated on what’s going on…(journalists) are the public’s main source,” Reichle said.

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