Making Big Plans

In this issue

Arts in Renaissance
in a blossoming theatre program

Athletics and recreation programs are thriving and teaching students more than just how to win

Making ethics matter is the mission of the Alvernia Center for Ethics and Leadership
President’s Message

“Make no little plans,” a famous architect once admonished. “They have no magic to stir people’s blood… Make big plans; aim high in hope and work.”

As we approach our 50th anniversary, Alvernia has heeded this advice. With the full involvement of the campus community, and the faith and confidence of our Board of Trustees, we have committed to a vision that will shape the face of Alvernia into the next 50 years, to be a distinctive Franciscan university committed to personal and social transformation through integrated community based, inclusive, and ethical learning. The priorities in a new strategic plan will enhance our Franciscan identity and educational quality, reinvigorate student communities, and redouble our efforts in community and external engagement and in resource development.

Our new plans were developed through the most inclusive and well integrated processes that I have witnessed in my thirty years in higher education. The strategic plan has guided the development of a comprehensive campus (facilities) master plan, the first in the history of the College, and will guide our upcoming fund raising campaign. The campus master plan does stir the blood; you’ll enjoy some initial reflections and renderings in this magazine. This four-stage plan should be completed over ten to twenty years.

It is also a plan that is dynamic, not static, as good plans should be that project well into the future. We expect that it will change over time in response to better ideas and new opportunities.

Take time to read the observations of the co-chairs of the strategic planning process, David Silbey and John McCloskey, in the faculty/staff section of this issue, as they reflect on the challenges and rewards of leading this endeavor. Their superb efforts and those of many faculty and staff colleagues, students, alumni, and friends have helped us envision an exciting future.

Our plans, our dreams for Alvernia stir us all, reflecting a shared pride and confidence in this special place, an important reminder amidst the change we anticipate—new buildings, new faces in faculty and staff, new programs, and partnerships.

Alvernia continues to be inspired and shaped by the presence and example of our sponsors, the Bernardine Sisters. Alumni speak with passion about the impact that the sisters and many good lay colleagues have had on their lives. Franciscan values as embodied in that great phrase of St. Bonaventure—“knowledge joined with love”—have made us special for our first 50 years. And they will do so yet again, for the next 50!

Peace and all good.

Thomas F. Flynn
President

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On the Cover

As the symbolic kickoff to Alvernia’s strategic plan, 1% Service Day saw the campus community gather together to beautify the campus, planting flowers and sowing the seeds of success for the future.
Features

In this issue we examine three initiatives at the cross section of the strategic and campus master plans: theatre arts, athletics and recreation, and ethics.

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From the early basketball games played in Francis Hall auditorium in the 1960s, Alvernia’s sports programs have blossomed to include 17 different sports and a growing number of conference titles with plans to grow intramural sports.

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The importance of the ethical dimension in leadership has never been greater. The Alvernia Center for Ethics and Leadership focuses on exploring the power of principles in business and life.

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Theatre arts are thriving at Alvernia as the young program is nurtured by a resourceful and creative thinker with his sights set on top-notch productions and top-quality education.

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Campus master plan and new strategic plan launched by Alvernia; College to see capital improvements through 2027

Alvernia will see many capital improvements over the next 20-25 years, officials announced after the first comprehensive campus master plan and a new strategic plan were approved by the College Board of Trustees in March.

With the Board's go-ahead, Alvernia launched a three-phase master plan for the main campus, with construction on Phase One beginning in July 2008. Phase One capital improvements have been estimated at $25-30 million and will be financed by a combination of fundraising, budget surpluses, and prudent use of long-term debt. A new strategic plan guided the development of the master plan. Its improvements reflect the College's strategic priorities to strengthen its Franciscan identity, academic quality, student communities, external engagement, and resource development.

"All of the projects outlined in these plans—renovated buildings and academic improvements—assume special significance because they support a broader, overall vision for Alvernia's future as a distinctive Franciscan university," explained President Thomas F. Flynn, "one that is committed to personal and social transformation, through integrated, community-based, inclusive, and ethical learning."

Nearly every existing building and space on campus will be improved or expanded over the next five years in Phase One, including the Physical Education Center, the Student Center, the Franco Library, Bernardine Hall, and the preservation and restoration of the College's most historic building, Francis Hall.

New construction in Phase One includes apartment-style housing for upperclassmen, a competitive track and field, a new green space in the center of campus, and a new entrance to the front of Francis Hall from the Bernardine Sisters property adjacent to campus, the Sacred Heart Convent on Saint Bernardine Street. Other developments in the master plan include ballfields to be built in Angelica Park on land leased from the City of Reading.

Currently the College is in the Foundation Phase of the master plan and has begun renovations of the Upland Center at a price tag of $1.5 million dollars. The Upland Center will be the new home for the Graduate and Continuing Studies Division because it offers improved and expanded classroom space, lots of parking, and easy access, all of which are important to adult learners.

At the same time major upgrades to the physical plant are underway, the strategic plan will unfold in less visible but equally critical ways to realize the new strategic priorities approved by the board including improving program quality, creating an integrated undergraduate experience, improving the teaching and learning environment, improving faculty achievement and support, and improving student quality—all of which will add value to the educational experience at Alvernia.

"1% Day" wrap-up

On Wednesday, May 2, more than 100 members of the campus community joined together to roll up their sleeves and jumpstart Alvernia's campus beautification program. The idea came from the concept that even a small effort (1%) from everyone would lead to substantial campus improvements. The achievements were impressive and ranged from planting flowers and edging beds, to painting speed bumps and fire hydrants, to installing and promoting recycling containers around campus, and building a retaining/sitting wall at Clare Hall.

Amy Donovan '09 and Rachael Taranto '09, creating a retaining wall at a residence hall, were enthusiastic helpers for 1% Day.
Catholic Education Connection:
Local high school freshmen connect with college life

Spring is the time for high school freshmen to start thinking about choosing a college and a career path. To provide guidance during this process, Alvernia hosted about 190 freshmen high school students from Holy Name High School and Reading Central Catholic for the “Catholic Education Connection” session in March. Students split into groups to learn about topics such as admissions and financial aid, academics, mission, athletics, and student life activities. Faculty members from the business, psychology, athletic training, and biology departments presented information about choosing an academic path. Students were also given a tour of the campus, ate lunch in the College cafeteria, and explored different ways to stay active while attending college.

Alvernia Sigma Tau Delta members successful at annual convention

The Alvernia College Kappa Pi Chapter of the International English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta, received several awards from the annual convention held in Pittsburgh, Pa., from March 28 through April 1. Seven Alvernia students: Janine Surnick, Donna Perilli, Justin Ludwig, Don Dilliplane, Heather Bird, Jenny Lapekas, Rachel Penny, and two alumni, Lori Kemp ’06, and Lynzie Biggs ’06, presented at the conference. Communication professors Carrie Fitzpatrick, Sue Guay, and Beth DeMeo (department chair) were actively involved in the conference. The group presented scholarly and creative work and participated in panels about internships, teaching, publishing, graduate schools, careers, and leadership. Kemp won the $2,000 P.C. Somerville Award for First Year Teachers, and Surnick won the Eastern Regional Scholarship award for $1,000. The Alvernia Kappa Pi Chapter was honored with a plaque for its 25th anniversary. More than 800 people attended the convention, representing 172 colleges and universities.
Society receives national recognition

The nationally-chartered Alvernia College chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), advised by Beth Berret, business, received a Super Merit Award, the highest award given. The annual SHRM merit award program recognizes outstanding chapters for excellence in the operation of the chapter; the professional development of members; support of the profession; and partnership with SHRM.

SHRM provides education and information services, conferences and seminars, government and media representation, online services and publications to professional and student members throughout the world.

Alvernia hosts future business leaders conference

Alvernia College hosted the Annual Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Region Eight Conference for surrounding high schools in January. The event was coordinated by Alvernia faculty members Mary Ellen Wells, Bryan Dreibelbis, and Beth Berret (all business). FBLA students competed in events such as public speaking, job interview, business financial plan, emerging business issues, C++ programming, web site development, and e-business. Many of the students will move on to compete at the state level.

Crusader Café redux

On March 26, the campus community gathered to re-dedicate the renovated Alumni Crusader Café located in the Student Center. This student area now includes several booths, eating tables, and lounge-type seating ideal for relaxing and socializing. An improved stage and upgraded lighting are perfect for events such as coffee houses, talent shows, poetry readings, and many others. The café has been part of the Student Center since its original opening and was funded by donations from many generous Alvernia alumni.

Students spend day lobbying in Harrisburg

Alvernia students spent a day in Harrisburg on March 20, 2007, lobbying to increase the PHEAA Grant Program. Undergraduate students, accompanied by Jennifer Donovan of the Financial Aid department, attended the Student Lobby Day organized by the Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP). Dean of Enrollment Kate Emery and six graduate students from her Occupational Therapy Advocacy and Leadership class also attended. The students were acknowledged when Senator O’Pake took them to the Senate Floor Gallery and announced that they were visiting the capitol for Student Lobby Day.

Advisor and officers of SHRM: Beth Berret, advisor; Thien Vy, historian; Samantha Ganter, treasurer; Stephanie Simmers, secretary; Sean McCoy, vice-president; Christina Borns, president.
Students help to Save Darfur

Dr. Victoria Williams, business, and her International Human Rights class sponsored a campus-wide effort to raise awareness about the genocide in Darfur by sponsoring an International Human Rights day on campus in April. Campus members learned about Darfur, signed petitions, and made donations to the cause. More than 100 people put their hands in red paint and “signed” a banner petition. About 150 people signed another petition that will be sent to President Bush, asking him to put pressure on the Sudanese government to allow a United Nations peacekeeping force into Darfur to protect the people. The effort continued at the College’s annual Spring Fling where students solicited donations and donated proceeds from ticket sales to a special concert. In all, Spring Fling raised $7,218 to help save Darfur. Proceeds will be given to the Save Darfur organization, the largest NGO working to alleviate the ethnic cleansing crisis in Darfur.

Phi Beta Lambda gets down to business

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)—Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) is a nonprofit education association of students preparing for careers in business and business-related fields. Each year, top PBL members convene to compete in leadership events, share their successes, and learn new ideas about shaping their futures. The Alvernia PBL chapter recently participated in the 36th annual Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference, bringing home 11 total awards, including a first place finish in the Annual Chapter Business Report competition. According to faculty advisor Bryan Dreibelbis, business, around 250 students from colleges across the state (such as Temple, Drexel, Bloomsburg, Shippensburg, and IUP) participated in this year’s event.

Alvernia College charters international nursing honor society

The Alvernia College Nursing Honor Society was chartered as an official chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the Honor Society of Nursing, on April 17, 2007. During the ceremony, 93 nurse leaders and senior level baccalaureate nursing students were inducted as charter members into the Upsilon Zeta chapter, and Sister Mary Stella Cisz received the Chapter’s first “Friend of Nursing” award. She was recognized as one of the principal founders of Alvernia’s nursing program (in 1977).

Approval for the Upsilon Zeta Chapter was granted at the Sigma Theta Tau International biennial convention last fall. Membership in the honor society is by invitation and is extended to undergraduate students, faculty, and professional nurses in the community who have demonstrated superior scholastic, leadership, and nursing achievements.

Students in Mary Schreiner’s special education class worked with teenagers in the Berks County Intermediate Unit’s program, “Transition House” to do community-service projects in 2006-07 including exercising animals at the Humane League, sewing quilts with Campus Ministry, and doing recreational activities with the elderly. Schreiner (center) is surrounded by her Alvernia class and Transition House students in Nolde Forest, where they raked leaves and removed invasive species plants.

Carol Roach, president of Upsilon Zeta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, with Kay Artz, vice president of Upsilon Zeta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International

Row 1: Samantha Ganter, Thien Vy, Christina Borns, Zoa Reber. Standing (Row 2): Justine Fronheiser, Josh Smith, Sean McCoy, Bryan Dreibelbis, Stephanie Simmers, Mike Brokaw

Employees of the College have been working hard this fall. Staff members have been volunteering their time at the Humane League of Berks County to exercise their horses. Employees are also volunteering their time at Camp Skippaway to serve as counselors and instructors. Employees have also been working with the students at Alvernia College to help them achieve their goals.

Students in Mary Schreiner’s special education class worked with teenagers in the Berks County Intermediate Unit’s program, “Transition House” to do community-service projects in 2006-07 including exercising animals at the Humane League, sewing quilts with Campus Ministry, and doing recreational activities with the elderly. Schreiner (center) is surrounded by her Alvernia class and Transition House students in Nolde Forest, where they raked leaves and removed invasive species plants.
With the past decade, a tradition has taken root at Alvernia College that continues to impress, inspire, and educate our students, staff, visitors, and friends who hear about a special practice on our campus—the Mission Moment. Many are curious about how this tradition began, and I think it is time to tell the story and take the next step to sustain the tradition.

Several years ago, it became apparent that freshmen students would benefit from a seminar that included a focus on academic success, community engagement, and a deeper understanding of the Franciscan heritage of Alvernia College. A staff and faculty workgroup, organized to brainstorm and design a course entitled “First Year Seminar” (FYS), offered many innovative and creative suggestions: among them, the simple, unassuming concept of the Mission Moment. As a Franciscan institution, one of Alvernia’s core values is contemplation—the commitment to prayer, reflection, and meditation that leads to greater intimacy and union with God. To provide an experience of this value for our students, and to reinforce the concepts in our motto, “To Learn, To Love, To Serve,” the faculty agreed to begin each class in the First Year Seminar with a Mission Moment—something inspirational, be it a poem, a prayer, a favorite story or quote, a passage of scripture, or even a moment of silence where each one might have a few moments to enjoy a peaceful slice of time before the class agenda was launched. It was so simple, we agreed to give it a try.

As the semester progressed, most of the FYS faculty utilized the practice of the mission moment faithfully and found that students actually looked forward to it. Professors were kindly reminded when it was overlooked or forgotten, and before long the students were asking if they might also have a turn! The practice was embraced by other faculty, and through end-of-term class feedback, they learned that the Mission Moment was becoming a valued and respected tradition, more significant and meaningful than could have been predicted. Students indicated that sometimes a Mission Moment seemed to speak profoundly to them as individuals, and in general, they found great comfort in being invited to pause, listen, and reflect before the beginning of a class because in their hectic, chaotic lives, it gave them a moment of peace, and became a source of newfound spiritual nourishment.

From that simple origin has emerged an inspiring and popular college tradition, the Alvernia Mission Moment. As part of Alvernia’s 50th anniversary in 2008, the College will collaboratively produce an Anniversary Edition of College Mission Moments—a publication by and for the Alvernia Community. If you have a Mission Moment to submit, please mail to Sister Florence Kruczek, OSF in care of the college, or email to florence.kruczekosf@alvernia.edu.

—Sr. Rosemary Stets, OSF ’71

**SHARING A MISSION MOMENT:**

**A Story of Priorities (Ecuador)**

Once a rich father took his child on a journey to the countryside with the firm intent that the child see how poor certain people were and understand the value of things and how fortunate their family was. They spent a day and a night in the farmhouse of a very humble peasant family.

Upon concluding the trip, on the way home, the father asked the child, “What did you think of the trip?”

“Very pretty, Dad!”

“Did you see how poor and needy people can be?”

“Yes.”

“And what did you learn?”

“I saw that we have a dog at home; they have four. We have a twenty-meter pool; they have a creek without end. We have imported lamps in the patio; they have the stars. Our patio goes to the wall of the house; theirs goes to the horizon. Especially, Dad, I saw that they had time to converse and to live in family. You and Mom have to work all of the time and I almost never see you.”

The father remained speechless and the child added, “Thank you, Dad, for showing me how rich we can someday be.”

After extensive research and debate, the Board of Trustees approved the Strategic Plan and Campus Master Plan. The features on the following pages provide a snapshot of several initiatives at the intersection of these plans.

First, we examine the renovation of the physical education center and new playing and practice fields and the resulting increase in opportunities for personal fitness and for intramural and varsity sports. Second, we examine the establishment of a signature program, the Center for Ethics and Leadership, which reinforces our ability to provide students with a strongly ethics-based education. Finally, we revisit a campus icon, Francis Hall, and explain how the strategic plan promises expansion of the creative arts and earmarks funds for upgrading the theatre and fine arts facilities housed there.

"Make big plans; aim high in hope and work."

Highlights of Alvernia’s Strategic and Campus Master Plans

To enhance our Franciscan identity and advance our educational quality
- A change to university status
- A restored and renovated Francis Hall
- A new entrance
- Upgrades to academic services, teaching and learning spaces throughout campus
- Franco Library and Learning Center upgrades
- New graduate academic center at Upland
- Facilitation of faculty achievement and enhanced faculty support

To reinvigorate our student communities
- Student Center renovations
- Expanded and improved athletic and recreation facilities
- A campus quad
- A renovated recital/lecture hall in Bernardine
- A new cultural events and lecture series

To redouble our efforts in community and external engagement and in resource development
- The Center for Community Engagement
- The Center for Ethics and Leadership
- Integrated marketing to build institutional reputation
From the early basketball games played in Francis Hall in the 1960s, to today’s fast-paced contests in 17 different sports, the changes in Alvernia’s athletics program are hard to miss. Nearly 20 years ago, Tom Porrazzo came to Alvernia to teach health and physical education classes in the newly built Physical Education Center (PEC). “Soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and women’s basketball weren’t even offered yet,” he recalls. “I love to walk around campus and think about how I used to run the intramural program on the land where Anthony Hall now stands.” In 19 years, the College has grown from having only four buildings to 16, and now stands at the brink of a major change once again. Strategic and master plans unveiled this year, combined with a move from the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) to the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference (MAC), point to a whole new level of athletic competition.

“I look at the blueprints for the master plan, and it’s exciting to envision what we will look like down the road,” says Porrazzo. “The thought of a cardio-fitness room stretching out 40 feet from the Grad Center is definitely a plus for the students.” Dr. Flynn agrees and adds, “The new field and the renovations to the PEC will impact many aspects of student life. Intramural sports will have greater access to facilities, both the outdoor field and the indoor gym. Varsity sports, too, will benefit because playing space will be upgraded and also not at such a premium. And, finally, the community as a whole will benefit because we will likely offer access to some of the new facilities as well.”

Field hockey players expect to share a much anticipated multi-turf field with men’s and women’s soccer and lacrosse teams. Athletes like Shana Clark ’08 are excited for the future, saying, “Most of Alvernia’s teams are doing very well, and the brand new facilities will encourage more outstanding incoming athletes to choose Alvernia. Our programs will only get better.” Teammate Jessie Titus ’07 agrees, “Having turf will raise game play to a level that just can’t be achieved on grass. A lot of other colleges have turf or tracks, which I believe are real selling points for student athletes. The possibility that Alvernia could bring back a track team is also a definite plus.”

Alvernia’s athletic reputation has also risen with the tide of success. “Starting new programs can be tough,” explains Porrazzo. “I certainly remember the early years of some of the newer sports teams and taking the pounding that were handed to us.”

“We’ve come a long way since then,” says Sports Information
Director and Assistant Athletic Director Jon King. “We’ve got five PAC Players of the Year for 2006-07, and guys like Anthony Recker ’05 and Zach Lutz playing pro baseball.”

Pioneer coaches like Kevin Calabria (women’s basketball) have watched their programs and players grow from club teams to champions. Although Calabria would be the first to say that his players’ futures are more important than their basketball records, campus trophy cabinets are filled with memorabilia from the teams’ many victories. While Calabria’s team finished with a 10-11 record for their first season (in 1989), it would be the last time women’s basketball would ever finish under .500 in Calabria’s ongoing career. The team has produced four All-Americans, has appeared in six NCAA Championship tournaments, and has won five PAC titles, a Keystone Athletic Conference title, and an Eastern College Athletic Conference title.

Alvernia’s 17 head coaches focus a great deal of time on recruiting new student-athletes. Porrazzo sees this as a major key to Alvernia’s success: “College coaches are excellent admissions counselors. They bring in some great young men and women to our College that may not have otherwise applied to Alvernia.”

Devoted people, like retired men’s basketball coach Jack McCloskey, can also make a real difference in a program. Porrazzo smiles as he remembers McCloskey coming on board full time: “Full time, I should say, on the payroll. Jack put in ‘full time’ hours long before he actually went full-time.” A photo of McCloskey and his 1997 championship men’s basketball team still hangs proudly in the lobby of the PEC. The team worked its way to the NCAA Final Four that year.

According to Porrazzo, Alvernia’s future in athletics looks bright. “I see a commitment to great sports programs that starts with a president who outwardly expresses his exuberant love for sports, and continues to grow in the hearts of our campus community and beyond.”

Dr. Flynn discusses the impact of expanding student opportunities and fitness.

ATHLETICS AWARDS FOR 2006-2007

CROSS COUNTRY
WOMEN
MVP - Bridget Burger (Lansdale, PA)
MIP - Sarah Cayliss (Bethel, PA)
COACH’S AWARD - Katie O’Brien (Boothwyn, PA)
SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD - Jen Smith (Hershey, PA)
MEN
MVP - Joe Pritiskutch (Pottstown, PA)
MIP - Joe Campo (York, PA)
COACH’S AWARD - Currie Mooney (Cream Ridge, PA)
SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD - Chris Bachman (Sinking Spring, PA)

FIELD HOCKEY
MVP OFFENSE – Becky Macchione (Richland, PA) and Megan Novogratz (Allentown, PA)
MVP DEFENSE – Melissa Senick (Reading, PA)
COACH’S AWARD – Shayna Clark (Leesport, PA)
SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD – Lindsay Treadwell (Farmingdale, NJ)

“...The new field and the renovations to the PEC will impact many aspects of student life. Intramural sports will have greater access to facilities, both the outdoor field and the indoor gym. Varsity sports, too, will benefit because playing space will be upgraded and also not at such a premium. And, finally, the community as a whole will benefit because we will likely offer access to some of the new facilities as well.”

—Thomas F. Flynn, President
If you have attended an Alvernia athletic event in the past seven years, you probably noticed the guy on the sidelines taking pictures or punching away at a laptop computer. Who is he, and what’s with the laptop? He is Jon King, Alvernia’s Sports Information Director (SID). He is also an assistant athletic director and head golf coach. And the laptop? That’s for keeping game statistics, and updating everything sports-related on the Athletics website. When he’s not in the office, Jon can be found on various home fields, or traveling with teams to other sport venues.

With Jon’s busy (and irregular) schedule, it’s hard to imagine that he has time for family life. He and his wife, Megan (an English teacher at Governor Mifflin), live locally in Wyomissing. They have a large extended family that gets together for trips (such as one to Ireland in 2002, when Jon proposed to Megan) and local friends that often get together to play a mean game of whiffleball. Jon also enjoys walking the golf course in his spare time. Here he answers questions about himself and his work.

**What is the best kept secret about Alvernia?** The best kept secret about Alvernia is our potential. Our pending conference change (from the PAC to the MAC) has been a hot topic of conversation in athletic circles recently. So many people seem to still hold an outdated view of where Alvernia College is athletically.

**How do you think the PAC to MAC change will impact Crusader sports and our athletes?** The change immediately raises the consistency of competition in conference contests. In some PAC sports, the gap between the top and the bottom is great enough to cause potentially embarrassing results. That gap shrinks considerably in the MAC. Still, I expect our higher level varsity teams to perform just as well in the MAC. Baseball and basketball have been very competitive with playoff teams in the MAC.

**So tell us about you. Where are you from?** I was born in North Jersey but spent the first six years of my life in San Bernardino, California. After the Panorama Fires destroyed nearly every house on our block, we moved back across the country to

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**ATHLETICS AWARDS FOR 2006-2007**

(continued from page 9)

**MEN’S SOCCER**
- MVP OFFENSE – Zachary Naylon (Shillington, PA)
- MVP DEFENSE – Chad Quinter (Exeter, PA)
- CHRIS SCHLAGER HEART AND SOUL COACHES
  - AWARD – Massimo Grande (Sinking Spring, PA)
- SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD – Cody Gambler (Mohrsville, PA)

**WOMEN’S SOCCER**
- MVP OFFENSE – Brandi Light (Myerstown, PA)
- MVP DEFENSE – Katie Einsel (Mohnton, PA)
- COACH’S AWARD – Kate McCaffery (Northeast, PA)
- SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD – Karen Hutton (Ridgewood, NJ)

**WOMEN’S TENNIS**
- MVP – Janine Horning (Red Hill, PA)
- MIP – Heather Leader (Pottstown, PA)

**MEN’S TENNIS**
- MVP – Zach Lockwood (Reading, PA)
- MIP – Dave Schaeffer (Pottstown, PA)
- COACH’S AWARD – Phil Snyder (Easton, PA)
- SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD – Dave Emkey (Wyomissing, PA)

**VOLLEYBALL**
- MVP - Amy Sikorski (Topton, PA)
- MIP – Lauren Crimi (Nazareth, PA)
- COACH’S AWARD – Jen Stigiura (Barto, PA)
- SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD – Cassie Reber (Wyomissing, PA)

**ICE HOCKEY**
- MVP – Brent Reed (Hamburg, PA)
- MIP – Michael Smith (Philadelphia, PA)
- COACH’S AWARD – John Caputo (Philadelphia, PA)
- SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD – Michael Gilmore (Farmington, MN)

**CHEER/SPIRIT**
- MIP – Monica Consoli (Doylestown, PA)
- COACH’S AWARD – Laura Ritter (Sinking Spring, PA)
- SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD - Catrina Mayo (Reading, PA)

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**
- MVP – Ryan Finger (Lancaster, PA) and Garrett Etzel (Shillington, PA)
- COACH’S AWARD – Terrence Shawell (Pottstown, PA)
- SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD – Matt King (Phoenixville, PA)

(continued on page 11)
Phoenixville, Pa., for three years, and then to Elverson, Pa. I attended Millersville University and after graduation spent a semester working in the Athletic Department at Millersville. The next fall I got a job as the part-time SID at Colby in charge of 32 varsity sports, and then I came to Alvernia. I’ve spent seven years here, and I’ve loved every minute of it.

I’m happy with my position at Alvernia. I get to have my hands in a bunch of different projects at the same time, and I’m allowed to expand some other hobbies including photography, which I really enjoy. I may continue to dabble in some part-time business opportunities while I’m here. I have done work on stat crews at Philly area events from Villanova basketball to Eagles football.

**What are the greatest challenges of being an SID?** The challenges are learning to be a better time manager and prioritizing the tasks at hand. Since the advent of the Internet, the options for public relations have skyrocketed. Everyone has a website promoting sports. We are still trying to find that balance between external promotions, on-campus promotions, and maintaining an attractive and current website. At the same time, you have to be conscious of your non-work life which also needs to be prioritized. I’ve always been a jack of all trades, so I enjoy juggling different things at the same time, but at some point you have to start declining invitations.

**What are the greatest rewards of your job?** The rewards come from many different places. I love seeing our student-athletes succeed, but sometimes even more than that, I’m happy when they have the chance to perform in a meaningful pressure situation. You can’t simulate that atmosphere, and they will appreciate that more and more when they have the chance to reflect on their college experiences.

I love watching and taking part in sporting events, and who doesn’t like hearing they’re doing a good job? I enjoy when people recognize the effort that the staff here puts into making this a meaningful experience, but even more than that is the satisfaction when you see how much the student-athletes enjoy it.

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**ATHLETICS AWARDS FOR 2006-2007**

(continued from page 10)

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**
MVP – Lauren Fortna (Lebanon, PA)
MIP – Kerry Higgs (Westminster, MD)
COACH’S AWARD – Erin Knarr (Sinking Spring, PA)
SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD – Ashley Knight (Carlisle, PA)

**BASEBALL**
MVP – Zach Lutz (Mohnton, PA)
MIP – Pete Fernandez (Waldwick, NJ)
COACH’S AWARD – Chris Raniere (Manalapan, NJ)
SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD – Ryan Mark (Pennsburg, PA)
MOST VALUABLE PITCHER – Jason Zeigler (Mohnton, PA)

**GOLF**
MVP – Derek Stewart (Bernville, PA)
MIP – Ryan Rhodes (Sewell, NJ)
COACH’S AWARD – Doug McConnell (Stroudsburg, PA)
SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD – Ryan Weaber (Lebanon, PA)

**MEN’S LACROSSE**
MVP OFFENSE – Thomas Novak (Pottstown, PA), Thomas Fraker (Carlisle, PA)
MVP DEFENSE – Timothy Marcinek (Philadelphia, PA)
COACH’S AWARD – Nicholas Yando (Lancaster, PA)
SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD – Adam Schmidt (Allentown, PA)

**WOMEN’S LACROSSE**
MVP OFFENSE – McKenna Shafer (Delran, NJ)
MVP DEFENSE – Melissa Senick (Reading, PA)
COACH’S AWARD – Lisa Ross (Quakertown, PA)
SPORTSMANSHIP - Kristen Rutledge (Howell, NJ)

**SOFTBALL**
MVP – Jackie Rhoads (Dillsburg, PA)
MIP – Sue Fox (Glassboro, NJ)
COACH’S AWARD – Colleen Ambrosius (Philadelphia, PA)
SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD - Shannon Higgins (Blue Bell, PA)
Alvernia has accepted an invitation to become a member of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference (MAC). The MAC is split into the Freedom and Commonwealth Conferences; beginning with the 2008-09 academic year, Alvernia will join the Freedom Conference.

Alvernia was a charter member of the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) and will honor its scheduled commitments by competing in the PAC for the 2007-08 season before moving to the MAC. “This is a fine opportunity for our athletes and program,” Alvernia President Tom Flynn said. “MAC members have developed strong academic traditions while earning respect for their athletic programs both regionally and nationally.”

Alvernia has captured 21 PAC team championships in the last 14 years; in the past year alone, five Alvernia athletes were awarded PAC Player of the Year awards. Sports Information Director Jon King says, “These recent awards are a testament to the strength of our athletic programs, the caliber of our student-athletes, and Alvernia’s readiness for MAC affiliation.”

The MAC was founded in 1912 and currently consists of 13 member institutions including Albright, Arcadia, Delaware Valley, DeSales, Elizabethtown, Fairleigh Dickinson-Florham, King’s, Lebanon Valley, Lycoming, Manhattanville, Messiah, Widener, and Wilkes. In addition, Misericordia announced their plans to move into the MAC less than a week after Alvernia made the call. The MAC boasts 20 NCAA National Champions in a variety of sports over its 95-year existence.
In 2000, the chief financial officer of Pier 1 paid $75,000 to settle allegations that he hid $20 million in losses from shareholders and management. A year later a former Sunbeam Corporation CEO, aided by Andersen auditors, was indicted for falsely depicting a successful restructuring of Sunbeam, costing shareholders billions of dollars.

In 2004, America’s most prominent hospitality expert, Martha Stewart, was sentenced to five months in prison, five months of home confinement, and two years probation for lying about a stock sale, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice.

The following year Adelphia Communications Corporation, the nation’s fifth-largest cable television company, agreed to pay $715 million to settle federal investigations stemming from rampant earnings manipulation and self-dealing by its corporate founders. Then in 2007, The Washington Post reported that the Walter Reed Army Medical Center was under investigation for cases of outpatient neglect including cockroach- and rodent-infested buildings overrun with black mold, lacking necessities such as heat and water.

Besides the aforementioned, Worldcom, Tyco, Health South, plus a number of premier accounting firms once thought to be bastions of incorruptibility, have all been implicated in ethical scandals from allegedly cooking the books to devising tax dodging schemes or using investment information for personal gain. These and other examples of immoral if not illegal behavior by those in leadership positions suggest that a generation of executives may have lost its moral compass. At some point in their careers these leaders have been distracted from their priorities—to provide goods and services that consumers value, as opposed to realizing profits at any cost. Or worse, lining their own pockets at the expense of the health of the corporation or their responsibilities to employees.

Since the first insider trading crisis in the 1980s, the media have widely publicized ethics scandals, seemingly on a weekly basis. Twenty years and hundreds of scandals later, people still feel outrage with each break from ethical practices headlining the morning newspaper or the evening news.

Ironically, such outrage, to use the pet expression of Martha Stewart, “is a good thing.” It shows that most Americans still know right from wrong and are ready for a sea change, for a new wave of leaders who behave like leaders should, measured by anyone’s yardarm.

Where are these future leaders? Many of them are students on college campuses today. But how many of them study ethics alongside the course requirements needed for their major? Not enough, according to Alvernia’s President Tom Flynn. Too often neglected in contemporary society, issues surrounding ethical

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The Goals of the Center for Ethics and Leadership

• Promote dialogue on the inter-relationship between ethics and leadership, incorporating the perspectives of Catholic Social Teaching and other Christian and non-Christian traditions

• Strengthen ethics and leadership education in undergraduate, graduate, and non-credit programs, especially collaborative opportunities for students and faculty

• Provide leadership development programs for business, civic, and other area leaders

• Establish Alvernia as a leader in ethics and leadership education

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leadership haven’t been given as much attention as they should in academic circles.

“The importance of the ethical dimension in leadership in our society has never been greater,” Flynn said.

At his inaugural address last spring, Flynn announced the College’s intention to establish a Center for Ethics and Leadership to heighten the importance of ethical reflection and decision-making skills for our graduates.

“Alvernia is already recognized for its emphasis on character development and for a culture that fosters the personal and professional growth of students of all ages,” Flynn explained. “Alvernia has always valued ethics and leadership education. All of our undergraduate and graduate programs require work in ethics.”

During the summer of 2006, a group of six faculty undertook the project of researching similar kinds of centers. After evaluating several approaches, they proposed some organizing principles—that the Center should be interdisciplinary, linking liberal arts and professional disciplines. Its programs should be organized by themes for broad appeal, to expand the visibility of the Center. They also assumed that expertise would come from leaders in diverse fields and colleagues at other colleges and universities as well as from Alvernia faculty.

Eight months later, fueled by the President’s vision for a signature program in ethics and guided by the recommendations developed by the Faculty Advisory Committee, the College hosted a spring lecture, co-sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of Reading, by Rev. Oliver Williams. Within weeks, Provost Shirley Williams announced the appointment of Dr. Gerald Vigna, longtime dean of the division of arts and sciences, as the director of Alvernia’s newest center.

“Dr. Vigna’s reputation as a professional in the field of theology and his scholarly work are critical to the integration of this center,” Williams said, adding that Vigna’s appointment received the full support of...
Dr. Gerald Vigna has taught at Alvernia since 1993, serving the College significantly, most recently as the Dean of Arts and Sciences. He has a Ph.D. in religion from Northwestern University and an undergraduate degree in religion from Temple University. In a recent interview for Alvernia Magazine, Vigna talked about his appointment as the new director of the Center for Ethics and Leadership.

What did you find interesting about this position? The idea of a common conversation across the institution began to intrigue me. It meshed with my academic career choice. Religion departments across the United States are multidisciplinary. I am predisposed and trained to look at multidisciplinary conversations. There are advantages to looking at things from a philosopher’s standpoint, from a chemist’s perspective.

For seven years you supervised 45 full-time faculty across six departments, offering 160 classes a semester, as an academic dean. How was that experience at Alvernia? Being a dean was rewarding, especially when I think about the achievements that took place with faculty and students, and regarding developments in the curriculum—junior faculty members whose work is known and regarded nationally and internationally; the personal and professional relationships I’ve developed with students.

What issues at that cross-section of ethics and leadership would you like to discuss? Certainly the idea of values coming from top down should be examined. Another would be transparency, which is essential in the business community and absolutely essential in academics. Uncertainty in the workplace is also an ethical issue. I think today’s leaders need to be more attentive to global warming and other environmental issues and well as growing salary gaps within the corporate settings.

Besides your academic fitness for the post, is there a personal fit as well? I believe in cutting across departmental silos; the Alvernia community realizes that I build strong and nurturing relationships. I’m looking forward to new challenges and more entrepreneurship.
It takes more than a bit of nerve to leave an established and thriving theatre program to move half a country away and create a new theatre program from the ground up. Actually, says Nathan Thomas, program director for Alvernia College Theatre, who did just that, “It was frightening. But I thought it was worth doing. I would either be extremely successful and create something from nothing, which, for an artist, is very appealing. Or, of course, it could fail miserably. But even that would be worth doing because I would learn from the experience.”

He likens his situation (but modestly not himself) to the example of Sir Laurence Olivier who, among his many accomplishments, was the first director of the National Theatre in England. Olivier believed that the board of directors of the Theatre chose him, in part, because they knew that he had experienced failure in the past and, significantly, had learned from it and had grown. “Failure can teach a valuable lesson,” notes Thomas.

 Luckily, though, Thomas has not experienced failure at Alvernia. In self-deprecating fashion, he rates his efforts in his four years here as “reasonably successful.” The Alvernia theatre program has presented 14 projects in that time—a notable feat even for an established program. The program also marks a kind of milestone this year: the first group of students to begin with Thomas as freshmen are now graduating. So what began in Fall 2003 as an extracurricular activity has blossomed to its current level of four students who are theatre majors and one who is a theatre minor. Of course, there are also many “players” who are not pursuing a major or minor in theatre. A core group of consistent participants provides the backbone of the program, but an elastic group of additional students adds depth and variety to the presentations.

Thomas’ vision for the program is to continue building on current successes to “provide a top-quality educational experience and top-quality events for the students and the community as a whole.” The two, he says, really “go hand-in-hand. Students learn more and learn ‘better’ if they are focused on delivering a genuinely high-quality product.”

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**Key Goal of the Strategic Plan:**

- To improve program quality by creating interdisciplinary signatures and targeting resources to specific undergraduate and graduate programs, including the fine and creative arts.
Alvernia College Magazine

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Young Theatre Program Matures

Arts in Renaissance at Alvernia

How it came about

In Fall 2002, the College instituted a plan to create a comprehensive theatre program to add to the quality of campus and community life. The theatre director position was advertised in Spring 2003, and Thomas joined the College in Fall 2003. The program gained further support in 2005, when then-President Laurence Mazzeno announced his creation of the Mazzeno Fund for the Arts, formed to support expansion of the creative arts at Alvernia.

Now that the program has proven itself, plans for expansion and improvement have begun in earnest. In the near future, the department staff will be expanded to include expertise in set design, costuming, and all facets of technical assistance. Thomas calls himself a decent “generalist” in these disciplines but will welcome professional assistance in these areas. There is a great deal of skill and creativity required for these “technical” jobs, and it is sometimes overlooked or regarded as less important than the role of the actors. But without proper lighting, creative sets, top-notch sound, and inspired costuming, the production as a whole will suffer.

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About Nathan Thomas

Nathan Thomas, Ph.D., Michigan State University, serves as program director for the Alvernia College Theatre. His background includes extensive work as a professional actor and director as well as international study. As an actor, Nathan has given more than 500 performances in national tours of such plays as Barefoot in the Park, I Ought To Be In Pictures, Same Time, Next Year, Chapter Two, Plaza Suite, and Educating Rita. He also performed with the National Theatre for Children. As a director, Nathan has mounted a variety of plays and musicals and worked as artistic director of Repertory Theatre of America. One of Nathan’s specialty areas is Russian theatre history. He studied at the Vakhtangov Theatre in Moscow under Arkady Katz, People’s Artist of the Soviet Union. Nathan has taught at the University of Central Oklahoma, the University of Iowa, Michigan State University, and Centenary College of Louisiana. Currently, Thomas enjoys being a company member of the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, an innovative, professional company based in Baltimore. With CSC, Thomas has played Dogberry (Much Ado About Nothing), Peter Quince (A Midsummer Night’s Dream), and Argan (The Imaginary Invalid).

“Before Alvernia, I didn’t really know about the acting process. Here, I learned how to take a script and take a role and actually work with it in several ways in order to get it right.”

—Heather Kissinger ’09
Key Goal of the Strategic Plan:
- To communicate Alvernia’s Franciscan identity both internally and externally.

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Francis Hall theatre and the campus master plan

The Alvernia College master plan focuses heavily on Francis Hall. It is the icon of Alvernia, the most recognizable building on campus and the most historic. Being historic, though, means that there are complex issues to be dealt with, including meeting building codes and preserving the historic elements of the building while maximizing functionality and practicality. Besides bringing the building up to code for several requirements including ADA, additional improvements to the building focus on creating an enhanced space for the fine and performing arts.

The challenge of renovating the auditorium will be to preserve what is good about the space while trying to improve what is not so good. The space has a positive feel to it. Says Thomas, “It offers good quasi-Georgian architecture. It has a spirit and warmth to it which makes it a very nice space to work in. The trend in theatre is to create a completely blank canvas or ‘black space.’ But that kind of surrounding just isn’t very nice to work in day in and day out.” Acoustics in the auditorium also offer a unique challenge: they are very good for singing but not very good for speaking. Since performances frequently require both singing and speaking, both modes of communication must be made to work well in the space.

The size and situation of the stage also needs to be addressed. “The proscenium arch [the highest center point on the stage] is only 12 feet high,” Thomas says. “That makes creating a Romeo and Juliet type balcony scene almost impossible. The stage is also not very wide and makes the use of scenery and general equipment difficult at times.”

Not all of the specific plans for the renovation have been finalized. Proposed ideas range from the fairly simple, such as adding a trap door in the stage to permit alternate entry and exits for actors, to the extensive, such as adding a fly gallery.

“When Francis Hall was originally built, the infrastructure was put in place to have a fly gallery over the stage,” Thomas says. “Unfortunately, at that time, they couldn’t afford to actually create the gallery. But the infrastructure is there, and we could open up that space and create one now.”

One of the key needs of the theatre program is much less glamorous but no less important: storage. Thomas’ office currently serves as the costume shop and the only dressing room, an awkward situation for performances featuring both male and female actors. The rehearsal space, already not large enough because it should closely mirror the size of the actual performance area, doubles as prop storage and a green room. Finally, as performances continue to grow in sophistication and frequency, there will be a greater need for a shop to construct (and store) more elaborate scenery.

In addition to all the work planned for Francis Hall, the master plan also calls for the renovation of the Bernardine lecture hall into a recital hall. This space will support events requiring a smaller venue, such as musical ensembles or poetry readings. While the specifics are not yet decided, one thing is for sure: the arts are truly in renaissance at Alvernia, and future plans will nurture and encourage the program to continue to grow and thrive.

A Brief History of Francis Hall, Built 1925

Francis Hall, designed by Grover C. Freeman, is the oldest building on campus and was originally constructed as St. Francis Home for orphans housed in the Sacred Heart Convent. There were school facilities for orphan residents and for young women planning to enter the religious community, who resided in a separate wing of the building. When the Bernardine Sisters decided to use this facility for Alvernia College in 1958, the orphanage building was simply designated as the Liberal Arts Building and was not named St. Francis Hall until the 25th anniversary celebration of the college’s founding in 1983.

Because of its unique Mission revival style architecture, Francis Hall has been recognized by the Historic Campus Architecture Project, the equivalent of a national register for historic places on college campuses, created by the Council of Independent Colleges. One of the earliest reports of the aesthetic significance of Francis Hall was published in 1926, by the Reading Eagle, which described the vestibule as “a thing of beauty with its mosaic finish and decorated walls, bespeaking medieval times, beautifully decorated in polychrome style.”

Although there have been extensive renovations done throughout the building since 1958, the exteriors and the tile work on the first and second floors have remained as original. The auditorium on the first floor has also remained substantially the same.

For more information, visit www.cic.edu/hcap.
An alumna’s perspective on Francis Hall

Helen (Zimmerman) Archer ’61, came to campus to revisit old places and friends as well as to catch up on the many changes at Alvernia. Having lived on the West Coast for many years, she last visited Alvernia for the College's 30th anniversary in 1997. While she has stayed in touch with campus developments via alumni newsletters and magazines, she was still stunned by the growth of the campus in the last 10 years.

Helen first came to Alvernia in the mid-1950s as a high school student. At that point, the campus housed an orphanage and accompanying elementary school as well as a high school. Helen stayed on after high school when the sisters began to offer classes to prepare young women entering the Bernardine religious community. She graduated with a degree in biology and went on to teach in a Catholic school in Maryland.

A few years later, Helen made the difficult decision to leave the Order. Wanting a change from teaching, she and another former sister moved to Philadelphia, and Helen ended up working for a radiologist as an office manager. Through her friend, Helen ultimately secured a position to teach at a newly-founded classical arts college in Monaco. Because of Grace Kelly’s connection to Philadelphia, the school was welcomed to the principality, and Helen and her students were invited to attend receptions at the Royal Castle. Although the school unfortunately closed after just one year, Helen did secure a very valuable souvenir from her trip: her husband, John, an English expatriate living in Monaco.

As Helen revisited the campus, she reminisced about her life here, a time filled with “a lot of tears and a lot of joy.” She paused at the back entryway to Francis Hall and looked at the steps, remembering herself and the other students sitting there, shining their shoes.

Helen recalled as she entered the current Francis Hall conference room: “There was a lovely baby-grand piano in here; I would go in often to play. If I felt down, it lifted my spirits. If I felt good, it made me feel even better. It helped me find my heart. It’s funny, but I didn’t realize at the time that everyone throughout Francis Hall could hear my playing. Then, one day, one of the sisters asked me what was wrong. I said that I was fine and why did she ask? She said, ‘I could tell you were sad by how you played this morning.’” Helen also recalled that she and two other students were considered the most skilled pianists and were often called upon to entertain guests, especially trustees. Helen always played last, and always played Clementi’s Sonatina, a tune that to this day, she easily recreates even without a piano.

Hundreds of orphans, students, novices, sisters, high school students, and college students have lived part of their lives in this historic building. Someone asked Helen if there were any ghosts in Francis Hall. She smiled her contagious smile and answered mischievously, “Well, if there are, we created them.”
The Center for Community Engagement partnered with the Institute of the Arts in Wyomissing for the “Imagine Workshop” this spring. More than 20 middle-school students participated in this free workshop sponsored by a generous donation from National Penn Bank. Students from St. Peter’s School and founding members of the South Reading Youth Initiative took part in the five-week workshop centering on “creating their world.” They learned about storytelling, imagination, creativity, and the arts, and gave a performance for family and friends at the Institute in April.

Alvernia SIFE Team and Reading Students organize Olympic Day

After working with the Alvernia College Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team for ten weeks, students from Southern Reading Middle School held the second annual “Olympic Day” on the College campus in April. About 50 volunteers took direction from the middle-schoolers during this special event for more than 130 participants. The kids worked with Alvernia students in a ten-week program to learn the business of sports and how to run a major sporting event. According to SIFE president Lamar Jones, “Sports is one of the greatest interests for children of any age. So teaching these kids about the business of sports actually gets many of them excited about the wide range of opportunities that the world of professional sports has to offer.” The Alvernia chapter of SIFE has organized other successful events this year, including a talent show. SIFE is a global non-profit organization active in more than 40 countries, funded by corporations, entrepreneurs, foundations, government agencies, and individuals.
What is the role of the Office of Multicultural Initiatives? The mission statement for my office states that we “welcome, celebrate, and support students from diverse backgrounds.” That diversity includes not just race, but also gender and sexual orientation, national origin, and religion. These students are a small but growing presence on our campus, and it is important that we do everything we can to make their experience here a positive one.

Is there more to your mission? Yes. Another equally important part of what my office strives to do is to promote understanding about these diverse populations throughout the whole campus community. That means educating not just students, but faculty and staff as well. This understanding will grow as a result of workshops, cultural programs, and co-curricular activities.

Have you already done any such programs? Yes, we’ve had quite a full year. Our campus-wide Martin Luther King celebration was very successful. I worked with Student Activities to bring in a local theatre company, Metamorphosis, to present Strange Like Me, a show that really pushed the boundaries and forced the audience to confront sometimes uncomfortable realities. Probably our greatest success was True Colors, a presentation by Joe Martin. Martin, who is black, describes in explicit detail the struggles he and his white roommate faced during two years of living together during college. More than 150 students and faculty attended, and the line of students waiting to talk with Martin afterwards was huge.

What do you have planned for next year? With the Berks Multicultural Consortium, which consists of multicultural representatives from each of the five local campuses (Kutztown, Albright, Penn State Berks, Reading Area Community College, and Alvernia), we will be presenting a community-wide Martin Luther King celebration. There is also a multicultural workshop coming up in November 2007 at RACC. This is a chance for students and staff to attend workshops and discussion sessions, and hear keynote speakers addressing key issues facing today’s population. At Alvernia, I am creating a mentoring program where interested faculty and staff “adopt” an incoming student who may need extra encouragement. They would meet maybe once a week, perhaps for lunch or whatever, and just make sure the student stays on track. Having that support could make all the difference to that individual. Of course, we also have a full slate of other programs, including celebrating Hispanic Heritage month, Women’s History month, and many others.

How did you come to be at Alvernia? I was a contract specialist at Met-Ed for 16 years. When they moved their corporate headquarters, I knew I didn’t want to leave the area, so I looked for local options. I spent time as a substitute teacher and as a bilingual workshop facilitator. Then came the opportunity to work in a newly created department at Alvernia, and I joined the staff in October 2006. I enjoyed my other jobs a lot, but I truly love what I am doing now. This is the ideal job for me. The administration has been so supportive and the whole campus community is great to work with.

What is your message to the campus community? First of all, my door is always open…to students, faculty, staff. I welcome ideas for new programs and suggestions of how to improve what we are doing. I would love to partner with other departments and offices and present even more programs next year. The more people we have involved, the greater our surety of success.

Anything else? Everyone should feel welcome on this campus. We need to be integrating, not segregating, diverse individuals. It’s a big wide world out there, and we need to make sure our students and our campus is ready for it.
Since 1999, the Graduate and Continuing Studies (G&CS) Division has been housed on the main campus. To better serve adult and non-traditional students, they will move to the College’s Upland Center at 540 Upland Avenue. Offices including institutional advancement, alumni relations, and the Seniors College have occupied the building for several years as leasing tenants; with the building’s purchase last year, other departments, including G&CS, will join them.

Joan Lewis, dean of G&CS, and Beryll Ruth, assistant dean, deserve much of the credit for the success of their division, with 650 continuing education, 750 graduate degree, and 23 doctoral degree students currently enrolled. They both agree that working with adult students is a unique and rewarding experience. Lewis lauds these students’ dedication and adds, “It is gratifying to know that through education we have the opportunity to help people change their lives.” Ruth concurs, praising the students’ “commitment to their education and the way they manage their time and effort. It is a pleasure to work with them.”

Remaining a leader in the world of higher education requires constant attention to new trends. Increasing use of technology, obviously, is one of the most important areas of focus. Lewis has made sure she and her staff stay on top of new developments in this area: “It is imperative to have quick access to information because it enhances and expands what is done in the classroom environment.” In addition, Alvernia offers courses that incorporate both online and face-to-face instruction. This combination allows greater flexibility to adult students who, likely, are juggling work and family commitments in addition to college study. Lewis observes that such classes are ideal for “those students where one to two nights a week are difficult to attend. We are finding that this combination really meets their educational needs.”

Accommodation is important, Ruth concurs, in order to keep the students on track to the completion of their degree: “Our division

“What is extremely energizing is the dedication our students have to achieving their educational goals. It is gratifying to know that through education we have the opportunity to help people change their lives in a profound way.”

— Beryll Ruth
is constantly trying to find innovative and creative ways to reach out to the students. This constant support and encouragement is our way of helping them reach their educational goals. We accommodate them with evening and weekend classes. But they also have special concerns on an emotional level. Many adult students worry about their ability to come back after being away so long. On the other hand, these students are very dedicated in terms of reaching their educational goals. That drive is what we, as a division, are humbled by.”

The Upland Center

The Upland Center will give non-traditional students a "home of their own" says Lewis, and will continue to offer a high level of "one-stop" customer service to students. For instance, Alvernia recognizes that many adult learners travel directly from work to class and may not have time to eat before class. The Center will house a dining facility where prepared food will be available, and there will also be facilities for heating food brought from the outside. The second floor of the Upland Center will provide much needed classroom space and meeting space. The new facility will offer six new classrooms with wireless technology, portable laptops, seminar rooms, food facilities, and a gathering area. Says Ruth, “We are extremely excited about this new environment because it is attractive and physically supportive to adult learners.” The renovation also includes the addition of an executive board room with high-level presentation equipment and teleconferencing capabilities. This room will be host Alvernia’s Board of Trustees, but will also be available for other executive meetings and could host executive leadership conferences planned for the future.

Philadelphia Campus to Offer ESL Program

The Philadelphia Campus of Alvernia College opened with a handful of students in the fall of 2007. Beginning as a degree completion program for students in the field of behavioral health studies, the campus, located in Melrose Park, now offers bachelors degree programs in behavioral health studies and criminal justice as well as masters degree programs in liberal studies and community counseling.

In the tradition of St. Francis, Alvernia is responding to the needs of a community, in this case, the foreign-born community of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, an ever-growing component of the U.S. population. Supporting the belief that a language barrier is a barrier to success and a major source of cultural misunderstandings, Philadelphia Center Director Ray Jacobucci spearheaded the effort to create and kick off an ESL program. Alvernia’s ESL program offers a day and evening program. For more information, contact the Philadelphia campus or visit online for enrollment information and deadlines at http://www.alvernia.edu/philadelphia/esl.htm.
Seniors College presents annual award

Ronald Bashore of National Penn Bank honored

On Monday, June 18, 2007, the Alvernia Seniors College presented Ronald L. Bashore with the Rabbi Alan Weitzman Award for Community Service at an honorary luncheon.

Professional Background: Bashore has been with National Penn Bank for eleven years, presently as president of the Berks Division. He has over 40 years in the banking industry, previously working at Meridian Bank and Hamilton Bank. A graduate of Conrad Weiser High School, Bashore attended the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Finance.

Community Service: Bashore’s community service is wide-ranging. He is a member of the board of directors and serves as the vice president/treasurer of the executive committee for the Greater Berks Development Fund. He is an active member of the United Way of Berks County. He also serves the Boy Scouts of America – Hawk Mountain Council, Phoebe Village Wernersville Campus, Reading Area Community College, and Bethany Children’s Home.

About the Rabbi Alan Weitzman Award for Community Service: In 2002, Alvernia created a civic award program with its Seniors College. The purpose of the award was to recognize civic-mindedness; draw community attention to the importance of service to others; and encourage others to give of their time, talent, and treasure to support the community. Now named the Rabbi Alan Weitzman Award, the award honors Weitzman for his long service to the community and the College. Weitzman currently serves as the Director of the Seniors College.

The Class of 2007… Standing the Test of Time

The Class of 2007, led by President Matthew Nied ’07, raised over $2,500 for this year’s Senior Class Gift. Forty-two seniors and many parents made generous contributions, and the class purchased and dedicated a post clock to be installed near the center of campus. This effort is the most significant Senior Class Gift in Alvernia’s history. Students filled neon piggy banks with coins—extra laundry and late night snack money—in order to participate in the gift. The average student gift was $25, but students were able to participate in the gift with any size donation. Students made gifts in honor of professors, coaches, staff, and parents who made their college experience special.

The Class of 2007 will be remembered by this legacy. Beyond the physical presence of the beautiful clock, these class members have shown that they believe in Alvernia’s future and that they are thankful for their college experience. The senior giving program teaches Alvernia’s students about the importance and impact of supporting their alma mater. Congratulations to the Class of 2007.
David Silbey and John McCloskey: A strategic pair for a strategic plan

“Sister [Pacelli] stood up, commanding everyone’s attention. She challenged them to be responsive, saying, ‘This is your opportunity to ask and request what needs to happen for the future of the College.’”

What happens when you pair a young campus administrator with a talented young academic to accomplish a task requiring energy, diligence, and teamwork? Stronger pickup basketball games at lunchtime. Oh, and a new strategic plan to guide the institution into the next ten years.

Before President Tom Flynn handpicked them as co-chairs of the strategic planning efforts based on advice from many colleagues, David Silbey and John McCloskey had only known one another by playing noontime basketball together for a couple of years.

Silbey, the history professor, and McCloskey, the junior administrator, came together in mid-May to reflect on a sixteen-month-long process which cut a swath into their time and their personal lives, but not without leaving a strategic blueprint to advance Alvernia for years to come.

“Back in November of 2005,” Silbey said, “Tom Flynn called me to his office. Since he and I hadn’t had a lot of personal interaction up to that point—he had only been on campus a few months—I was anxious about being called to the President’s Office. Maybe I was in trouble.”

Silbey smiled, customarily the first in any setting to be entertained by his self-effacing humor, then added, “Actually he asked if I would co-chair strategic planning with John.”

“Then David and I went to dinner with Tom,” McCloskey said. “Neither of us had ever done anything like this before. But Tom gave us a clear idea of what he needed, saying, ‘Here’s what I’m interested in, and here’s what I want the process to do.’ He suggested some names for the strategic planning council, then he gave us the responsibility and the challenge of figuring out how to do it.”

“The initial phase was investigative,” McCloskey said. “While the Council collected data for the SWOT analysis, Tom worked on crafting and refining a new mission and vision statement. Once we had those items, we could really move forward with the plan.”

By the time those tasks were completed, Spring semester had come to a close. Had they not run smack into summer break, they might have been more than a few steps ahead of the campus master planning process. The strategic plan had to be further along because it would be used to inform the master plan. How could college administrators, for instance, prioritize the many possible building projects, how could they appropriate funds most effectively—strategically, without strategic priorities to guide them?

Silbey, McCloskey, and the Strategic Planning Council kept driving their ability to impact the master plan by meeting with Performa, the master planning consultant, each time they came to campus. They inched the strategic plan forward by tying its various stages of completion to the quarterly Board of Trustees’ meeting dates, then backfilling their calendar with Strategic Planning Council meetings. They held numerous feedback sessions in open campus forums throughout the planning process to get input from the campus community. As a result, the plan didn’t develop at a consistent speed.

“The pace was more frenetic,” Silbey said. “We’d have a burst of activity, following a presentation to the Trustees or a campus feedback session, and the plan would quickly change.”

At first people on campus were reluctant to share their opinions until Sister Pacelli called her colleagues to action at one session that McCloskey will never forget.

(continued on page 26)
“Sister stood up, commanding everyone’s attention. She challenged them to be responsive, saying, ‘This is your opportunity to ask and to request what needs to happen for the future of the college.’”

Sometime after that, the feedback from the campus community began flowing, so generously, and at times so specifically in focus, that it raised another challenge for the planners.

“Balancing the feedback from all parties was tough,” McCloskey said. “We were trying to capture it and report it, while making sure it reflected the goals and priorities. Remaining strategic was not an easy part of the process. It’s somewhat easy to wander into tactical issues.”

Considering the gravity of their task, it would have been enough to emerge from such an extended and extensive process with a plan, let alone a new interdisciplinary signature program with Ed Hartung [criminal justice] on war and terrorism.

As a result of this process, McCloskey emerged with a promotion to a cabinet level position as associate vice president for enrollment: “I will have a responsibility, a vested interest in seeing this plan be successful. I’m going to try my best to make it resonate in my work and decisions as a College officer.”

“Because of the plan, I’m sixteen months behind on my next book project,” Silbey added. “Now I’m thinking, ‘How do I want to work for the strategic plan?’ Everyone has their little chunk of the plan now, to shape, to own. I’m thinking about creating an interdisciplinary signature program with Ed Hartung on war and terrorism.”

I learned that there is value in focus, in having the discipline to leave something out for the plan to truly be effective.”

McCloskey agreed. “They helped us make it sharper and more succinct.”

“Helping shape the future of the College renewed my sense of investment at Alvernia,” Silbey added. “Now I’m thinking, ‘How do I want to work for the strategic plan?’ Everyone has their little chunk of the plan now, to shape, to own. I’m thinking about creating an interdisciplinary signature program with Ed Hartung on war and terrorism.”

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A paper written and presented by Mary Ellen Wells, business, received the Mid-Atlantic Academy of Legal Studies in Business (MAALSB) 2007 Conference Best Paper by Junior Faculty Award. Wells’ paper was titled “Abrogating Public Employees’ Right to Dissent: Free Speech in the Public Sector After Garcetti v. Ceballos.”
**COMMUNICATION**

Carrie Fitzpatrick, communication, and Spence Stober, biology, presented “Sustaining Gaia through Learning Communities: A Case Study in Higher Education,” at a conference in Chennai, India, in January 2007. Fitzpatrick also presented “A Confluence of Voices Negotiating Identity: An East Coast-West Coast Exchange of Ideas on Writing, Culture, and Self,” at a conference on College Composition and Communication in March. Fitzpatrick was also named to the Executive Board of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society for the 2006-2007 term.

Marc DiPaolo, communication, published The Conscious Reader (Brief Edition) in 2007, and his book entitled, Emma Adapted: Jane Austen’s Heroine From Book to Film, will be published in Fall 2007. DiPaolo won a competitive grant to attend a seminar for university professors hosted by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The seminar will examine aspects of Charles Dickens’ writing.

Jodi Radosh, communication, co-presented “Getting Your Message Out to the Media” at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine in Chicago, Ill., in April.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Peggy Bowen, Barry Harvey, Ed Hartung, and Daria LaTorre, all criminal justice, each presented a paper at the national meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice in Seattle, March 14-17.

**EDUCATION**

A paper by Mary Schreiner, education, entitled “Effective Self-Advocacy: What Students and Special Educators Need to Know” was published in the peer-reviewed journal: Intervention in School and Clinic in May. Schreiner also published “Strategies Faculty Use to Promote Spiritual Development and Franciscan Mission” in The AFCU Journal: A Franciscan Perspective on Higher Education in January. She presented “Teacher Educators CAN Be Researchers: Advancing Faculty Scholarship within Service Learning Experiences” at the Council for Exceptional Children in April.

**ENGLISH**

Thomas Bierowski, English, presented “The Vile Lunacy of Time,” a one-man show of original material at the ARTSPREE program at Lehigh University in April. Bierowski also presented “Eaten by Horses (and Other Earthly Oddities)” at the Wildflower Café in Bethlehem in February.

Richard Law, English and communication, presented “Escape from Subjugation in Joanna Russ’s We Who Are About To” at the Pennsylvania College English Association Annual Conference in West Chester in April.

**HISTORY**


**NURSING**


Courtney McKay Stevens, nursing, spoke to a group in Palmyra on March 19, about the history of gardening as a spiritual discipline, and how gardens can increase wellness.

Deborah Greenawald published an article in the February 27, Mid-Atlantic regional issue of Advance for Nurses.

Anne Fink, nursing, is pursuing a Ph.D. in Nursing at Villanova University, and was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi honor society in April. In May, Fink served as a test item writer for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

Karen Thacker, dean of professional programs, made a presentation entitled, “The Perceptions of Advocacy Behaviors in End-of-Life Nursing Care Among Novice, Experienced, and Expert Nurses” at the Southeastern PA Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses Research Dinner, on May 7 in Philadelphia.
PHILOSOPHY

Marc Lucht, philosophy, published “Does Kant Have Anything to Teach Us About Environmental Ethics?” in the American Journal of Economics and Sociology in January.

Bongrae Seok, philosophy, presented “Folk Psychology and External Attribution” at the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, in April. Seok also presented “Indian Art: An Overview” at the Allentown Art Museum in April.


SCIENCE

Spence Stober, biology, and Donna Yarri, theology, presented a paper entitled, “Making Explicit the Implicit: Pedagogical Considerations in Interdisciplinary Teaching,” at the annual National Association for Practical and Professional Ethics meeting in February.

THEOLOGY


ADMINISTRATION

President Thomas Flynn served on the Executive Committees of both the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) and the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) this past year. He will continue on with AFCU for 2007-2008 and will also become the vice chair of Economic Development Committee for the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP). The AICUP is a consortium of 82 large and small private colleges.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Gale Martin, marketing & communications, had a humorous essay called “Oh, For That Familiar Sound of Summer” accepted for publication by the Christian Science Monitor and won the First Chapter Contest at Writers Billboard for her new mainstream novel, Savage, Grace.

TENURE GRANTED

Four faculty members have been awarded tenure by the Board of Trustees: Jodi Radosh, communication, Nathan Thomas, arts & sciences, Tufan Tiglioglu, business, and Eva Weicker, biology. Radosh, Thomas, and Tiglioglu also applied for and received promotion to Associate Professor. In addition, Beth Berret, business, and Kevin Godfrey, humanities, have been promoted to Associate Professor.
APPOINTMENTS

Jeff Dittman has been named Dean of Admissions.

Gerald Vigna, theology, has been named the Director of the Center for Ethics and Leadership.

Kevin Godfrey, theology, has been named Dean of the Division of Arts and Sciences.

Donna Yarri, theology, has been named Chair of the Humanities Department.

SABBATICALS

Donna Yarri, theology (fall), and Richard Stichler philosophy (spring), have been approved for sabbaticals this coming year to work on their books: Religion and Morality in the Work of Woody Allen, and The Ethics of Aristotle and Confucius: A Comparative Study," respectively.

PRINT

David Silbey, humanities, provided commentary on President Bush’s speech on Iraq in a Reading Eagle article on January 11.

Rafael Nunez ’04, was the subject of a feature article in La Voz, a regional Spanish newspaper on January 19.

Alvernia College was recognized by the Reading Eagle on January 23, for receiving the Spirit of Achievement Award from Junior Achievement.

Lebanon Daily News featured Alvernia senior women’s basketball standout, Lauren Fortna, in an article on January 24, entitled “Fortna Flourishing On and Off the Court.”

Several Alvernia events were featured in an article about Black History Month in Reading Eagle’s February 2 edition.

Alvernia criminal justice student, Jarrod Emes, was featured in a February 5 Reading Eagle story about his dangerous hobby as a rescue ice-diver.

An article by RN-BSN student, Joan Thomas, was published in the February 5 edition of Advance for Nursing Magazine.

In a February 12 Reading Eagle article, Rev. Speratus Kamanzi, ministry, discussed his experiences as a missionary in a Tanzania refugee camp during a period of genocide in Africa.
Two Bernardine Sisters and Alvernia trustees, Sr. Madonna Marie Harvath, OSF and Sr. Mary Margaret Jackson, OSF, were featured in a February 12 Reading Eagle article about their recent trip to Kenya for the World Social Forum 2007.

Larrie Thomas ’04, was the subject of a Reading Eagle article on February 16. Larrie, 24, died in February, after a five-year battle with colon cancer. Diagnosed during her freshman year in college, Larrie battled through her illness to earn a degree in criminal justice.

Alvernia nursing student, Suzanne Blankenbiller, was recognized in Advance for Nursing magazine on February 19, for receiving the School Nurse of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners. Blankenbiller is a nurse in the Exeter School District.

John Schodowski and Rachel Gordon (both of financial aid) were featured in a La Voz magazine article on February 22, about getting financial help for college.

Alvernia trustee, Rev. J.A. Panuska, SJ was featured in a Times Tribune article on February 25, entitled, “Big Man on Campus: About The Rev. J.A. (Joseph Allan) Panuska, SJ.”

Michael Heimbach ’88 was featured in a front-page Reading Eagle article on February 26, for his work as the Special Agent-in-Charge of Counterterrorism for the FBI’s Washington field office.

An article about the Alvernia men’s basketball team winning the PAC Championship appeared in the Reading Eagle on February 27. Several members of the team were featured in a separate article on the same day, for receiving PAC honors. Garret Etzel was named PAC Player of the Year, and Matt King was chosen for PAC Rookie of the Year.

On March 4, The Pottstown Mercury reported that freshman basketball player, Matt King, was named this year’s PAC Rookie of the Year. Terrence Shawell was also mentioned for being named to the All-PAC first team.

Carla Pothering ’96 was featured in the Republican Herald on March 5, in an article entitled, “Losing Loved Ones Steers Woman toward a Career in Nursing.” Pothering is a nurse educator in Pottsville.

Standout baseball player, Eric Bonds ’06, was featured in a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article on March 11, about his recent signing with the Slippery Rock Sliders.

Alvernia baseball coach, Yogi Lutz, was recognized in the Reading Eagle, on March 12, for winning 500 career games. His accomplishment was mentioned in the Reading Eagle again on March 19. In the second article, Yogi’s son (and star pitcher/third baseman) Zach Lutz, was touted as “a major league draftee and a preseason All-American selection.”

A press release about a study of past presidents conducted by Tim Blessing, humanities, and Anne Skleder, CCE, appeared on at least six different websites on March 17. The story was picked up by various outlets, including World Net Daily in Oregon, Soo Today in Canada, and locally by WFMZ Channel 69.

Tim Blessing, humanities, was interviewed by the Reading Eagle on March 18, in an editorial called, “Shabby Treatment Nothing New for Vets.”

The Observer-Reporter online (Pittsburgh) published an article on March 19, about the Slippery Rock Sliders. Player Eric Bonds ’06 was featured for his unusual status as both a ball player and a forensic assistant with the Lancaster County coroner’s office.
Alvernia's Students in Free Enterprise group (SIFE) was featured in the Reading Eagle on March 29, for teaching a group of Southwest Middle School students how to organize and implement a talent show and dance.

Alvernia trustee Dr. Sunil Widge was the subject of a press release published on the PR Newswire, PR-Inside.com (in Austria) and Earthtimes.org on March 30. Widge was named vice chairman of the Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA).

Alvernia's strategic and master plans to expand the campus in the coming years was featured in a Reading Eagle article on March 31, entitled, “Alvernia Buildings, Grounds Set for Renovations.”

The News-Item, Shamokin, featured Michelle LaCrosse, adjunct art professor, for her art exhibit on display through the month of March.

Alvernia College was featured in two A.D. Times articles on April 5. One article was entitled “Students make ‘Catholic Education Connection’ at Alvernia College.” The second article discussed this year’s Hesburgh Lecture, an annual event co-sponsored by Alvernia and the Notre Dame Club of Reading.

The outstanding pitching performance of Emily Williams, softball player, was recognized in an April 16 Portsville Republican & Herald article.

Diane Randazzo, masters student, has had one of her award winning recipes published in the Taste of Home's Light and Tasty magazine, and included in Taste of Home's Light and Tasty Annual Recipes 2007. Several of her recipes were also published in an April 18 Reading Eagle article focusing on Randazzo and her passion for cooking.

Junior secondary education student, Sophie Guzowski, was featured as the “Person of the Week” in the Reading Eagle on April 24, for her active volunteerism at Alvernia.

Zack Lutz and Jason Ziegler, baseball player standouts, were featured in a Reading Eagle article called, “Killer Zs are Letter-Perfect for Alvernia.”

On May 7, the Reading Eagle published an article about Alvernia's Imagine Workshop, a program co-sponsored with the Institute of the Arts.

An article on Sarah A. Jones '07 was published in the May 20 Reading Eagle. Sarah was diagnosed with leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in September, but battled through chemotherapy treatments to graduate on time.

TELEVISION

BCTV aired a week of special shows called “Community Conversations.” Jodi Radosh, communication, was part of an evening panel discussing “The Costs of Healthcare,” on January 17. In addition, Sue Guay, communication, appeared on BCTV as part of “Community Conversations,” on January 18, discussing the Greater Reading Literary Festival and theater programs.

Rabbi Alan Weitzman, seniors college, taped a Comcast Newsmakers segment on Kabala with host Janelle Wolf. The segment was part of a Comcast Tonight program.

Dr. Jerry Vigna, arts & sciences, was interviewed by WFMZ Channel 69 news on February 27, about the archaeological discovery of a tomb claimed to be that of Jesus. Students Vanessa Moore and Oscar Cortez were also interviewed.

WFMZ Channel 69 discussed the Alvernia Crusaders’ change from the PAC Conference to the MAC Conference on March 8.

On March 13, WFMZ Channel 69 News reported that more than 200 students from local Catholic high schools visited Alvernia during Catholic Education Connection day.

Ed Hartung and Peggy Bowen, both of criminal justice, were interviewed for a WFMZ Channel 69 News story about “Identifying Troubled Individuals,” on April 19.

RADIO

Abby Swatchick, student activities, did a radio interview about Black History Month on February 1, with Dave Langley of WEEU.
The Crusaders continued to display their prowess in the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) throughout the spring season. Honors included bringing home 11 First Team All-PAC selections, two Second Team All-PAC selections and four Honorable Mentions. The nationally recognized baseball squad produced a PAC Player of the year in junior Zach Lutz who earned this award for the second straight year. He became the third Alvernia baseball player to win the award twice in back-to-back seasons. In fact, Alvernia players have won the award six out of the last seven years.

Alvernia’s baseball team opened their season with the announcement that Baseball America had selected their junior third-baseman/pitcher Zach Lutz as a member of the preseason All-America Team for the second year in a row. The Crusaders traveled to Arizona for a spring break tournament that included wins over No. 3 Montclair State and No. 9 Wheaton of Massachusetts. During the tournament, Head Coach Yogi Lutz recorded his 500th victory during a come-from-behind 11-9 win over Rutgers-Camden. Alvernia finished with an impressive 27-13 (overall), 16-5 (PAC) record. They fell just short of returning to the conference championship game, losing to eventual champions Gwynedd-Mercy. The Crusaders earned a berth in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championship tournament. The team also had six players named to the First Team All-PAC, and two players earned honorable mention.

The Crusader softball team reached the playoffs as the sixth seed for the second season in a row. They finished the regular season with a 21-14 (overall), 12-10 (PAC) record. Two players were selected to the First Team All-PAC; senior centerfielder Suzanne Fox and junior second basemen Jackie Rhoads paced the Crusaders at the plate with .380 and .393 averages respectively. Rhoads led the team with 14 doubles, and was tied with Fox for the lead with six home runs.

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1969


1971

Patricia Werner Savage received her Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from the Union Institute and University in 2005. She currently serves as the President/CEO of Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries, a multi-service health and human service agency.

1973

Deborah L. (Kyzer) Evans was named program coordinator of Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences’ clinical laboratory-science program. Evans is currently pursuing a master’s degree in education from Alvernia.

1979

Beverly Boone published her first book, *To Be Somebody*, a biography detailing the early years of a friend who grew up on a sharecropping plantation in Mississippi.

Timothy J. Daley ’79 & ’00 was named criminal justice program coordinator for the City of Reading. Previously, Daley was a Reading police office, safe schools coordinator at Reading High school, school safety consultant, and school safety coordinator at Chester County Intermediate Unit.

1982

The Calvary congregation recently welcomed the Rev. Kenneth H. Frey as its new pastor.

1983

Mark Lerario was named access sales account executive at D&E Communications Inc., Ephrata.

1987

Donna L. Martino has been named branch manager of the Pine Point Plaza Branch at Mauch Chunk Trust Co.

1988

FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III appointed Michael J. Heimbach, an eighteen-year veteran of the FBI, as the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Washington Field Office (WFO) Counterterrorism Division. As head of the WFO Counterterrorism Division, Heimbach leads professionals fighting domestic and international terrorism in one of the FBI’s largest field offices.

1990

Lois Sanders recently finished course work for her master’s in Elementary Education at Kutztown University and was inducted into the graduate honor society. She is a 7th grade language arts teacher at the Pottstown Middle School and the advisor for the yearbook.

1991

Paul T. Klick, Jr. was appointed postmaster of Leesport, Pa.

1993

David J. Firek was named senior manager at BMC, Spring Township. In his new position, Firek will be responsible for coordinating and managing audit services and staff.

Christopher D. Heydt is engaged to Lori A. O’Connor.

1994

Marylouise Adelmann married Gregory Policastro on October 29, 2005.

Christine (Coleman) Hartzman is employed by the Boyertown Area School District.

1995

Sherri (Mellinger) Hopple is a microbiologist at Sanofi-Aventis research and development site in Malvern, Pa.

David Kapaona Jr. married Aimee Elizabeth Franckowiak in Alsace Lutheran Church, Hyde Park., and had a reception at the Inn at Moselem Springs.

Robert Todd Miller announced his engagement to Morgan Elizabeth Clay.

Lisa Pascuzzo is supervising senior accountant at Genesis Healthcare Corporation in Pottsville.

1996

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1997

Jennifer (Holzapfel) Filipe is expecting her first child on October 18, 2007. Jennifer is a supervisory officer for Customs and Border Protection in Newark Airport, N.J.
Michelle L. (Werst) Sowers was named senior manager in audit and accounting services at BMC (Beard Miller Company LLP).

Eric Turman ’97 & ’03 became the new principal for Academy Park High School.

1998

Shana Kennedy welcomed her first son on March 1, 2006.

Kathleen Koslesky ’98 & ’04 was named vice president and credit-compliance officer at Sovereign Bank.

Jessica Singleton and Donald Alan Good, both of Elizabethtown, announced their engagement.

1999

Erin Ebersole joined the staff of Immaculata University as director of Institutional Research.

A daughter, Madelyn Eileen, was born to Eileen (Bergan) and Scott Evert, on April 20, 2006. Eileen is Bloomsburg University’s director of annual giving.

Zinn Insurance of Myerstown named Jennifer Mathias commercial-lines small-business unit coordinator.

Erin McCurry accepted a position at BAE Systems in Nashua, N.H. She works in a support role to the manager of manufacturing.

2000

After spending six years in the manufacturing sector, Kristi Casey accepted a position as an executive team leader in human resources for Target.

Kathleen Louise Frick and John Carl Walter were married in St. Ignatius Loyola Roman Catholic Church, and had a reception in Heidelberg Country Club.

Nora Gore announced the birth of John Patrick Gore on November 24, 2006.

2001

Alecia (Fick) Katzaman recently accepted a position at the Surgical Institute of Reading in the inpatient unit.

Leigh Messner ’01 & ’02 is engaged to Troy Heller.

Robin Reinhard of Barth, Pennsylvania, has been appointed to Princeton Theological Seminary’s Student Government as the Witherspoon Hall housing representative. Reinhard is in her second year of the Master of Divinity program at the Seminary.

2002


Kenneth Allen Gilyard II is engaged to Channell Tiffani Bishop.

Theresa Margaret Kakas and Richard Aaron Himmelberger were married in St. Ignatius of Loyola Roman Catholic Church, and had a reception at Valley Country Club.

Kristina Lynn Koblitz and Daniel Richard Stein were married in Zion Blue Mountain United Church of Christ, and had a reception at Heidelberg Country Club.

Christopher Pietruszynski is employed by Travelers Insurance as a member of the CAT Property Team.

2003

Jeffrey Maurer is a computer support specialist at Threshold Rehabilitation Services.

Brianne Moyer is pursuing a master’s degree in education at St. Joseph’s University, Philadelphia.

Todd A. Ruth was named a senior credit analyst with Sterling Financial Corporation.

Justin Towles ’03 was married to Heather McCall ’04 on September 3, 2006, in Middletown, Pa.

Stephen Walsh ’03/’05 was married to Jessica Lynn Yost at St. Mary’s Church, Catasauqua on September 9, 2006.

2004

Mindi L. Asselin has joined Long and Foster Real Estate Inc., Wyomissing as a realtor.

Matthew Heaney ’04 was married to Karen Lynn Frey ’05 at Immaculate Conception BVM Church, Jenkintown.
Marci Houser is engaged to Ron Gubich.

Julie Lyn Mileshosky and Timothy C. Cope were married in St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Church during a nuptial Mass, and had a reception at Heidelberg Country Club.

Mark A. Piasio, M.D., M.B.A., a DuBois-area orthopedic surgeon, is the 157th president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

The Board of Directors of the Schuylkill Alliance for Health Care Access has hired Judith A. Schweich, Pottsville, as its new executive director.

Laura Shiner is engaged to Erick Scott Schmehl.

Heather Shuman accepted an RN position in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at the Reading Hospital and Medical Center beginning in August of 2007, and will be returning to Alvernia to complete the RN to BSN program in January 2008.

2005

Gwen E. Darosh is engaged to William M. Rodgers.

Joseph S. Franco and Diana M. Demko were married at St. Catharine of Siena Roman Catholic Church, Exeter Township.

Kristina Ellen Frantz and John Richard Reilly were united in marriage at St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, Frackville.

Rebekah C. Hoppel married Brad Iezzi on April 28, 2007, at the Colebrookdale chapel in Boyertown with a reception at the Inn at Reading. Bridesmaids included Liz Teter ’04 and Susan Martz ’05.

Christian Jacobs ’05 is engaged to Brandon DeWald ’05.

Carly Michele Solazzo and Brian William High were married in Negril, Jamaica, during a double-ring ceremony.

Anthony Recker was named to the Midwest League All-Star East Team and was the starting catcher for the game at John O’Donnell Stadium, Iowa. Recker was drafted in the 18th round by the Oakland Athletics.

Todd R. Stapleton was named program manager at Junior Achievement of Greater Reading and Lehigh Valley.

2006

Anne Elizabeth Hollinger is engaged to Aaron Keith Anders.


Kathleen Hummel announced her engagement to Jason Hart.

Jennifer Ruchlewicz and William Long were married on August 26, 2006 at The Lantern Lodge in Myerstown, Pa.

Kathy Moyer is employed by QVC as a Product Coordinator.

Sarah Nerino is a member of the Inaugural Class of Drexel University Law School.

Amanda Reiber and Erik Schwendemen were married in Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Leesport.

Charles Scheetz was engaged to Jennifer Pease on October 25, 2006.

Kelly Lynn Sonon and Aaron Dane Achenbach were married in Stirling Guest Hotel during a double-ring ceremony.

MaryBeth Uczynski passed her state nursing board test and was hired by the Reading Hospital to work in the Emergency Room.

In Memoriam

Lori A. Stehman ’89 died May 25, 2006. Lori had been employed as a clinical analyst in the information systems department of St. Joseph Medical Center. She also worked for Catholic Health Initiatives.

Craig B. Sargent ’95 died on Tuesday, August 1, 2006. Craig was working on his masters at Wilkes University. He was a U.S. National Collegiate Award winner in education by the U.S. Achievement Academy. Craig was a 5th grade teacher at Northwest Elementary School, Lebanon.

Rev. Sue Ann (Eshelman) McCoy ’01 died Sunday, October 1, 2006. She was a Pastor at St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, Allentown. She was ordained as a United Church of Christ Pastor in February 2005.

Larrie S. Thomas ’04, died February 2, 2007 after a five-year battle with colon cancer. She was a 1993 graduate of the Pennsylvania State Police Cadet Program and an eleven-year member of the Law Enforcement Explorer Post, where she took up a leadership role as a junior staff member.

Do you have an interesting memory of Alvernia? The 50th Anniversary committee is interested in memories, stories, and traditions observed by alumni, faculty, and staff. Please send them in care of Alvernia Magazine, 540 Upland Avenue, Alvernia, PA 19611 or email to magazine@alvernia.edu
Always in My Plans:
The Alvernia Writers’ Series

The Roman numeral clock above the fireplace reads 12:55. Neat columns of chairs line the Bonaventure Room on the first floor of the library. Writers’ Series regulars file in, settling into spoke-backed chairs, ready to share oral presentations for the next hour.

An athlete wearing tell-tale dazzle cloth digs a pen out of the pocket of her basketball shorts to edit her piece. While waiting for the emcee to arrive, I remove my own essay from my binder, flip through it, then stuff it back in. Will people think it’s funny? Will I stumble over any words?

Though my work at Upland Center occasionally intervenes, I plan to attend each program in this series organized by Dr. Tom Bierowski, a full-time member of the English faculty. Held several times a semester, each session is a cerebral celebration of original poetry and prose. It is my favorite tradition since coming to the College last summer.

I love reading my work. I love listening to others’ work. Like other Series’ participants, I have a deep affection for Tom, an original spirit, who infuses each of his readings with his unexampled genius. Alvernia has carved out an identity as an inclusive community because of programs like the Writers’ Series and because of teachers like Bierowski, whom the students also call Tom or Dr. Tom.

Several times a year, everyone on campus gets an email invitation to the Series, each an extension of Tom’s personality. Once he signed off by spinning an old saw thusly: “Don’t hide your candle under a bushel basket, folks. You’ll ruin the basket and screw up your candle, or I’m not Dr. Tom.”

My favorite was the invitation in 96-point type, which he closed with this rhyming couplet: “Many are called. ALL are chosen. So don’t just sit there in yr [sic] liederhosen.”

Like aliens to Tom’s mothership, a cross-section of the community is drawn to the library for each reading. Yes, there are colleagues from the English department. But Series’ regulars also include a Spanish professor/poetess; alumni; and traditional students, non-traditional students and staff from all over campus—from the marketing to the maintenance departments.

As I look across the room, I can tell that others besides me are nervous. Creative writing is an extension of ourselves. We make ourselves vulnerable whenever we share what we have created. When people like our work, their appreciation affirms not only our talent but our inner child, our alter ego. Tom understands this. Like everyone’s favorite teacher, he rewards us for bravery. He listens intently, cocking his head to one side, pursing his lips, clapping the loudest when we finish. He is generous with his acceptance so that we’ll keep sharing our work.

Sometimes when people first step up to read, their voices falter or their delivery is too fast for any real appreciation of their craft. It takes gumption to read in front of others, even to a group as considerate as Series’ regulars.

With each turn at the microphone, we grow in confidence as more of Tom’s “empowerment magic” finds its mark. One student writer could barely be heard the first time she read aloud. Now she delivers animated readings, enjoying the attention she stirs.

When Tom reads my name from his scratch-paper list, I feel butterflies. I like to briefly introduce my piece before I share it. Today I announce my essay was accepted for publication, and the crowd bursts into applause, startling me, filling me with gratitude for the community Tom has created among writers on campus.

I glance at the Roman numeral clock approaching two on the final day of class this semester, hoping there’s time for Tom to share his work. Each of his readings is performance art. Once he taped his prose and lip sync’d it, having layered a new age music track behind his pre-recorded voice. Today Tom transfixes us with an essay on strangers who mock him for looking like Forrest Gump when Forrest went through his long-haired, Grizzly-Adams period of grooming.

Then I consider other icons of Western culture defined by their long hair—Samson, Hercules, Robin Hood, Shakespeare—thinking Tom is in good company, select company, deservedly.

I love summertime and the renewal it offers to those who work in academia. But a part of me can hardly wait until fall when I’ll see Tom sidle to the front of the Bonaventure Room, toting his boom box, his trademark locks jutting out from beneath a baseball cap, his rugged hands unfolding a scribbled list of names. It means that a new season of Writers’ Series has begun.

—Gale Martin, Editor-in-chief
Students stroll the grounds adjoining the Bernardine Sisters’ convent on a rainy April afternoon.
Calendar of Events

August
3 Alumni Night at the Reading Phillies
   Summer Information Session, Undergraduate
7 Info Session, Graduate and Continuing Studies, Main Campus
   Info Session, Schuylkill Campus
10 Summer Information Session, Undergraduate
17 Summer Information Session, Undergraduate
27 Classes Begin

September
20 Overnight Visit for Prospective Students
21 Alvernia 101: Information Session

October
1 Crusader Golf Outing
4 St. Francis Feast Day observation
6-8 Alumni trip to Niagara Falls
9 Info Session, Schuylkill Campus
10 Info Session, Main Campus
19-20 Homecoming and Family Weekend
20 Undergraduate Open House
25 Overnight Visit for Prospective Students
26 Alvernia 101: Information Session