With mounting interest from health care professionals within the region and nation to ensure nurses are appropriately educated for the increasingly complex challenges of the health care environment, Alvernia University and The Reading Hospital and Medical Center have formed a partnership that will increase access and opportunities for advanced education through formal degree programs.

Beginning in fall 2011 nursing students enrolling in the hospital’s School of Health Sciences will be simultaneously enrolled at Alvernia. The dual-enrollment program will allow those completing the School of Health Sciences Nursing Program to benefit from a seamless transition into Alvernia’s Bachelor of Science nursing degree program. In addition, Alvernia and The Reading Hospital plan to jointly offer an Associate’s Degree in Medical Imaging beginning in 2013, an extension of the Radiologic Technology Program currently offered by the School.

The initiatives directly address calls from the National League for Nursing, the Institute of Medicine, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation, and other organizations to promote academic progression within nursing. In addition to paving the way for academic progression, the partnership assures that nursing education remains accessible and cost-effective by enabling students to begin their education in a diploma program and transition into the bachelor’s degree program.

Thomas F. Flynn, Alvernia’s president said the timing for the agreement between Reading Hospital and Alvernia is ideal, given the strength and reputation of Alvernia’s nursing program and the rapidly rising educational expectations for the profession. He envisions that in addition to providing direct benefits for the Berks County community by ensuring the region has access to a pool of well educated nurses to meet the needs of residents, the partnership can become a model for institutions.

“The addition of the Associate Degree in Medical Imaging (radiology) and the proposed medical imaging Bachelor’s Degree completer program are exciting prospects for our community,” said Debbie J. Rahn, Director of the School of Health Sciences. “Currently, radiologic technologists must travel an hour to find a program for continuing education in medical imaging.”

Nursing is one of the few professions in which a Bachelor’s Degree is not currently required for entry level, noted Rahn. However, she said, there is mounting interest to increase requirements and make a Bachelor’s Degree mandatory within a limited timeframe following graduation from a hospital-based diploma program or Associate Degree program in nursing. Some states have already introduced legislation to that effect.

Currently, a student can become a registered nurse by earning a diploma from a hospital-based program like that offered at the School of Health Sciences, an Associate Degree from a two-year community college program or a four-year Bachelor’s Degree in nursing program (BSN), and passing a state examination.

“But, the expectation and real push right now for nursing is lifelong learning,” Rahn said. “The objective is to encourage nurses to continue their educations all the way to the doctorate level.”

Research has suggested that the attainment of a bachelor’s or higher degree in nursing results in improved critical thinking, decision making and communication. Hospitals with higher percentages of nurses who have attained degrees have better patient outcomes.
Cars and Student Parking

- Students must register all vehicles on campus at the Public Safety Office.
- There is no cost for a parking permit.
- Permits are available in the Public Safety Office located on the second floor of the Student Center.
- To obtain a parking permit you must have:
  - Car make and model
  - License plate number
- Student parking is available in designated areas marked with appropriate signage.
- Get the parking policy and parking lot map at the Public Safety Office.
- Violations will result in fines or revocation of parking privilege.

Photo Identification Cards

- All students must carry a valid Alvernia ID card.
- ID cards are used for library services, admission to events, dining, etc.
- ID photos may be taken throughout the year in the Public Safety Office (located in the Student Center) until 3 p.m. Monday - Friday.
- Lost or stolen ID cards must be reported immediately to Public Safety and may be replaced for a nominal fee.

Fall Term

Fall Term lets you get ahead with a large selection of courses. Courses are offered in three accelerated formats: Online, Blended, and Classroom. We offer several flexible sessions at all three locations in the Fall to help move you closer toward graduation.

Register Today!
www.alvernia.edu/fall

Make Tuition Deferment Work For You!

Does your employer make you wait until the end of the semester to reimburse you for course work?

Alvernia University can help.
If you find yourself in this situation, contact the Student Billing Office for information on tuition deferment for graduate and continuing studies students who have an employer reimbursement program.

How does tuition deferment work?
Alvernia University allows you to delay payment of your current term bill. This gives most employees enough time to receive their tuition reimbursement from their employers, and then pay their current term bill with the reimbursed funds.

How do I sign up?
Contact the Office of Student Financial Planning for a Tuition Deferment Form. The office is located in Bernardine Hall room 1103, and is open until 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday. The form is also available online at www.alvernia.edu/financialaid/forms.html.

When is the sign-up deadline for tuition deferment?
A new form must be authorized by your employer and submitted in advance of each semester. Students should submit the Tuition Deferment Form at least one week prior to the start of the upcoming semester, or upon registration, in order to avoid being assessed a $100 late fee. Forms can be submitted in person, via fax (610.796.8425), or emailed to student.billing@alvernia.edu.

e2 Campus

Alvernia’s notification system for weather updates & emergencies.
It instantly notifies you through your choice of email, text message, or both.

HOW YOU CAN REGISTER...Go to the Alvernia homepage at: www.alvernia.edu
- Click on the e2Campus logo on the right.
- Follow the simple directions (takes under 3 minutes).

Don’t have e2campus yet? Find weather updates by calling Alvernia at: 610.796.8200 or check Alvernia’s homepage at www.alvernia.edu.

Posting times are 6:30 a.m. for day classes and 4 p.m. for evening classes.
The Graduate & Continuing Studies Division welcomes all students to Alvernia University with a few reminders!

Important Dates:

May 16..................................................................Semester + Mod 5 + Mod A begin  
May 17................................................................. Last day to add/drop Mod A  
May 21..................................................................Saturday classes begin  
May 23................................................................. Last day to add/drop Mod 5  
May 27................................................................... Last day to withdraw - Mod A  
May 28-30.........................................................Memorial Day Holiday (no classes Day + Mod + Sat)  
May 31..................................................................Classes resume  
June 3 ......................................................................Mod A ends  
June 13..................................................................Mod B begins  
June 13..................................................................Last day to withdraw without F - Mod 5  
June 14..................................................................Last day to add/drop Mod B  
June 24..................................................................Last day to withdraw without F - Mod B  
June 30.................................................................. Mod 5 & B end  
July 2-4.................................................................4th of July Holiday (no classes)  
July 5......................................................................Mod 6 begins  
July 13 ......................................................................Last day to add/drop Mod 6  
July 25.....................................................................Mod D begins  
July 26..................................................................... Last day to add/drop Mod D  
August 1............................................................... Last day to withdraw without F - Mod 6  
August 5 ................................................................ Last day to withdraw - Mod D  
August 11............................................................Mod D ends  
August 18............................................................. Mod 6 ends  
August 19............................................................. Semester ends

Do you have an account with our Self-Service Online function?  
Check and print your schedule, view your grades, print an unofficial transcript, register for classes online, and much more. If you have problems or questions about Self-Service, please contact Jeremiah at 610.796.8383.

Meet Your Classmate...

Lucretia N. Brown, M.Ed.

Education: BA in Legal Studies, University of Pittsburgh - 1995  
MA in Urban Studies, Alvernia University - 2001  
PhD of Philosophy in Leadership, Alvernia University - anticipated graduation 2014

Employer: Alvernia University

Job Title: Graduate Assistant, Ph.D. Program

Duties: Assist in data collection for internal and external reports, conduct library searches for faculty courses and/or research studies. Compile and analyze data related to PhD Program and research current trends and best practices for PhD Programs in higher education.

Future plans: In general, I would like to use my doctorate degree as tool to assist with leadership decision-making processes in higher education that relate to race, gender and socio-economic disparities at the student and faculty levels.

Why Alvernia? “I received my MA in Urban Ed from Alvernia in 2001 and appreciated the intimate environment of the campus, students, and faculty as well. I also appreciated the development and support of my diverse research interest due to the graduate faculty in the program at that time. The convenience of the Reading campus was also a major factor in my decision to apply to Alvernia’s doctoral program.”

Have interesting news or a classmate you think the Evening Voice should profile? We would love to hear about them!  
Contact the Marketing Department at 610.568.1558 or via email at jennifer.richter@alvernia.edu.
The Alvernia University Bookstore is looking forward to welcoming students to campus for the Summer 2011 semester. Textbooks, supplies, and Alvernia gear can be purchased in the store and online. Ordering books online is quick and easy—all you need to know are what courses you’ll be taking, and you can order your textbooks without waiting in line. You can even have your bookstore order shipped directly to your home or work. It’s simple, fast, and convenient.

Textbook Rental
A number of titles are now available to rent, visit www.alvernia.bkstr.com for more information.

Internet Textbook Orders
Students may place orders on the bookstore’s website by logging on to www.alvernia.bkstr.com. Follow the prompts to select your campus location, department, course, and section number. Please select “yes” when asked if it is okay to substitute “new” if “used” is unavailable to avoid canceling your order.

You can pay for books online using a credit card (VISA, AMEX, Mastercard, Discover), or financial aid. If your bookstore order will be covered by financial aid, please indicate your Alvernia University Student ID number. Please fill out a Bookstore Account Form to have the funds transferred to your bookstore account. The link to the form is available on the bookstore web site.

You can select “pre-pay/store pick-up” and your order will be waiting for you in the bookstore or select “ship” to have your order sent directly to your home. Please bring your student ID card when you visit the bookstore to pick-up your order. Yes, it’s that simple!

Visit the Bookstore!
The bookstore is located on the first floor of the Student Center at the main campus.

Summer store hours are:
Mon.-Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fri.: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sat.: Special Events Only (see website)

Please note that the bookstore is extremely busy during the first few days of a semester, so please place your order as early as possible.

Alvernia University Bookstore
(610) 796-8250

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Check out the website just for alumni, with everything from graduation photos, upcoming events, and latest alumni news at: www.alumni.alvernia.edu

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