Canvas replaces Blackboard as online platform

By Julia Felton
Editor-in-Chief

O ut with the old, in with the new.

La Roche updated its online platform, leaving Blackboard for a newer site called Canvas.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Howard Ishiyama said that he began exploring new options as the school’s contract with Blackboard expired. “I noticed that a lot of other schools had been switching to other platforms. Canvas was probably at the top of the list,” he said.

Ishiyama said he assembled a team of faculty and staff to explore options, including Blackboard and Canvas. According to Ishiyama, everyone agreed that switching to Canvas would be the best choice.

Before deciding, Ishiyama said he also input from schools that already used Canvas.

“I was unusual, the extent to which everyone responded that not only had they gone to Canvas, but it was a relatively easy transition. Most technological transitions like this are fraught with potholes and issues, so that was a relief to me,” Ishiyama explained.

As of July 2018, La Roche has a three-year contract with Canvas.

Though Ishiyama said he liked Blackboard, the college had problems working with the company.

“We’d ask for answers to issues or questions we had and they weren’t being responsive. We want to go with a company that’s going to put us first,” he said.

Ishiyama said he thought students would prefer Canvas over Blackboard, noting Canvas was more intuitive and easier to navigate.

Sophomore Jessica Hennes confirmed Ishiyama’s belief. She said, “I find it easier to use and beneficial for keeping track of assignments.”

Like Hennes, sophomore Sara Szymanski said she preferred Canvas.

“I prefer Canvas because I like how I see all my grades for every class in one place. Also, I like the layout,” Szymanski explained.

Ishiyama added, “It’s easier for faculty members to take materials that they have and move it to another shell.”

To help professors with the transition, Ishiyama said the college offered numerous training sessions. Full-time faculty had to attend. The college also encouraged adjunct professors to participate. “We really paid attention to having a whole range of training available,” Ishiyama said.

Professor Ed Stanowski explained, “The college has done an excellent and thorough job providing.”

See Canvas, Page 8

Courier hosting writing contest

Would you like $500?

The La Roche Courier is sponsoring the Jimmy Dunn Feature Writing Contest. The contest is the brainchild of Communication, Media and Technology Chair Professor Jeff Ritter.

“The purpose,” Ritter said, “is to encourage more students to write for the Courier and honor Jimmy’s work and life and let his family know we recognize his contribution to our community.”

Ritter said he is sponsoring this contest as a way to honor Jimmy Dunn, who died July 21. Although he wasn’t a staff member or a student here, Dunn was a gregarious and warm fixture on campus. He also covered La Roche College sports for the local print media.

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, “Old or young, rich or poor, black or white, Mr. Dunn transcended differences and left his conversation partners with a sense of importance.”

Stories submitted to the Jimmy Dunn Feature Writing Contest will focus on some aspect of life at La Roche College, or the life of your community or workplace. So, you can write about an interesting person, an intriguing location, or some object you find compelling.

“I would include as the criteria for the winner that it reflects the care and openness that Jimmy Dunn showed for others and his spirit of hard work and lifelong learning,” Ritter added.

The contest is open to the entire La Roche student community. Contest entries must be 2,000-2,500 words. And the deadline for submission is Wednesday, November 21 at noon.

Email your submission in a Word file to Professor and Courier Advisor Ed Stanowski at stankoe1@laroche.edu.

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The Courier will announce the top five winners in its first issue of 2019, with the top prize earning $500. And those top five stories will appear in the Courier throughout the Spring 2019 semester.

The La Roche community is gathering to support Dr. Nicole Kreidler in her fight against stage two breast cancer.

Dr. Kreidler is the chair of the Interior Design Department at La Roche. She is a part of the Building and Grounds Committee, the Interior Design Dialogue Advisory Board, and the Eco-Council. Due to her recent diagnosis, Kreidler is not teaching this semester; however, she remains active with her organization, as well as advising for students.

Since the news broke, students and staff alike have stepped up to help. Christine Williams, Design Division Administrative Assistant, started a Blue Apron account for Kreidler. Blue Apron is a food delivery service that provides meals that are acceptable for Kreidler’s restrictive diet during her treatment. People can support this by buying gift cards for the service, either on the Blue Apron website or at Costo.

Another program started by the Design Division for Kreidler is Basket of Love. Donors give small, wrapped gifts that are sent to Kreidler for her to open when she needs a pick-me-up. Williams said, “She’s already opened a couple so far, and they’ve cheered her up.”

Staff aren’t the only ones who want to help. The Interior Design seniors organized a team for Kreidler during October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Those who want to support her or the fight against breast cancer can join the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, or provide a donation.

Students don’t need to feel as though they can’t help if they cannot afford to make donations. They can fill out cards for Kreidler to lift her spirits.

“We know that students might not be able to afford to donate,” Williams said. “We wanted this to be multifaceted, so everyone could support her in some way.”

For more information, ideas, or questions, contact Christine Williams.
SGA prioritizes better communication

BY JULIA FELTON
Editor-in-Chief

Student Government (SGA) said they want to improve communication and work towards individual goals this semester. SGA President Britany Premick said enhancing communication is her main objective for the semester. She said, “We want to increase our communication with faculty and staff and the student body.”

According to Premick, individual members of the board are working with specific faculty and staff members more closely, but SGA is also working to communicate better collectively.

To make SGA more accessible to the La Roche community, Premick implemented office hours on Mondays from 12:30-4:15. They also have a suggestion box. Premick said she hopes to create a Google form that serves as an online suggestion box. According to Premick, individual communication and work towards individual goals this semester.

Public Relations Chair Rebecca Franks added she wants students to feel welcome to attend SGA meetings to make their voices heard. “We are going to try to get our agenda out there earlier, so if students are having issues, they can come. We’re also talking about doing an open forum for all students to come to. We could have Sister Candace and heads of departments there, so students can voice their concerns.”

SGA is also working to release an online survey to gauge what students want.

Academic Vice President Sarah Thomas spearheaded the survey. She said, “We talked a lot about talking to the student body and illicit their opinion more directly, so I thought the best way to do this would be to make a comprehensive survey.”

According to Thomas, the survey will be available to all students online soon.

Public Relations Chair Rebecca Franks said she wants to strengthen SGA’s social media presence.

Though SGA discussed communication with the student body, they also had to resolve communication issues within their organization.

See SGA, Page 9

Radio club is now a one-man show

BY HEATHER RADICK
Contributing Writer

Kenny Swegman, a computer science senior, may be the first La Roche student to run a club entirely by himself. He first joined radio club as a freshman in 2015 and quickly rose through the ranks until he eventually became president this year.

He said he participated in TV production and acting all throughout high school and was always interested in radio. During a tour to Point Park University, he fell in love with the radio program; he thought, “I should do that when I go to college.”

When he entered La Roche, Swegman immediately got to work sniffing out the radio club. He met the current president and dove headfirst into the activities. He said he considered himself the “underground warrior,” setting up new software and running studio equipment but never accepting an official position.

As the years passed, Swegman became a more integral member of the club. He began teaching new members how to use equipment and handled all IT work for the entire club. Unfortunately, radio club never quite became popular, and soon, it was losing members and facing extinction.

“It quit being radio club,” Swegman said. “It quit focusing on what radio is known for, being active, getting your voice heard, and entertaining the students. We couldn’t figure out how to further the club’s goals.”

Swegman said he suspects that people are afraid to join radio club because they don’t like the sound of their own voice. “I love to talk,” he said, “but some people don’t.”

Last year, Swegman and previous president Andre Parker started a show called “The Daily Take,” an improv-based podcast that featured students and contained real stories. “Those were some of the funnest conversations I’ve had here at La Roche,” Swegman said. “It made me feel such a passion to take care of radio club.”

Swegman and Parker did The Daily Take for three semesters until Parker’s graduation. Now, Swegman said his main priority is developing a stable presence on campus using Twitch.tv, a live streaming video platform. He added that he wants to leave behind a bigger, better club for the freshmen who have shown interest.

To accomplish this goal, Swegman has organized a field trip to Pittsburgh’s most popular radio music station, 96.1 KISS. The trip is open to anyone who wants to see how radio is done professionally, to see “how it works,” as Swegman said, and even cement an internship there.

“When I leave, I suspect there will be more people around to take over for me,” Swegman said. “I’m more confident through this experience, making shows by students for students.”
Man on the Street

Entertainment Editor Sarah Hefferin asked students and staff: “What is your favorite show, movie, or book?”

Name: Mina Holland
Major: Professional Writing
Year: Junior
Quote: “American Italians partying, having fun, and doing dumb things occasionally. Reality show on the East Coast.”

Name: Lauren Ranalli
Major: Communications
Year: Junior
Quote: “A king who rules over seven kingdoms dies unexpectedly as nobles from all over fight for the title.”

Name: Katie Friend
Major: Professional Writing
Year: Freshman
Quote: “I’m not supposed to talk about it…”

Name: Alexis Poblocki
Major: Psychology
Year: Freshman
Quote: “Non-sparkling vampires go on an adventure to beat a time controlling maniac.”

Name: Aaron Brabson
Major: Education and Mathematics
Year: Freshman
Quote: “Fear doesn’t shut you down, it wakes you up. I’m Amity and Dauntless too.”

Name: Becky Maier
Major: Undecided
Year: Sophomore
Quote: “The movie starts off as a brother taking another brother’s place. They have blue aliens.”

Name: Katie Friend
Major: Professional Writing
Year: Freshman
Quote: “I’m not supposed to talk about it…”

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Name: Becky Maier
Major: Undecided
Year: Sophomore
Quote: “The movie starts off as a brother taking another brother’s place. They have blue aliens.”

Interested in joining our staff?

The Courier is always looking for new writers and photographers.

Contact Julia Felton for more information on writing for the Courier.

Julia.Felton@stu.laroche.edu
Education

College introduces LinkedIn Learning

By Julia Felton
Editor-in-Chief

La Roche is implementing a new online learning tool for students, faculty, and staff this semester. LinkedIn Learning—previously called Lynda—is a website featuring video classes in academic areas and career building skills. Vice President for Academic Affairs Howard Ishiyama explained, “There are these incredible playlists of courses—sort of mini-courses—that you go through. The idea is to provide these visual experiences to upgrade classes, to upgrade students’ out-of-class experience, but also to be an opportunity for students to upgrade their skills, irrespective of the classroom experience.”

Communications Department Chair Jeff Ritter added, “[It has] great video classes online on many different topics—really for anyone who works in an organization—there’s something for you.”

According to Ritter, this program offers classes in fields ranging from photography and design to information technology and education. He said it even offers classes on becoming a YouTuber. “This is so amazing to have at your fingertips,” Ritter said, noting that this program seems to be a perfect fit for technologically inclined young people.

Ritter said students will be able to access these classes on their laptops or phones. “Online learning is getting stronger and stronger, and the quality is getting better,” Ritter said. “It’s expanding all the time.”

For students, Ritter said he hopes See LinkedIn Learning, Page 9

Freshmen find new experiences in college life, reflect on high school

By Mina Holland
Associate Editor

The La Roche 2018 fall semester brings new academics, new opportunities, and a new class of students. The class of 2022, just barely making a dent in their college life as freshmen, are eager to experience the transition from high school to college itself. However, the transition is not always easy, and there are things that differentiate high school from college, as freshmen recall.

Living on campus is the most significant change from high school to college. To some students, living in a dorm, with a roommate, neighbors, and abiding rules are new to them. Others adjust easily to the change, having lived with roommates before. William Deason, a freshman, said that living with a roommate was a different experience for him. “I think that getting out of the house and exploring new opportunities has been a good experience so far,” he said.

Other freshmen have had the opportunity of living with roommates before college, so it was not as big of a change for them. “There really wasn’t much of a difference in my opinion when I jumped over here, because I’m used to being around so many people and staying in people’s rooms and houses,” another freshman, Crystal Woollett, said. She added that living with someone in the same bedroom area was strange to her, because even though she previously lived with other roommates, she always had space to herself.

Woollett and Deason both agreed that time management is the hardest thing to adjust to on campus. “[The hardest thing was] definitely balancing classes and homework and all your activities compared to high school,” Woollett said. Deason added that balancing athletics and academics was difficult within the first few weeks living on campus.

On top of balancing extracurricular activities and academic work, Woollett and Deason found the academic work to be much more difficult in college than high school. “You have to make sure you put in the time and effort into this or else you will not pass,” Woollett said.

“I think that the workload is more difficult in college, but I feel like you have better resources and tools to complete it in college than you do in high school,” Deason said. Since La Roche College’s Wright Library has

See Freshmen, Page 8

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Culture

La Roche professor shoots first movie

By Sarah Hefferin
Entertainment Editor

While many spent their summers relaxing, La Roche marketing professor Joe Puglisi spent his making a movie.

Titled “That’s Amore,” the movie is a romantic comedy that tells the story of nurse Lucia Lombardi, a middle-aged and single woman, her mother Rosa, and friends Rocco and Gino. When Lucia’s mother puts her in a complicated situation, Rocco and Gino become involved. It stars Puglisi as Gino, alongside talented faces such as comedian Tammy Pescatelli, actress Barbara Russell, and Puglisi’s close friend and producer, Dave Petti.

The four major characters are Italian, and the movie is framed around their lives and antics. But Puglisi assures the audience that the ending is a happy one, filled with a lot of love.

“There’s a lot of conflict, [but], despite the conflict, [the characters] all care for each other,” Puglisi said.

For Puglisi, getting involved with the film was a long time in the making. Being a part of the movie making process for him is nothing new, but the magnitude of “That’s Amore” was on a whole other playing field.

For a long time, Puglisi had an interest in film, but never acted upon it. He remembers never having taken part in school plays throughout his childhood. But, as he got older, he really got the acting bug and chose to finally get involved.

“I guess I always had a desire to do something in film. I think it was 2011 when I decided to take an acting class at CCAC, kind of on a whim, and got involved,” Puglisi said.

Through that class, he said he performed in a short play, and his acting career was born.

Puglisi began being an extra in movies, such as “Jack Reacher” and “One For The Money.” He then took more acting lessons, and was sent on auditions by a talent group in the area for commercials and finished products that made their way online.

But he kept asking what could be next for him and, just three years ago, Puglisi acted in a short film called “Happy Hour” produced by a crew of people from Point Park. It was twelve minutes long, and it made several film festivals.

This eventually sparked an idea: why not create a movie of his own?

“I was talking with my friend Dave Petti, we talked about 2 years ago, about doing something ourselves, because Pittsburgh isn’t a big market for actors,” Puglisi said. “A lot of times, major studios come in asking for auditions but then they end up bringing someone in from outside.”

Puglisi and Petti were eager to produce something for themselves, and so, no you don’t need to ask, and yes, he is embarrassed to be begging.

“…by writing Reggie’s story, I’m not looking for a pat on the back because I did something I had never done before. I don’t want to advertise Reggie’s cause, or even encourage others to do what I did, that’s a bonus if I can influence that. I want people to hear Reggie’s story and remember a time when they struggled. Simply because Reggie’s struggle is broadcasted to a large amount of people, doesn’t mean he’s asking for it, or that he’s wasting his time while he should be getting a job. He is doing what he can to survive in the urban jungle.

I don’t want this story to mean nothing, but, I also want to avoid wandering down the same path that others have walked. I decided that a good deed couldn’t be done too many times, so I decided to drive to the city and take a homeless man or woman to lunch. Believe it or not, it was actually harder to find a struggling person than I thought, until I found Reggie. Reggie is 30-years-old, with dark skin and salt and pepper hair to match the sparse beard he had. He wasn’t much bigger than me, and his sense of humor was unmatchable. Reggie was sitting on the curb with his bed right beside him. I guess you could call it a bed, but it was just a pillow case full of newspaper and a ratty blanket. I have never been rich by any stretch of the imagination, and my parents are in

See Reggies, Page 7
La Roche golf team aims for strong performance in last invitational

By Jordan Smith
Sports Editor

The La Roche men’s golf team is looking to place high in their last invitation. They’ve placed 5th and 6th twice and finished 3rd once.

Let’s look at some of their players.

David Wilson: David started playing golf when he was 13 years old. He went to South Side Beaver high school. His major at La Roche is international management. He plans to do business in other countries. To get better at golf he goes to the driving range, lifts weights, and practices constantly on different courses. The hardest course he ever played on is Tobacco Road. His favorite golf club to use is a 52-degree wedge. Some of David’s accomplishments was that he won the Westminster invitation his freshman year. He’s shot in the 60’s on courses as well.

Pat McCall: Pat started golfing at 2 years old. He went to Elizabeth Forward high school. His major at La Roche is international management. He plans to do business in other countries. To get better at golf he goes to the driving range, lifts weights, and practices constantly on different courses. The hardest course he ever played on was Oakmont. His favorite club to use is a 56-degree wedge. Some of Pat’s accomplishments are that he was the captain of the golf team in high school. He was the 2016 AMCC newcomer of the year. He also made first team all-conference that year, and in the 2017 made second team all-conference.

Their last invitation is October 1st at Penn State Behrend. The AMCC championship round is on Sunday October 7th, and Monday October 8th.

Pittsburgh Pirates suffer a season of slumps, disappointing baseball fans

By Jordan Smith
Sports Editor

The Pittsburgh Pirates look to finish around .500 this season which, surprisingly, is an improvement from the past two seasons. It was certainly a frustrating and confusing season for Pirates’ fans.

The off-season started off with both Andrew McCutchen and Gerrit Cole being traded. Both were fan favorites, specifically McCutchen. The trades never blew over, and fans stayed upset that both key players were gone. Ironically, after both of those trades, the Pirates management brought in Corey Dickerson who became a big help this season as he hit .298 and brought in 54 RBI’s. But, the moves made were not enough to form a playoff team.

Gregory Polanco is turning out to be a bust. Austin Meadows, the prospect who was always mentioned the past couple years, was looking good until he was a part of the trade with Tyler Glasnow that sent them away for Chris Archer. Ivan Nova had a bad year, and they sent off the veteran David Freese. Jameson Taillon has not turned into the pitching ace they expected. Josh Harrison and Francisco Cervelli have been consistently good, but it was reported they were both almost traded which would have upset fans even more as they are definite fan favorites.

Overall, the season has felt like it was one bad move after another. Manager Clint Hurdle, the pitching staff, and the front office were constantly questioned and challenged for every move they made. Hurdle was questioned for his lineup moves. The pitching staff was being challenged for how they told the pitchers to pitch. Pitchers who left, like Gerrit Cole and Charlie Morton, started pitching better for another team. General Manager Neal Huntington has been under heat for his trades, and owner Bob Nutting has been accused of only being in it for the money.

The Pirates this year had their lowest attendance record ever since opening PNC Park. The most beautiful ballpark in all of baseball lacked the atmosphere it had in 2015 when the team racked up 98 wins. Not a single player consistently batted over .300. Not a single starting pitcher or bullpen pitcher had an ERA below 3 except for Felipe Vazquez.

Management surely needs to work on bringing in a stronger bullpen and at least one or two more starting pitchers. The hitting was not particularly good, but they all lacked star power.

Will the management make moves and spend money, or will it just be another bridge year? Time will tell.

Overall, the season has felt like it was one bad move after another. Manager Clint Hurdle, the pitching staff, and the front office were constantly questioned and challenged for every move they made. Hurdle was questioned for his lineup moves. The pitching staff was being challenged for how they told pitchers to pitch.
He has never had a job outside of the military and he wasn’t sure what he should be doing. Because he didn’t go to college, his choices were limited, but he eventually told me that he was “going to get a job that paid the big bucks,” so that he could help someone in a similar situation one day.

I asked him what he planned to do. In hindsight, that was probably an invasive question, but what the hell, I’d never see him again. We didn’t have time to “warm up” to each other. I was trying to get to the nitty gritty. He answered honestly, and he wasn’t up for that. He had asked me, “I don’t know.” He has never had a job outside of the military and he wasn’t sure what he should be doing. He was just starting a new place, and his choices were limited, but he eventually told me that he was “going to get a job that paid the big bucks,” so that he could help someone in a similar situation one day. He said, “No offense to you, but you don’t know. So while we’ve been working on you, it didn’t come from a place of understanding, it came from a place of pity.” I want someone to know that I’m helping them because I can relate to the struggle. And I think it was that statement from him that makes this story fulfill its purpose.

Reggie didn’t necessarily deal a bad hand, but he made some choices that ended up costing him a lot. That doesn’t mean that you should lock your car doors if you see him walking a bike. Then I saw him pull out paper and a pen scribble something down, and tape it to the parking meter next to him. He packed himself up and I watched him walk down the street. Being me, I needed to see what he had taped to the meter, so I circled around and parked next to it. I said, “And the story?” He pulled out a pen and scribbled something down. I gave it to him. He thanked me and I said goodbye. I had gotten in my car, pulled away, and gotten stuck at a stop light. As I was waiting for my light, I heard him say, “Maybe if it’s because I’m homeless, or if it’s because I’m black and homeless.” It’s unfortunate that these are his circumstances.

When I had walked Reggie back to his curb, he again thanked me and I told him that I was going on break for the summer and I wouldn’t be around, but I also told him that if I ever was in the city, I would look for him at his curb, and take him out again. When I see said goodbye I had gotten in my car, pulled away, and gotten stuck at a stop light. As I was waiting for my light, I heard him say, “Maybe if it’s because I’m homeless, or if it’s because I’m black and homeless.” It’s unfortunate that these are his circumstances.

They eventually cast Tammy Pesce, Carlos and Barabara Russell as Lucia and Rosa, whom Puglisi said were “stand out” actors. Pasciuti is big in the world of comedians, winning Comedy Central’s “Stand Up Showdown” in 2010, and has even performed on Jay Leno, the View, and the Talk. Russell was known for movies such as “Day of the Dead” and “Money for Nothing” and was intermittently on “Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood.”

When the cast was set, filming for “That’s Amore” began on January 22, lasting for 19 days, and wrapped on July 30th, 2018.

All of the movie was shot on location in the Pittsburgh area, such as at The Sons of Italy club in Sewickley, the Elwood City Medical Center, and even La Roche College.

We did film a scene here, at La Roche, because (my character) Gino is a college professor. He had a class in film,” Puglisi said. “(La Roche) was great. Everything was very much made easy for us, and they were very receptive to the idea of us filming here.”

Students were encouraged to come to campus to be extras in the classroom settings through the multiple takes for the scene. It gave them a behind the scenes look into how their favorite movies and tv shows are made.

Now that filming is over, Puglisi, Petro, and the rest of the crew are working on getting the film ready for release.

“Now, we’re in the process of editing. He film,” Puglisi said. “Maybe by May or June of next year, we’ll have something to show or commercialize. We did (the film) as a Screen Actors Guild so, in the contract, the first time we put the film out, it has to be on line. Once we are online for a period of time, we then could go into theaters.”

Puglisi hopes that, by late 2019, “That’s Amore” could get its big break with an online release, such as Netflix or Hulu, eventually earning a place in theaters.

Puglisi’s success took time and effort, putting years into this project. For those studying film and media at La Roche, he urges perseverance, telling students to continue to learn and grow in whatever they do.

“If it’s your passion, learn as much as possible. Whatever your passion is, whether it’s in front of the camera, or behind the camera, get as good as you can. Just keep at it. Understand it’s hard work, it’s probably slow going, but the joy is in the journey.”

-Joe Puglisi
Humanitarian aid training, continued from page 5

According to the United Nations (UN) Office for Coordination of Hu-
manitarian Affairs, 136 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2018, but UN-coordinated response plans can support only 91 million people.

Though Markham emphasized the need for humanitarian aid workers, she did warn that this type of work is not for everyone.

“If you are responding to a natu-
ral disaster, there may not be electric-
ity, there may not be running water,” Markham said, stressing that these are high-stress situations.

For those who do not feel com-
fortable responding to these disasters, Markham suggested getting involved in the humanitarian aid efforts in oth-
er ways.

“You can certainly keep up-to-date with various humanitarian efforts just by reading the news,” Markham said.

“There are introductory online train-
ings. Local Red Cross organizations have similar types of training.”

She also reminded people that this work can be done domestically, as well as abroad.

For those who are interested in humanitarian aid work, Markham said this training would help students learn about the field and potential ca-
reer opportunities.

Markham said that this program can appeal to people with any level of experience in the field. “The levels of experience varied widely,” she said.

“We have a former member of the armed services in Ghana. During his time there, he did a lot with the UN peace keeping operation, so he was very interested in continuing this type of work. And then we also had college students.”

The next training will be held June 3-7, 2019. Information and ap-
plications will be available on the In-
ternational Outreach section of the La Roche website this winter.

Markham encouraged anyone who is interested to contact her for more information.

“Dr. Howard Ishiyama

It was unusual, the extent to which everyone responded that not only had they gone to Canvas, but it was a relatively easy transition.”

— Dr. Howard Ishiyama

Read more at courier.laroche.edu
SGA, continued from page 2

Premick explained, “There seems to be some confusion with the board about attendance.”

Executive Vice-President Allison Bosworth urged the board to follow appropriate attendance procedures. “Please let us know ahead of time if you can’t make it. If you can’t make it, you still need a proxy. If you cannot make it, you are supposed to let us know two weeks in advance,” she said. “There’s repercussions for not coming to the meetings.”

In addition to her emphasis on communication, Premick said SGA has other goals to achieve this semester.

Since many members of the La Roche community have been affected by cancer, Premick said SGA plans to get involved in cancer awareness events. She said they want to make shirts and collect donations for the cause.

Ryan Eshenbaugh, SGA’s financial vice president, said he is finalizing club budgets.

Judicial Vice President Cory Rezak said he will have weekly meetings with Public Safety to address student concerns.

Abby Doyle, director of green initiatives, said she hopes to revamp the recycling program this semester.

“We’re trying to work on figuring out what the current recycling system is that the school has and finding a better one that works and then visually rebranding it for the whole school, so it’s easier for [students] to recycle,” she explained.

Director of Commuter Affairs Rheanna Abel hosted a meet and greet for commuter students. “We did get some nice feedback about adding more commuter events,” she said. Abel also added that she wants to form a commuter board.

Director of Community Service Jennifer Kardos plans to collaborate with Mission and Ministry. “We could maybe have an SGA-sponsored event during immigration justice week,” Kardos explained.

Secretary Amanda Sowko will be acting as SGA’s liaison with the library, meeting every other week with Library Director Alecia Kerr. Thomas hosted voter registration events in CC Square. She said over 50 people registered during her event. Though SGA does have goals for the current semester, Premick said their ongoing courtyard project will not be finished this year.

“Wanting to update the courtyard, that’s a long-term goal. It’s going to take more money than what people think,” she explained. “We’re working on temporary ways to update it, like getting more seating and trying to get the Wi-Fi to work properly.”

LinkedIn Learning, continued from page 4

LinkedIn Learning will provide a unique way to expand upon what they learn in the classroom.

He explained, “Any student can use it to improve their skills in academic areas, as well as learn some totally marketable skills in a wide range of fields.”

LinkedIn Learning allows ambitious students to explore new passions and interests. Ritter said students won’t have to wait to be formally taught concepts that appeal to them. They could simply watch these free lessons to explore new topics independently.

“Mostly I think using it can empower students to take more control of their learning and do what it takes to be even more prepared to work in the real world beyond what people and schools tell you to do,” Ritter said.

“There are possibilities for students to get certificates in particular areas,” Ishiyama explained.

Faculty and staff could also take these classes to upgrade their skills. Ritter explained that classes about presentation and communication skills may help professors in the classroom.

“It should make professors’ lives easier,” Ritter added.

Ritter said he believes this tool could augment online classes and be integrated into classroom discussions or assignments.

Ritter plans to host training workshops to help faculty learn how they can implement this in their classes. From there, he said he hopes to see faculty encouraging students to take advantage of LinkedIn Learning independently.

Ishiyama explained that this tool can be integrated with Canvas, La Roche’s new online platform. This would allow professors to post LinkedIn Learning materials directly on their class pages.

Ritter encouraged students who have not used LinkedIn Learning before to take advantage of this resource.

“Go to it and explore,” he said. “Look for things that are fun, that you’ve always wanted to learn about.”

Despite the benefits of implementing this new learning tool, Ritter admitted that it is not perfect. He explained, “There is a factor of serendipity and focus that I love that we may be losing to multitasking and flitting about from thing to thing.”

“I think using [LinkedIn Learning] can empower students to take more control of their learning and do what it takes to be even more prepared to work in the real world.”

– Jeff Ritter