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Dr. Shirley Williams

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President’s Message

Whether the stock market is up or down, a bull or a bear, we know that perhaps our most important investment is our decision to seek higher education. And as with any important investment, whether we are the first in our family to attend college or are following a long line of relatives with graduate degrees, we seek the best possible experience and the greatest value for our time and money.

Increasingly, private colleges and universities like Alvernia are being recognized as the right choice for students of all ages and backgrounds. Many families equate big-name, larger, and expensive schools with academic quality. Yet the reality is that schools like Alvernia offer students the opportunity to blend liberal arts and professional education; to interact regularly with their professors; to pursue internships, service projects, and out-of-class activities; and to develop their leadership potential. Alvernia faculty and staff care about their students, whether they be freshmen, working adults in a master’s program, or doctoral students. Individual attention, intellectual challenge, practical experience in a caring community, and an affordable price are hallmarks of the Alvernia experience.

And there is an extra ingredient that sets Alvernia apart. Franciscan values and the ideal of “knowledge joined with love” are the source of our distinction. They make a pivotal difference in the quality of education and the entire Alvernia experience. Compared to students at larger public institutions and private colleges without religious affiliation, Alvernia’s students experience more integration of values and ethics in classroom discussions. This enhances their development of leadership and communication skills and their career preparation. And it changes their lives in even more profound ways: they develop greater social awareness and a moral compass to guide their actions.

This issue of the Alvernia Magazine showcases academic quality at Alvernia. It depends on academic leadership, as reflected in the work of Provost Shirley Williams, the College’s chief academic officer, who believes shared leadership is essential for academic excellence. It is, of course, best represented by the work of our faculty: innovative interdisciplinary courses that cross boundaries; service learning projects that connect classroom and community; mentoring that guides at-risk and honors students alike; and the scholarly and creative achievements that enhance first-rate teaching.

We hope you enjoy this exploration of academic excellence. We encourage you to recommend Alvernia to potential students. And we hope you feel inspired by an approach to educational quality that fully engages our students in mind, heart, and soul.

Peace and all good,

Thomas F. Flynn
President
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Alvernia celebrated Winter Commencement on Sunday, December 16, 2007, with a mid-year class whose friends and family packed the Physical Education Center gymnasium.

“Alvernia’s story is one of dramatic institutional transformation, illuminated in part by some dramatic numbers,” explained President Thomas F. Flynn, who presided at the event. “Today’s graduating class of 217 is but one of two annual commencements. Our first graduating class in 1961 consisted of four Bernardine sisters.”

Judge Linda Ludgate, Class of 1977, received a standing ovation following her commencement address. She relayed a moving story of perseverance in the face of personal and professional obstacles, which included her quest to complete her undergraduate degree as a thirty-year-old mother of four. Other area colleges refused to admit her, saying she was too old to finish her college degree, except for Alvernia who welcomed Ludgate and other non-traditional students well ahead of the continuing studies trend.

Ludgate earned dual undergraduate degrees from Alvernia in social work and criminal justice, obtained her law degree from Temple University, worked for legal services as a public defender, and in general practice. In 1990, she became a judge in the Berks County Court of Common Pleas where she continues to serve today.

Winter Commencement also marked a milestone for a non-traditional student Ann Faust, who at age 62 earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing, graduating magna cum laude, through Alvernia’s R.N. to B.S.N. program. Faust received the Lifetime of Learning Award from the Graduate and Continuing Studies Division. She has worked at Reading Hospital and Medical Center for 30 years. Her daughter, Heidi McMullan, is also enrolled in Alvernia’s R.N. to B.S.N. program and graduates in May 2008.

In order to allow more family members to attend, the 2008 Spring Commencement will move to the Reading Eagle Theatre at the Sovereign Center in downtown Reading.

Third annual Junior Achievement Young Women’s Futures Symposium at Alvernia

Junior Achievement of Greater Reading and Lehigh Valley (JA) held the third annual Greater Reading Young Women’s Futures Symposium (YWFS) at Alvernia College in November. One hundred young women visited the college from twenty Greater Reading high schools.

The fast-paced event was filled with information and interaction to develop qualities for success and instill self-esteem to help the women pursue lifelong goals. Information about career options, skills, interests, and talents was widely available. In addition, students were matched with adult mentors during a “power lunch.” This activity was the first step for students to build a rapport with an adult who could answer individual questions. After lunch, participants had additional time to meet with other women mentors in a networking session.

Keynote speaker Katrina Szish, National Correspondent for InStyle magazine, is a contributing correspondent and host for ABC NEWS NOW, ABC’s digital cable and broadband network, and a news anchor for ABC NEWS on MTV-U, MTV’s college television network. Her inspirational address chronicled her challenging rise through her career.

Jennifer Kaucher, a junior at Wyomissing Area School District was inspired by the event. “The Young Women’s Future’s Symposium took me by surprise and became a turning point in my future. I have now decided to major in communications rather than pursue a teaching career,” she said. “I hope the event continues in years to come and touches more women like me.”
When the College breaks ground for Student Center renovations and more green-space this March, they’ll be digging into new territory in more ways than one. For the first time in Alvernia’s history, the College has chosen an environmentally responsible path toward campus redevelopment and expansion. As a result, waste materials and debris resulting from Student Center construction will be sorted, salvaged, and reused to the greatest extent possible.

In addition, one of the parking lots located in the middle of campus will be dug up and converted to a grassy quad to provide more recreation and relaxation space for students and to enhance campus aesthetics. In short, the College will unpave a parking lot to put up paradise.

However, it’s not easy being green. Literally tons of building materials such as drywall, ceiling tile, glass, roof insulation, and floor tiles must be sorted as they are removed from the Student Center, which adds time and labor to the project. Nor is it cheap. Environmentally responsible construction adds costs, too, including more dumpsters on site so materials aren’t commingled, and increased hauling costs.

Alvernia believes the results are worth the effort: it demonstrates commitment to its Franciscan values, which includes caring for the environment, and means less dumping in local landfills. Officials have conservatively estimated the College will salvage more than 215 tons of materials from the Student Center construction for reuse. For instance, the drywall will be ground up and used for animal bedding. Concrete will also be ground up and used as a sub-base. By working with Waste Management of Pennsylvania, officials have already identified organizations to buy the salvage, which can help offset increased construction costs.

The new green quad and the Student Center renovations are expected to be complete when classes resume in fall 2008.

“College isn’t just for big kids anymore,” said one nine-year-old participant in a creative writing workshop for children at Alvernia. The Upland Center grand opening event was packed with enthusiastic kids from third to sixth grades. Dr. Marc DiPaolo (communications) gave instruction on how to write a short story, while Mike Nerino (CIS) helped kids navigate the provided laptop computers.
Lecture series to deliver stature and substance

Some of the most substantive issues of our day will be explored in the 2008 Spring Lecture Series at Alvernia. Each event features nationally or locally known leaders on topics such as the 2008 presidential election, race and human diversity, community leadership, and service to others, examined through the lens of ethics and moral leadership.

The series has been organized and sponsored by the Centers for Excellence at Alvernia College—the Center for Community Engagement, Ginny Hand, director; and the Center for Ethics and Leadership, Dr. Gerald Vigna, director. The spring slate includes the following events:

- “Conscience, Authority, and the Vote,” by Reverend William J. Byron, SJ, Batdorf Lecturer. Author, columnist, and former president of Catholic University and the University of Scranton, Father Byron will explore the common good as defined in Catholic social teaching and ’08 campaign rhetoric on Thursday, February 28. The lecture begins at 4 p.m. A wine and cheese reception follows.
- “Candidates and Their Faith: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue,” moderated by Dr. Gerald Vigna and featuring Alvernia College faculty members Deborah Greenawalt, nursing; Dr. Elizabeth Matteo, psychology, and Dr. Spencer Stober, biology. This first event in a new series featuring Alvernia faculty is on Tuesday, March 25, at 4 p.m. A wine and cheese reception follows.
- “What Race is and What It is Not,” by Dr. Agustin Fuentes, Hesburgh lecturer. An anthropologist from the University of Notre Dame, Dr. Agustin Fuentes will examine myths and realities about human diversity on Monday, March 31. The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m.
- “A Conversation with Emerging Leaders,” a panel discussion moderated by Julia Klein, Chair & CEO of C.H. Briggs. Klein will talk with prominent young executives about their goals and ideas about service including Maria Baez, Thomas Minnick ’98, Rachel Bashore, and Eric Burkey. This event is part of the College’s Executive Series, and will be held on Wednesday, April 23 at 4 p.m., with a wine and cheese reception following.

All events will be held in the Bernardine Franciscan Conference Center, 460 Saint Bernardine Street, adjacent to the Alvernia Campus, and are free and open to the public.

Alvernia partners with the Chamber for Non-Profit Roundtable

The Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Center for Community Engagement at Alvernia College are partnering to offer a Non-Profit Roundtable in 2008 for executive officers of not-for-profits in Greater Reading.

This new program consists of four interactive and supportive peer-to-peer meetings held at the Upland Center at Alvernia College scheduled for February 27, May 14, September 17, and November 19. It is strictly for non-profit CEOs from any sector.

“Our Non-Profit Roundtable is based on a successful model the Chamber has offered to for-profit executives,” explained Ginny Hand, director of the Center for Community Engagement. “We thought non-profit CEOs would benefit from brainstorming, sharing ideas, solving problems, and networking inside and out of the non-profit circle, too.”

Each roundtable centers on topics and needs as determined by the group related to the unique challenges non-profit executives face including: human resources, insurance, diversity, compensation and benefits, fundraising and development, stewardship, and board development.

The roundtables will be held at the Upland Center at Alvernia College. “We’re delighted the Chamber is working with us on this venture,” Hand concluded. “It expresses the mission of the Center for Community Engagement, to create strategic community partnerships while tapping into Alvernia’s core strength in leadership development.”
Alvernia College Theatre presented *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, by Stephen Adly Guirgis for the fall 2007 production. The original production was the joint creation of LAByrinth Theatre Company (a company established to provide more performance opportunities for Latino actors in Manhattan) and the Public Theatre, which produces New York City’s famed “Shakespeare in the Park” series, among other events. A cast of twenty-two Alvernia undergraduate and graduate students took the stage for the production.

The play took place in a courtroom in purgatory, where an Irish-Catholic female defense lawyer (Ashlee Wolfe) asked for consideration of Judas’ (David Lloyd) redemption. A Muslim prosecutor (Richard Fields) argued that Judas’ punishment should stand. Witnesses included Pontius Pilate (Donald Dilliplane), Caiaphas the Elder (Mark Molchany), Simon the Zealot (Sean Cullen), Mother Teresa (Rachel Penny), Sigmund Freud (Philip Moore), Satan (Andrew Wedlock), and Henrietta Iscariot (Aida Garman). Other appearances included Peter (Andrew Bright), Matthew (Adam Butler), and Thomas (Aaron Rimby).

Fr. James Martin, SJ (associate editor of *America*), participated in the original production as a consultant. As Father Martin notes in his book about the experience, Guirgis’ writing is “wildly profane.”

Two representatives of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival system (KCACTF) came to see the show at Alvernia. KCACTF works to celebrate the best in college theatre. These representatives watched the performance and provided a response to the cast and crew about their work on the production. They also recommended several cast members for awards.

Ashlee Wolfe (Cunningham, the defense lawyer), Andrew Wedlock (Satan), and Yasiris Martinez (St. Monica) were nominated for participation in the Irene Ryan Scholarship competition, where nomination is an honor in itself. Rachel Penny (Mother Teresa and Mary Magdalene) was selected as an alternate.

In addition, KCACTF representatives recommended that a portion of the play be presented as part of a “Fringe Festival” at the regional festival during January 2008, in Pittsburgh. While not all of the students were available to attend the Pittsburgh festival, nine students (Amanda Brown, Yasiris Martinez, Rachel Penny, Richard Fields, Joshua Dorsheimer, Donald Dilliplane, Daniel Hartung, David Lloyd, and Andrew Wedlock) made the trip.

Alvernia students were, for the second time, among 250 students nominated for the regional Irene Ryan scholarship competition process. Nominees consist of student-actors from all of the colleges and universities in New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., and Delaware.

The next production of the Alvernia theatre program, *Romeo and Juliet*, will begin April 21, in Francis Hall Auditorium (curtain at 8:00 p.m.) and conclude during Spring Fling on Friday, April 25. High school groups will be invited to campus to see the play during the week of April 14-18.

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**Alvernia students were, for the second time, among 250 students nominated for the regional Irene Ryan scholarship competition process.**

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*Ashlee Wolfe as Fabiana Aziza Cunningham looks on as Richard Fields (Yusef Akbar Al-Nasser Gamel El-Fayoumy) gets emotional during the fall production of “The Last Days of Judas Iscariot.”*
The Franciscan Intellectual Tradition: An academic legacy

In June 2008, Alvernia College will host a national symposium to promote and advance the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition in higher education, focusing on the theme: FRANCISCAN EDUCATION: Developing Leadership, Building Character; Improving Student Learning beyond the Lecture Halls. The conference will draw participants from approximately 20 Franciscan institutions across the United States, with major presentations given by distinguished Franciscan scholars, and will include breakout sessions providing a forum for attendees to engage in dialogue and discussion on Franciscan values in the curriculum and campus life of the member institutions. The conference also hopes to encourage a deeper exploration of the Franciscan intellectual tradition among faculty at member institutions, and to develop language and pedagogy that will make the tradition accessible to all as we explore new avenues of research, curriculum development, and co-curricular programming on Franciscan campuses within the United States.

The Franciscan Intellectual Tradition project was launched at a meeting in Colorado in 2000 by the English Speaking Conference of the Order of Friars Minor, in response to a call for renewal of theological and intellectual formation of all English speaking Franciscan Orders in the Franciscan family. The participants at the gathering in Colorado Springs laid the foundations for a strategic plan to retrieve and promote the splendor of this spiritual and intellectual tradition, and to highlight its significance as a respected alternative theological tradition within the universal Church, making it relevant for contemporary society. It has been embraced with great enthusiasm by the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities in the United States, the national organization that supports Franciscan higher education in the U.S., and it is becoming a significant focus for new scholarship and innovative teaching among member institutions.

Having its roots in the great medieval universities of the 14th and 15th centuries, the Franciscan intellectual tradition seeks to understand the broad implications of the religious experience of Francis of Assisi as the foundation for the rational and intellectual study of arts, sciences, and all other academic disciplines, including other spiritual traditions as well as modern and current philosophical thought. The Franciscan intellectual tradition has four distinguishing characteristics: it is critical, scientific, progressive, and practical. Its fundamental task is to engage with the religious dimension of human experience, place this experience in the context of human life, and explore the meaning of this life through the lens of varying academic disciplines. Keeping diversity at the center of this pursuit is essential, including ecumenical outreach that goes beyond intra-Christian dialogue by embracing other religions and traditions. Bringing together the values and concerns of the Franciscan tradition with the insights of contemporary science, psychology, anthropology, and related disciplines can shed new light on academic learning, and bring new waves of excitement to the lecture halls of higher education.

The mission of Alvernia College succinctly stated in the mission motto, “To Learn, To Love, To Serve,” and the core values of the institution, collaboration, contemplation, peacemaking, humility, and service, are values and themes inherent throughout all of Franciscan higher education. An essential aspect of Franciscan scholarship is integration of learning to understand and appreciate the goodness and wholeness of all knowledge, and to discover the unity of thought and knowledge that all disciplines are challenged to discover. Franciscan higher education encourages curiosity and creativity in bringing together science and religion, human freedom and spiritual development, generosity and service to encourage the exploration of new avenues of learning, to discover new theological concepts, and to pursue studies that link contemporary educational discoveries with traditional truth, thus inspiring future generations to lead with both mind and heart (St. Bonaventure’s “knowledge joined with love”) in our efforts to transform the world.

Additional information about the 2008 AFCU Conference at Alvernia is available online at www.alvernia.edu/afcu or through a link on the College homepage.
Expanding MINDS

Advancing academic quality is a strategic priority for Alvernia. It is fostered by an inclusive leadership style and evident in interdisciplinary programs and among learners of all ages, from young honors students to older adults.
It’s a direct outcome of a greater push for accountability. It’s a likely consequence of accelerated globalization, an upshot of the information and communication revolutions. It’s definitely an aftereffect of increased competition within the higher education marketplace. Historic buildings still stand and alma maters resound in familiar strains, but apart from the ivied walls and storied halls, higher education is reinventing itself.

Its challenges aren’t merely those of resources: capital, human, or otherwise. Colleges and universities face pressures to enroll more students and better students. It is expected that institutions will contribute to their community’s civic and economic development. Faculty are increasingly expected to deliver content in innovative ways that respond to market demand.

The good news is that smaller private institutions like Alvernia can respond more quickly and efficiently than larger state institutions. What’s even better news is that through some recent processes such as strategic and campus master planning, Alvernia has made effective use of a leadership model that builds on the concept of collaboration to help ensure the best ideas get developed and the best results get achieved.

It’s called shared leadership, and it is a vehicle for moving the College forward, confidently and capably, to accomplish many of the quality initiatives identified in the new strategic plan.

“Alvernia is in the midst of a great deal of change,” said Alvernia President Tom Flynn. “A shared leadership model is effective in managing change and realizing strategic goals because it is inclusive and participatory. It respects the essential role of faculty in academic life and ensures they are active participants in the systems that govern academia.”

According to industry experts, organizations who can shift to a collaborative style of leadership, in which administrators and faculty work in partnership to realize the mission, values, and goals will be the most successful into the next century.

“In a college or university,” Flynn explained, “faculty not only have primary responsibility for student learning and the formal curriculum but also share responsibility for developing initiatives that improve the broader institution.”

The new Centers for Excellence are a good example. Back in the Fall of 2005, faculty members identified community-based learning and ethics and leadership education as distinctive features of Alvernia and as areas of particular faculty interest and expertise. Once the concept of the centers was introduced and endorsed by administrators, faculty leadership was essential.
to their development. Extensive research and a subsequent proposal by a faculty team, for example, were key to launching the Center for Ethics and Leadership.

At the start of the 2007-08 academic year, Provost Shirley Williams held a leadership retreat to help enable the academic deans and program chairs to clarify their roles and responsibilities. Williams and the three deans—Kevin Godfrey (Arts and Sciences), Karen Thacker (Professional Programs), and Joan Lewis (Graduate and Continuing Studies)—are continuing to meet monthly with department chairs to increase discussion and foster collaboration, also outcomes of a shared leadership approach.

“The program chairs are realizing they don’t stand as independent units,” Godfrey said. “They are using division meetings just to talk and share ideas.”

“Building rapport, having discussion,” Williams explained, “is integral to change.”

One faculty member who has managed a good deal of professional change this year is Daria LaTorre, an associate professor of criminal justice. The core of her professional work now lies along the seam of shared leadership between administration and faculty. First she was named the chair of three combined departments: criminal justice, psychology and counseling, and addiction studies. Then she was appointed to the director of curriculum and assessment at Alvernia’s Philadelphia Center. She is also a faculty member and, though her administrative responsibilities are increasing, considers herself a faculty member, first and foremost.

“As chair of the three strongest academic programs offered at the Philadelphia Center,” LaTorre said, “it’s logical for me to assume that responsibility. It’s important for faculty members to have direct responsibility for the quality of academic programs.”

LaTorre stated that she values shared governance, which acknowledges an appreciation of the work of her colleagues, be they faculty or administrators. She cited a Council of Department Chairs (CDC) that meets weekly and a monthly meeting of all department chairs with the deans and Provost Williams for raising the communication level to the highest it’s ever been during her tenure at Alvernia. “This increased communication will be really important with university status looming,” she said.

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As part of a shared leadership process, we recognized a need to examine our past practices to see if they were effective.

Joan Lewis
Dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies

"My work gives me an opportunity to bring what's real into the classroom."

Terry Clark
Adjunct Professor

Adjunct instructors are used in all of the College's academic programs—undergraduate day, evening undergraduate, and graduate studies—at all locations, from all walks of the professional community. Adjunct instructors at Alvernia include lawyers, judges, marketing executives, entrepreneurs, CEOs, non-profit executives, and newly retired professionals. They not only want to share their real-world expertise. Their teaching complements and supports the work of our full-time faculty members, allowing for a richer academic experience for our students.

"Because of our adjunct professors, the community has a significant role in the education that goes on at Alvernia," explained Provost Shirley Williams. Adjuncts allow Alvernia to bring the community to its students and its programs—up-to-date, professional, what's happening in the world kinds of experiences and practices in fields like social work, behavioral health, criminal justice, business.

"Adjuncts are an important part of the educational experience for our students," said Joan Lewis, Dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies. "Engaging with people who work daily in a profession further strengthens our students' academic experience."

Terry Clark has been an adjunct instructor for six years. He is the Director of Operations and Quality Management for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Office of Children, Youth, and Families, with responsibilities for four state programs including the Pennsylvania Child Abuse Hotline and Abuse Registry. He teaches "Social Services to Children," a course within the Social Work curriculum, because he wants Alvernia students to learn more about day-to-day operations in government.

"I've learned a lot about the politics and procedures as well as the practices of providing social services to children and families," Clark explained. "My work gives me an opportunity to bring what's real into the classroom as a supplement to textbooks and journals."

Another popular long-term adjunct instructor is Mike DeSantis, the CEO of Oliva Limited, an importing business in Reading. DeSantis teaches numerous business courses such as accounting,

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Interdisciplinarity offers challenge, enrichment, and methods for problem-solving

Interdisciplinarity, or bringing together academic disciplines for teaching and research, can be a powerful tool in higher education. By its nature, interdisciplinarity necessitates different branches of knowledge coming together in academic contexts and relating to one another in an atmosphere of mutual respect. The result is often a unique and richer intellectual experience for all involved.

Over the last several years, Alvernia faculty have collaborated on several interdisciplinary ventures including courses and research, both enhanced by the “cross-fertilization” of ideas.

Interdisciplinary courses have included a cross-listed course in Philosophy and Business called “Ethical Decision Making in Business” taught by Dr. Bongrae Seok, philosophy, and Dr. Tufon Tiglioglu, business. “We have taught this course twice,” explained Seok. “We conceived of the class because we thought combining general ethics with business experiences and examples would be a great offering for business students.”

This semester, Seok is teaching a philosophy course called “Minds, Brains, and Computers,” that is interdisciplinary in content and examines the mind as a computational device run by the brain.

Over winter break three professors from the business department—Dr. Scott Ballantyne, Dr. Beth Berret, Mary Ellen Wells—and theologian and Dean of Arts and Sciences Dr. Kevin Godfrey took twenty-four undergraduate and graduate students to Italy and Spain as part of Business/Theology 290, an interdisciplinary experiential travel course designed to learn more about the Franciscan tradition and to explore the international marketplace.

This fall, coinciding with a national election year, Dr. Jodi Radosh, communication, and Dr. Victoria Williams, political science, will offer a special topics interdisciplinary course for the Honors Program called “Media and Politics.” This course is entirely team taught, with each professor bringing the expertise from her discipline to the class, from planning to implementation.

When they first offered the course four years ago, they seeded it with experiential learning opportunities. Course requirements included keeping media scrapbooks and watching the political debates, which then culminated in a debate party. They also took their students to Washington, D.C., where they privately toured the Capitol, saw a special Smithsonian exhibit, and attended a taping of the CNN show “Crossfire.” The course was such a hit that students have already inquired about the class scheduled for Fall 2008.

Dr. Spencer Stober, director of the Ph.D. program, has done collaborative research with several Alvernia colleagues for the benefit of the Alvernia community and the academy at large because he believes a collaborative approach can help us best examine and find solutions for today’s issues, including sustainability. Last fall he and Dr. Carrie Fitzpatrick, communication, presented a slide show entitled, “Sustainable Communities,” as part of the 2007 Greater Reading Literary Festival at Alvernia, a research and media presentation they recently shared at academic conferences in Vietnam, India, and England.

Stober and theologian Dr. Donna Yarri, chair of the humanities department, have done collaborative research for three years on the relationship between religion (Christian theology) and science (biology) with regard to issues in genetics. Praeger/Greenwood Publishers have contracted them for a co-authored volume entitled, God, Science, and Designer Genes, which attempts to address both the actual existent and likely forthcoming technologies, as well as the ethical dilemmas raised by them, and is expected to be published in 2009.

“A famous biologist, Edward O. Wilson, has given academics an imperative: to work together, to learn to speak each other’s language in order to solve the world’s problems,” Stober concluded.
The Matrix and Philosophy. No, it’s not the next movie in *The Matrix* series. It’s a nifty name of a difficult and thought-provoking subject for class at Alvernia College. Add a group of highly motivated honor students and a knowledgeable professor—and suddenly, impassioned discussion is born. Theories are challenged, and minds are expanded.

While experiential learning is the norm at Alvernia, students in the honors program go beyond the usual into subjects they find demanding and intriguing. These high achievers are heavily recruited by universities across the country. They have ambition to move beyond customary goals. They want more, and they find what they’re looking for in the Alvernia honors program.

Each semester, the honors program offers a wide spectrum of extracurricular opportunities for students. They attend theater performances in Philadelphia and New York and walk in the footsteps of long-gone soldiers in Gettysburg. Science museums like the Franklin Institute and art museums in Reading and Philadelphia are also visited.

“For me, the Honors Program was more than just challenging classes,” said graduate Lisa Ann M. Intelicato ’05. “Attending theatrical shows, seminars, and the summer picnics allowed me to interact with other students and faculty outside of the classroom.” Intelicato graduated from Alvernia with a double major in Political Science and Communications (emphasis in Journalism). After completing a Masters in Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh (with a perfect 4.0), she now resides in Washington, D.C. “I would have never been as prepared if my advisor, Dr. Williams, (Director of the Honors Program) did not challenge me every step of the way,” she says.

On campus, honors students are expected to get to know each other and their professors for a more bonded learning experience. Their journey to greatness begins on the first day of their freshman year when new recruits, faculty

**At the Constitution Center in Philadelphia.** Left to right: Kirsten Goeb ’07, Christina Kleist, George Washington, Dr. Williams, Gary McManus, and Lauren Smuck.

**Freshman Laura Gardner’s honors symposium presentation on the Holocaust showed sculpted people with their backs to the poster, to represent society turning away from the horrors of the Holocaust.**
members, and upper-class honor students spend 24 hours taking on an obstacle course and camping together. When they return, these high achievers dive into courses with unusual topics, such as God, Science, and Designer Genes, or Religion, War, and Politics. These difficult classes are designed to stretch the students’ world outlook and force them to grapple with interesting, complex, and ambiguous questions.

God, Science, and Designer Genes, taught jointly by Dr. Donna Yarri (theology) and Dr. Spencer Stober (biology) is a popular honors course. “I came out of this class exhausted every night because of the hot topics we discussed,” said Junior Danielle Fitzpatrick. “Are stem cell research, in-vitro fertilization, and sex selection ethical? I’m an occupational therapy major and have always had a strong interest in science, but the new point of view from Dr. Yarri made my way of thinking more well rounded, in considering that science without ethics is immoral.”

Alumnae Pam Wagar ’06 worked hard in the honors program. But she believes that hard work has its rewards. “I was able to meet other students, both in class and at honors program social events, who had similar interests and goals,” said Wagar. The most impressionable aspect of the program for Wagar was the honors thesis. “I learned how to conduct independent research with the guidance of my thesis advisors, and the final presentation was a huge test of my public speaking and presentation skills.” Wagar’s findings were later featured in the National Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation’s e-newsletter.

Wagar’s plans for the future turned on a dime during her senior year at Alvernia. “As a senior, I had the opportunity to shadow the Maternal Fetal Medicine Department at Reading Hospital. After my experiences at the hospital, in college, and outside of school, I decided I wanted to pursue a medical degree,” she explained. Planning to apply to medical school this summer, Pam hopes to work in pediatrics, and illustrate medical texts in her free time. “I know my honors thesis will be a huge asset to my medical school applications and interviews,” said Wagar. “Who knows,” she continued, “maybe one day I’ll have the opportunity to conduct medical research on my thesis topic, Osteogenesis Imperfecta.”

Lisa Intelicato ’05 also found the honors thesis to be a rewarding asset. “The honors thesis was initially intimidating, but it helped prepare me for graduate school writing and research. Working closely with faculty members and defending my research and conclusions gave me an advantage in graduate school,” she said.

Danielle Fitzpatrick is currently in the process of writing her thesis, to be presented next year. “It’s going well, but as a junior, I have never written anything this in-depth before,” she explained. Students do have help with the project, from advisor Dr. Victoria Williams. “Even though she’s there to help hold my head above water, she also makes me work,” said Fitzpatrick. “Which is what I expect from a program such as this.”

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Honors program

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Danielle has overloaded with classes almost every semester of her college career. “Because I’m in the honors program, I don’t have to pay for the extra classes I choose to take. This has helped me get many of my core classes completed, so that I can now focus on the classes in my major,” she said. Fitzpatrick plans to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in health science (with a minor in psychology) followed by a master’s degree in Occupational Therapy, and eventually a doctorate degree.

When they’re not taking classes at Alvernia, many honors students do more than spend time at the beach. Taking full advantage of the study abroad program, some have recently studied in Great Britain, Germany, Ireland, Spain, and even in a Semester-at-Sea program that visited Latin America, South Africa, India, Japan, and San Francisco.

A link with the Washington Center, in Washington, D.C., allows honors students to pursue internships in our nation’s capitol. For 31 years, the center has connected motivated students with companies, organizations, congressional offices, and federal agencies that exemplify the values of leadership and community service. Current student Deborah Crum will be taking advantage of an internship in Washington, D.C., next semester. The experience should help her jumpstart a planned career in law.

“The program fits into our honors ideal—experiential learning, integration of the core curriculum into daily life, and crossing frontiers to engage in self-discovery.”

Dr. Victoria Williams

One new program, Core+ Adventure, took students to Washington, D.C., last May, where they participated in activities from each of the disciplines in the core curriculum, plus activities in their own major. The group attended the National Memorial Day Concert on Capitol Hill, visited the Capitol, the National Archives, the Voice of America, the National Institutes of Health, various Smithsonian buildings, the Library of Congress, and multiple art museums. They saw The Tempest at the Folger Theater, and the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, which allowed them to hear the President’s Memorial Day address to the nation.

“The program fits into our honors ideal—experiential learning, integration of the core curriculum into daily life, and crossing frontiers to engage in self-discovery,” said Honors Director Williams.

Students in the honors program are given every opportunity to pursue topics they find especially interesting or important to today’s society. As an introduction into this process, the annual Honors Freshmen Research Symposium gives freshman honor students an opportunity to share quality research projects on timely subjects with the broader Alvernia Community. Freshmen choose a topic—and run with it, presenting on a wide variety of subjects from Christian perspectives on war, to poverty, genocide, to deforestation.

In preparation for the symposium, students write research papers for their first year seminar classes (cross listed with other classes, such as Theology 105, Psychology 101, or History/Political Science), and put together posters displaying their research topics and findings. This past December, 58 freshmen in the Honors Program presented findings at the symposium.

Sarah Kilby was awarded first place for her research paper entitled, “Child Labor in the Americas,” this year, while Rhiannon Sorrentino received first place for her poster entry, “Deforestation.” Another way students can be more involved in the honors program is to join Honors Council, a student-run organization for honors students. The organization allows participants to have a say about their curriculum and activities. According to club members, Honors Council gives students in the honors program a voice. “The council is designed to allow students to help make the program the best it can be,” says advisor Dr. Victoria Williams. “Members also participate in Alvernia events such as Christmas on Campus and Spring Fling.” They also partner with other honors programs across the country to complete service projects for the National Day of Service, twice a year.

“The Honors Program has benefited me both socially and academically, says current student Bill Ward. “After graduation I would like to continue my education and get a Masters Degree in Political Science. The honors program has given me the confidence to achieve my goals.” With everything the Alvernia honors has to offer, it’s no surprise that students in the program see bright futures ahead.
A full seminar room buzzed with anticipation after a preview day in late January, where professors described upcoming courses to Seniors College members. “The Muslim religion intrigues me,” said one senior. “Yes, they were persecuted when they got here, and it’s still going on. This is why it’s important that we learn the other side of the story,” said another. A course about the real meaning of the Constitution, and how it relates to today’s society was another hot topic.

“Most of the classes are interactive, not just lectures,” said Rabbi Weitzman. Artist Nancy Morrissey agrees. “Don’t just sit—DO!” she said to seniors during a class preview in January. Morrissey teaches art in many different mediums, usually defined by the requests of students.

Besides community experts, a high percentage of Alvernia faculty teach in the Seniors College, including President Tom Flynn who is currently teaching “The Poetry of Robert Frost.”

Members of the Seniors College have an opportunity to support the organization’s objectives by participating on the advisory board, planning committees, or even by serving as course instructors. Although they regularly enjoy criminal justice, law, and history courses with the Seniors College, a large group of former Bell Telephone Company operators have woven themselves into the very fabric of the College. “We like interacting with the [traditional] students,” One explained. “They make us feel welcome and don’t act like we’re invading their space. They just accept us, and that’s the way it is. They even sit with us in the lunchroom.”

The Bell group follow Crusader sport teams, like basketball, baseball, hockey, and volleyball. “In fact,” said Bonnie, “we even followed the volleyball team to Eastern for a playoff game.” The volleyball team really made the seniors feel welcome by giving them a signed ball after the game. (See page 16 for photos of the seniors with the volleyball team.)

Other seniors take full advantage of the Alumni travel program, which is available to all members. They travel to places such as the Hillwood Estates Museum and Garden in Washington, D.C., or see edgy performances like Avenue Q at the Forrest Theatre in Philadelphia. Some events are close to home (such as the Reading Royals night) while some are across the country (such as a trip to see the Rose Parade in California).

Even classes travel for seniors. In addition to holding classes on Alvernia’s campus, the college runs programs at several other locations, such as the Highlands at Wyomissing.

“The Seniors College program provides people with opportunities for intellectual and cultural exploration,” says Director Rabbi Alan Weitzman. “Sometimes that means we need to come to them.” Many Seniors College members believe (as traditional undergraduate students are taught) that learning is life-long. In fact, one Bernardine Sister taking Seniors College classes at the Sacred Heart Convent is 100 years old.

Annual membership is $35, and most 5-week courses cost between $10 and $35, with discounts given to those who take several classes at a time.

Interested in the Alvernia Seniors College? Call Sally Reading at 610-796-8357 or stop by the Alvernia Upland Center for more information.
A ringing phone is answered in Alvernia's Graduate and Continuing Studies department. On the line is Dori McIlvaine, who is looking for help. She’s not planning to take classes, nor is she looking for academic information. But nonetheless, help is what she finds through Gale Riegel, Director of Operations, and several students at Alvernia College.

After their daughter and son-in-law were involved in a terrible car accident, Dori and Ralph McIlvaine planned to move from their home and live in New Jersey to be closer to their family, and to help care for their now physically disabled son-in-law. Ralph, who had been very active in his hometown veterans’ organization, transferred to take a service writer position at a local car dealership.

When the couple realized that they needed help moving in to their new Kenhorst home, but didn’t know anyone in the area, a friend from New Jersey suggested that they call Alvernia College. Although Dori didn’t have a local phone book yet, she found a number for the College, and made the call. After that initial call, things started looking up.

Baseball player Pete Fernandez took on the task of organizing teammates to help the family move. On two separate occasions, players Tim Ahlquist, Jeff Knosp, Mike Lloyd, and Chuck Nicholas helped the McIlvaines empty moving trucks and carry boxes into the home. Social Work student, Tracie Koehnlein even lent a hand by keeping an eye on the family’s dog. After emptying the moving truck on the first day, Fernandez surprised the McIlvaines with an Alvernia afghan, baseball cap, and sweatshirt to welcome the couple to the neighborhood.

Ever appreciative, Dori still picks up the phone to call Gale Riegel, often just to chat, or to ask for suggestions about hairdressers, dentists, or other services in the area. “Oh, and we made sure she got that phonebook,” smiles Riegel.
There was nothing out of the ordinary on the court in the 2007 Pennsylvania Athletic Conference Women’s Volleyball semifinal between Alvernia College and Eastern University.

“C’mon ladies,” yelled Bonnie from the back row. “Dig deeper! We’ve got this one. Let’s go AC!”

Bonnie’s words of encouragement weren’t enough to carry the team to victory on this night, but that didn’t stop her, or Melanie or Ethel, Joyce, Josy, or Lou from all pulling for their favorite Crusaders.

The group is ten strong including Holly, Rosie, Fay, and Bob, but you won’t find these seniors listed in any game program. Their days on the court are long since over. Most of them are retired Bell Telephone Company operators. All are enrolled at Alvernia in the Seniors College. They didn’t miss a single volleyball home game this season.

Three years ago they started quenching their competitive fires in the stands at Alvernia basketball games. This was their first year for volleyball, and the playoff game at Eastern was their second road trip.

Two days prior, around the same time the Crusaders were piling into a charter bus for the two-hour ride to Misericordia University for the playoff opener, Bonnie pulled up in a rental van to pick up her group for the same trip to cheer the Crusaders to a 3-0 win over the Cougars.

Bonnie handled most of the driving using Mapquest as a guide and Bob for backup, but the two-hour trip was easy for her. She and Melanie have spent much of the last 30 years on the road taking in sights all over the world.

The trip to Eastern wasn’t even in question. These eight made a day of it. After class that is. After all, the Division III philosophy clearly supports academics before athletics.

Thursday started with a class at the Seniors College. Josy picked up a few sandwiches at Dynamite Subs and loaded them in the cooler for the tailgating at Eastern. This was a playoff game after all. Everything was done just a little bit bigger.

After tailgating, they packed the van and headed inside the 500-seat gymnasium at Eastern. Their beloved Crusaders stayed right with the 10-time defending conference champions up 10-9 in the first game, but the hosts rattled off 12 straight points to take control of the opener eventually winning 30-20.

Alvernia’s on-court senior Amy Sikorski came down awkwardly on an ankle midway through the game two. “Who is it? Who is it,” the ladies whispered to one another peering around the near-side official to see just which one of their kids was down with an injury.

“It’s Amy,” came the gasp. You could feel the air briefly coming out of the sails. But they knew their spirits in the stands were needed to lift those on the court.

“C’mon ladies, you got this one. You can do this.”

After a short timeout, Sikorski stayed on the court, but without their best at 100 percent, the Crusaders were unable to upend the Eagles who advanced to their 13th straight conference final.

The match ended and as the last match of the year always does, it closed the book on individual careers. But there was something different about this scene at Eastern. Different because of the time invested by seniors enrolled at the same institution pulling for the same cause.

Seniors separated by a generational gap sharing a hug appreciating what each team gives to the other.

Stop by the PEC to join these seniors pouring their hearts into the maroon and gold.

Class permitting that is.
Berks County is leading the way for Alvernia College’s first comprehensive capital fund-raising campaign. Kicked off in November 2007, the Berks Campaign intends to raise $2 million from area businesses and foundations for the renovation and preservation of Francis Hall, which is not only Alvernia’s signature building but the oldest on campus, dating back to 1925. Its mission revival architecture, ornate tile, stained glass, and prominent location atop a hill overlooking the city make it a treasured historic building in Berks County.

According to College Development Officer Thomas Minick ‘98, “We have already raised $1 million—half our goal.” Minick was quick to credit the strong volunteer leadership provided by Berks Campaign Chairman Carl Herbein of Herbein and Company and Vice Chairman Al Weber of Tweed-Weber, Inc., in addition to all the work and dedication of all the campaign volunteers, including the work of the Campaign Steering Committee: Rick Burkey of Burkey Construction; Jim Connors of Connors Investor Services, Inc.; Dick Esh of Sovereign Bank; Dr. Jack Gruber, a retired physician; Bill Morgan of Herbein Wealth Management; Chet Mosteller of Mosteller & Associates; Gerry Nau of Fulton Bank; Rick Purcell of Beard Miller Company; and Doug Yocum of Precision Medical Products, Inc.

The renovation of Francis Hall includes adding an atrium to the rear entrance and gallery space for student art shows.

“The community is very excited to hear that the Francis Hall renovation means more opportunities and facilities for the arts,” Minick said. “They are also pleased with Alvernia’s plans to collaborate with the City on the entrance to the campus through Angelica Park.”

“As an alumnus who lived on campus for all four years as an undergraduate,” Minick added, “it’s amazing to see how the campus has changed since my time here and where it’s going in the next five years.”

The Berks Campaign officially concludes on June 30, 2008.

The Class of 2008 has begun its senior class giving campaign for Adirondack chairs. The chairs will be on the new campus quad outside of the Student Center. The project is led by President Sarah Catrow, a fourth-year nursing student, who is supported by a committee of five other seniors. The committee came up with the marketing appeal of “Ts for TEN.” Simply, classmates who give $10 or more to the project will get a class t-shirt. Those who want to literally “take a seat” are invited to contribute $150 individually. Or, a group of friends can go together to purchase their own chair for campus. Plaques on the chairs will recognize the entire class or individual donors of $150 or more.

With the support of Student Activities, the Alumni Office, and the Franciscan Fund, the committee is holding three events to promote the senior gift. These events will be held 100, 50 and 25 days before graduation, and will include a luau, an off-campus social, and Senior Send Off (an Alvernia tradition organized by professors).

The Class of 2008 certainly has big shoes to fill. The Class of 2007 raised over $2,900 with nearly 50 student contributors, to buy a beautiful, illuminated post clock, now located outside of Veronica Hall.

Best wishes to our Class of 2008!

See the Possibilities...

Give the Gift of Possibilities.

Thank you to all who made a gift this fall during our Franciscan Fund Phonathon. All gifts to the Fund make an immediate impact, and bring more possibilities to our students. The Franciscan Fund closes on June 30, 2008. To make a gift please call (610) 790-1901.
Alvernia seeks to offer new master’s degree program for nurse educators

Theresa Adams, assistant professor of nursing at Alvernia, is involved in her community, in scholarship, and in her own academic advancement as a Ph.D. candidate, and is an excellent role model for future nurse educators.

The United States is in the throes of a nursing shortage that will only intensify as the baby boom generation ages and the need for health care grows. What may be less well known is that a shortage of nursing school faculty has impacted the nursing shortage as well. Fewer nursing instructors also means fewer nurses in the profession.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, almost seventy-five percent of the nursing schools responding identified faculty shortages as a reason for not accepting all qualified applicants into entry-level nursing programs.

In response to a national nursing faculty shortage, Alvernia’s Nursing Department has developed a new program, a Master of Science in Nursing, and submitted it to the State Department of Education for approval. The new degree is a hybrid program with a nursing education focus that incorporates both online learning and on-campus course work.

Dr. Karen Thacker, dean of professional programs, believes programs like the one Alvernia has proposed will be critical to sustaining and growing the nursing profession because nurse educators prepare and mentor the nursing workforce.

“Nursing education typically combines clinical expertise with a passion for teaching,” Thacker explained, “What results can be a rich and rewarding career.”

Alvernia seeks to offer new master’s degree program for nurse educators

Adjunct faculty

(continued from page 10)

entrepreneurship, finance, and statistics. He has been teaching undergraduate and graduate students for six years because teaching is rewarding. “I teach for the joy of knowing I have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students,” he said.

“I teach for the joy of knowing I have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students.”

Mike DeSantis
Adjunct Instructor

Lewis said DeSantis incorporates his importing business into his statistics classes. “When there’s a problem, he literally walks them through the process of finding a solution using statistical models.”

Alvernia enrolls nearly 650 continuing studies or evening undergraduate students who need core courses in composition and research to complete their bachelor’s degree. For twenty-two years, Mary Ann Hayes has taught core courses in composition and communications. Though she has now retired from her “day” job as a high school English teacher, she considers herself a lifelong learner who continues to learn because she continues to teach. She particularly enjoys continuing studies students because of their sincere desire and readiness to learn.

“Our adjuncts do much more than simply go into the classroom and teach,” explained Lewis. “They go outside, they mentor students professionally. They share their connections in the field.”

Often adjunct instructors bring impeccable professional credentials to Alvernia’s academic program. According to the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Kevin Godfrey, these men and women teach at Alvernia because, “They have a passion to share with our students.” Several faculty members from major universities like the University of Pennsylvania teach at Alvernia’s Philadelphia campus. Some highly accomplished adjuncts teach in Alvernia’s arts and language department at the Reading campus, including photography instructor Heidi Reuter, an internationally recognized photojournalist; and Jennifer Michalik, a music instructor who has sung at Carnegie Hall in choral workshops.

Through talented adjunct professors, Alvernia is able to blend the true academic excellence with practical, real-world experiences for the benefit of our students.
Making Students Successful Inside and Outside the Classroom

Therapist, teacher, writer, and scholar Dolores Bertoti is the chair of the Athletic Training, Occupational Therapy, and Social Work departments and an associate professor in occupational therapy and athletic training. She has been with Alvernia College since 1992, having been awarded tenured in 1998. Most recently she served as Dean of Academic Advancement from 2003 to 2007, receiving the 2006 First-Year Student Advocate Award, only one of ten faculty members to be so honored in the United States, for her work in building a robust Learning Center and First-Year Experience for students. A licensed physical therapist, she has authored three books, contributed to several others, and was the keynote speaker at the Australian Physiotherapy Association's International Conference last fall. She is a specialist in rehabilitation medicine and was one of the founding program directors of Occupational Therapy at Alvernia.

You've had two feet in two worlds at Alvernia: The world of your academic discipline, rehabilitative medicine, and the world of academic advancement. Can you tell us more about your disciplines? Rehabilitation medicine is the umbrella for occupational therapy and athletic training. Social work, occupational therapy, and athletic training are all applied human service.

You have published a great deal in your discipline including textbooks, textbook chapters, and scholarly articles relating to physical therapy and kinesiology. Writing is my creative outlet, and it has also given me insights into how to present material in a way that will help students understand and embrace it. Many times I’d be teaching from a book and I’d think, if they had used this example, it would have helped students understand the material better.

In 2003, you became the Dean of Academic Advancement. How did that come about? In order to publish and present as much as I did, I had to be tuned into students and how they learned. So my academic success and my ability to write led the College to request that I further develop a Learning Center. My challenges included developing the Learning Center as a comprehensive area offering tutoring across the curriculum as well as developing a first-year experience program.

Where did you get the ideas to develop a First-Year Program for freshmen? Information about first-year programs is in the mainstream. So many colleges see the value of an intentional approach to the first-year experience because the first year of college is so dramatically different from the last year of high school. There needs to be an educational programming support model that helps students navigate that transition.

Can you explain about the national award for your work on behalf of the First-Year Experience at Alvernia? Last year, I received the First-Year Student Advocate Award, in recognition of our new programs for first-year students and new intervention efforts to keep students on track academically. I was nominated by President Flynn, and had been a semi-finalist the year before. It was quite an honor to be recognized on behalf of everyone’s efforts to create a strong first-year experience.

What brought you to Alvernia? The opportunity to be openly passionate about my area of knowledge. My teaching blends with living a life that resonates with our Catholic mission.
BUSINESS

Bryan Dreibelbis, business, and Nick Hiriak ’91, recently participated in the annual Hershey AACA Museum Dinner and had the opportunity to meet keynote speaker, Barry Meguiar. Barry is host of the television program, “Car Crazy,” and is the CEO of Meguiar’s car care products. Dreibelbis also participated in the annual Accounting and Auditing Conference sponsored by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA).

EDUCATION

Mary Schreiner, education, was named President-Elect of the Teacher Education Division of PACEC. In addition, she was a primary presenter at the PACEC conference where she was instrumental in coaching two education students with their presentations.

HUMANITIES

Theology

Donna Yarri’s conference paper, “Ethical Values in the Sopranos,” was presented at the Ethics session of the national American Academy of Religion meeting in November 2007. Due to Donna’s inability to go at the last minute, the paper itself was read by Jerry Vigna, theology. Yarri also attended the recent national Society of Christian Ethics meeting in January 2008, where she moderated a book discussion group on the book, Justice in a Global Economy. In addition, she acted as a referee for one of the paper sessions.


NURSING

Nursing student Heidi McMullen was a recipient of this year’s Science Practice Research Poster Session Award presented by the PA Psychological Association. Along with colleagues, Dale Brickley and Ellen Paliometros, she presented, “The Effects of Spirituality Programming on Treatment Outcomes of Adolescent Residential Treatment Facility Patients.”

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Savage Grace, a novel by Gale Martin, marketing and communications, was selected as a semi-finalist in the 2007 AKA Opening Pages novel competition. First prize is publication.

LIBRARY

Marti Smith, library, participated as an expert panelist for the Ethics in Technology Day for the Berks County Intermediate Unit on December 6. Using video conferencing technology, Susan Calvin, distance learning, guided student groups from twelve districts through various scenarios illustrated by skits depicting ethical dilemmas such as cyber bullying, online privacy, and downloading music from illegal sites.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Congratulations to Dr. Neil Penny, occupational therapy, on successfully defending his dissertation and being awarded a doctorate degree.
Dolores Bertoti, AT/OT/SW, gave the keynote address “Neurorehabilitation through the Lifespan” at the Australian Physiotherapy Association held in Cairns, Australia, October 2-10, 2007. In addition, she offered a plenary session “Anticipatory Management of Developmental Disabilities” and a post-conference workshop “Incorporating Physical Therapy among People with Neurological Impairments across the Life Span.”

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Danielle Saad and Megan Adukaitis presented at the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) Conference in Portland, Oregon on Friday, November 2. The title of their successful presentation was, “Strategies for Success: Individual Intervention for At-Risk Students.”

Theresa Brewer, Abby Swatchick, and four students (Melissa Masone, Jenn West, Nick Rivera, and Danny Carr) attended the Regional National Association for Campus Activities Conference (NACA) in Lancaster, Pa., from October 4-6, called, “Out There: The Second National Conference of Scholars and Student Affairs Personnel Involved in LGBTQ Issues on Catholic Campuses.”

Betsy Stiles, provost office, and Abby Swatchick, student activities, attended the National Orientation Directors Association Conference in Dallas, Texas, from October 27-30.

Ginny Hand, community engagement, and Kristen Nivison, campus ministry were interviewed for the WTVE Channel 51 “For The People” show on December 20. Host Jack Linton interviewed Hand and Nivison on the Center’s role in bringing students into the community and Alvernia’s upcoming alternative break trips in the Spring of 2008.

Doug Smith, finance and administration, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Children’s Home of Reading in December. He also personally made “at least 50 cheese omelets” while helping youth from St. John’s Reformed Church prepare and serve brunch at Opportunity House in Reading.

Ginny Hand

Mark DiPaolo

Published books

Functional Neurorehabilitation Through the Life Span ©2004
Dolores Bertoti, occupational therapy/athletic training
Workbook for Functional Neurorehabilitation Through the Life Span ©2004
Dolores B. Bertoti with contributions from Penelope A. Moyers, Catherine Emery, and Dore Blanchet

Management of Disorders of Postural Control and Balance
Dolores Bertoti with contributions from Catherine Emery

The Rocket Power’d Cross (a graphic novel/live performance) ©2006
Talking Book (A Multimedia Hootenanny) ©2002
The Pennsyltucky Lullaby ©1994
Tom Bierowski, English

Greatness in the White House: Rating the Presidents ©1994
Robert K. Murray and Tim H. Blessing, history

Emma Adapted: Jane Austen’s Heroine from Book to Film ©2007
Marc DiPaolo, communication

The Amazing Transforming Superhero! ©2007
A Century of the Marx Brothers ©2007 contributed to by Marc DiPaolo

The Conscious Reader ©2005 edited by Marc DiPaolo

Bird in the Overhang (poetry chapterbook) ©2007
Jennifer Gittings-Dalton, career services

Development of an Autobiographical Group Work Process for Use with Oriented Nursing Home Residents ©2002
Phyllis A. Hay, social work

Send an Angel: A Novel ©2005
Where Angels Fear ©2000
John Kissinger, information technology

A Photographic Timeline of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary’s American Kestrel Nestlings ©2007
James Klucarits, biology and Joshua Rusbuldt

Edith Stein and the Body-Soul-Spirit at the Center of Holistic Formation ©2007
Marian Maskulak, CPS, theology

Service-Learning Code of Ethics ©2005
Ana Ruiz and Judith Warchal, psychology
David Silbey, history, was quoted in a recent PR Web Newswire article about a free World War II documentary film set (by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick) available to educators. Silbey believes the film will, “serve as a catalyst for many discussions both in and out of the classroom.”

Alvernia College’s dual credit program that offers ten courses at Bishop McDevitt Philadelphia was mentioned in three different Philadelphia area newspapers—Times Chronicle, Leader, and Glenside News—on September 5, 2007.

Scott Ballantyne, business, was recognized in the Standard Speaker (Hazleton) on September 29, for working with Schuylkill Executive Leadership’s first graduating class.

An October 15 Republican Herald article featured the Schuylkill Executive Leadership Program. Alvernia College is an active participant in the program, which has helped 383 graduates to advance in their careers.

Kevin Calabria, athletics & business, was featured in a Reading Eagle article on October 24 about investing in 401(k) plans. Calabria, adjunct professor and former stockbroker, stresses to students how much more they can save if they start investing at the age of 25, versus the age of 45. A personal money management course offered by the Seniors College was also mentioned in a sidebar to the article.

President Tom Flynn had an op-ed piece entitled, “Access Act is good news” published in the January issue of University Business. The article explored recent legislation that will help college students and the country as a whole, by making college more affordable.
Alvernia history adjunct Charles Sacavage was the highlight of a Sunday News Item opinion article on November 18. Sacavage’s unusual portrayal of former President Theodore Roosevelt at the Brush Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce Career Symposium was called “convincing” and “a wonderful way to teach history.” A previous article on November 16, called “Being Teddy Roosevelt” included a photo of Sacavage, speaking as Roosevelt.

On November 22, columnist Bud Hart, of the Solanco Sun Ledger, suggested to readers that they should check out the Alvernia women’s basketball page on the Crusader website. Several Alvernia players from the Lancaster-Lebanon area were highlighted.

The 2007 Literary Festival at Alvernia College was featured in a dozen different news articles and calendar listings for the Berks and Lancaster areas, from September to November. One notable article covered the majority of the Reading Eagle’s B1 page, and showcased Dr. Henry Lee, who presented at Alvernia on Tuesday, October 23. The rest of the page was filled with a separate Alvernia event story about a popular and timely flu pandemic presentation by Dr. Louise Grim. This event was so well-attended that a second presentation was given to Seniors College students a few weeks later.

An Alvernia presentation by Global Warming expert and Special Assistant to Governor Ed Rendell, Lance Simmons, was featured in a Reading Eagle article on November 13. The presentation, arranged by the College’s Science Club filled the Bernardine Lecture Hall.

A front page Berks and Beyond article in the Reading Eagle, titled “Students preserving experiences of nuns,” (November 18) featured an Alvernia project to record the contributions of missionary sisters living at Sacred Heart Villa. Alvernia students, including senior Erin Landis, interviewed, recorded video, and took photos of Sisters as part of a life history class taught by Carrie Fitzpatrick, communication. Fitzpatrick remarked, “The life stories of other people become an important part of understanding who we are.”

A Reading Eagle article on November 10 called, “Alvernia College’s Upland Center has businesslike look” talked about the new features the newly redesigned building. President Tom Flynn said, “We needed a cutting-edge academic space.” With interactive SMART boards, and a new computer lab, the Upland Center fits the bill well.

An article in the The Call (Schuylkill Haven) on November 8 by a 10th grade Blue Mountain High School student previewed Alvernia College for college bound students. The article also included a look at the Schuylkill Center’s offerings.
A Reading Eagle article on November 4 called, “Technology, ethics have changed the study of business,” quoted business chair Mary Ellen Wells, and featured sport management major, Megan Dichter, as they discussed experiential learning at Alvernia. After interning with the Philadelphia Eagles, Dichter said, “Without the networking opportunities offered through Alvernia, I wouldn’t have had the opportunities.”

As the final Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) field hockey season came to a close in early November, the Reading Eagle ran several articles following the team through playoffs, a PAC championship, NCAA playoffs, and post season awards.

The Alvernia nursing program was praised by a Reading Eagle article on November 24, 2007. Accompanied by a photo of nursing student Kimberly Haskett working with a high-tech simulation dummy named Frankie, the article discussed the use of simulations to help students work out real emergency scenarios. Debbie Rahn and Sue Wahl, nursing, were quoted in the article.

A Reading Eagle article entitled, “High Stakes, Low Interest” on November 4 about low turnouts in local political races featured communications professor Jodi Radosh. Radosh said she teaches students to get information on candidates from a variety of reputable sources.

Alvernia social work student Dave Clark, sixty-six, was featured as the person of the week in the Reading Eagle, November 27, 2007. When Clark’s wife, Bonnie, needed to stay as a patient at ManorCare Health Services in Sinking Spring, he visited her every day. While there, he noticed that she didn’t get her mail every day because the center didn’t have enough volunteers—so he began to do it. Although his wife is no longer a patient at the facility Clark continues to volunteer there. Dave’s advice to others? “Get involved.”

A photo of basketball standout Terrence Shawell commanded almost half a page in the Reading Eagle on November 29, 2007. According to the accompanying article, “Shawell scored 22 points as Alvernia rallied from a 14 point deficit to beat Lebanon Valley 80-64 at home.” Matt King had 16 points, 7 rebounds, and 2 blocked shots in the game.

Business entrepreneur Albert Boscov was featured in a November 30, 2007 Reading Eagle article the day after delivering an excellent speech at the College. Boscov says that Reading is “a place to visit, to work, to live, and to stay.” His address, “Leadership in Community Revitalization: A Conversation with Albert Boscov,” was the first event in Alvernia’s 2007-08 Executive Ethics and Leadership lecture series.

In a December 4, 2007 Reading Eagle article, Alvernia product and Reading Railers professional basketball player Brad Merriweather said, “I was born and raised in Reading. So while I’m looking at it as a way to continue my basketball career, I’m also looking at it as kind of a building block and stepping stone for our city.”

The St. Thomas Source, local newspaper of the St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, published an article on December 29, 2007 about a free basketball clinic run by the Alvernia Women’s basketball team while visiting the islands for a holiday tournament. “My players had the idea to do this clinic, because at Alvernia, one of the biggest parts of our college is community service,” said Coach Kevin Calabria. “We had the opportunity to come and share some of the gifts that have been given to my girls with the team from Charlotte Amalie—that’s one of the reasons why we’re here.” After the clinic, Alvernia point guard Samantha Ward remarked, “It’s just a great experience. If I could do this every day, I would.”
Alvernia in the News

The *Reading Eagle* featured the Alvernia College Nursing program in a December 14, 2007 article entitled, “Healthcare students get Spanish lessons.” Alvernia students were pictured taking healthcare classes, and were quoted talking about the benefits of the unique program.

The Vicar General of the Diocese of Allentown, Rev. Msgr. Alfred Schlert was the keynote speaker at a daylong session at the Bernardine Franciscan Conference Center. The Canon Law session was featured in an *A.D. Times* article on December 13, 2007.

**TELEVISION**

**Jodi Radosh** and **Ginny Hand** taped the *BCTV* “Time, Treasures and Talents” show in early November where Alvernia was awarded a certificate for volunteerism in the community. Hosted by MaryBeth Smialek from Met-Ed and Joni Naugle of Focused, L.L.C., the half hour show featured the Center for Community Engagement and highlighted many projects which Alvernia students, faculty and staff have played a part in and donated their “time, talents, and treasures.”

**Jodi Radosh**, CCE, co-hosted election night coverage on *BCTV*, Tuesday, November 7, with Mike Zielinski from the *Reading Eagle* and Mark Abrams from *KYW* radio.

**Ed Hartung**, criminal justice, appeared on Berks Community Television (*BCTV*) on a program called “Bridging the Generation Gap” on October 26. The live program was entitled “Total Cost of Security in a Post 9/11, Post Columbine World.” Hartung talked about security in our schools and answered questions from 6 students of Governor Mifflin High School via a split screen venue.

A science club presentation at Alvernia by global warming expert Lance Simmons was a top story for *WFMZ* Channel 69 News on November 12. Simmons, trained on the topic by Al Gore, is also a special assistant to Governor Ed Rendell.

On October 17, *WFMZ* Channel 69 news reported that the Reading Police Academy plans to split $250,000 with Alvernia College to improve and expand police officer training programs on campus.

**Mike Nerino**, CIS, was quoted for a *WFMZ* Channel 69 News story on November 26, about Cyber Monday (the Monday after Thanksgiving). With the availability of internet shopping, more and more retailers are selling products online.

**RADIO**

**Debbie Greenawald**, nursing, recently broadcast an essay on *WITF-FM* for their “This I Believe” series, November 14, 2007. A podcast of the essay reading is available on the station’s website.

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Alvernia wants your student memorabilia!

Is your attic cluttered with some of that old stuff you’ve been saving from your student days at Alvernia? Still have one of those flattering suits you wore to gym class in the Francis Hall basement? Wondering what to do with those dance favors, old programs, and jewelry? We have an answer for you.

As part of Alvernia’s 50th anniversary celebration, the College Archives is soliciting student memorabilia for the Alumni Heritage Collection.

The purpose of this collection is to preserve memorabilia which will provide a historical record of student activities and preserve the culture developed by Alvernia students. Representative types of items include yearbooks, programs, handbooks, beanies and blazers, class rings and pins, mugs, paperweights, dance favors, correspondence, and so forth.

So search your attics, basements, closets, and drawers for any article that might help to tell the story of Alvernia.

Anyone interested in making a donation should contact the College Archivist at 610-796-8351 or gene.mitchell@alvernia.edu. Only unconditional donations of gifts are accepted and the Alvernia College Archives retains ownership of all materials. For more information, visit the Alvernia College Archives website at www.alvernia.edu/archives.
Leadership in Athletics

If you Google the phrase “we’re educating tomorrow’s leaders,” the Internet search engine takes about a third of a second to spit back links to roughly 175,000 entries all across the World Wide Web. Leadership training is thoroughly engrained in the education experience at Alvernia College. The Department of Athletics and Recreation employs the NCAA’s CHAMPS/Lifeskills Program to weave leadership through the extracurricular experience of the student-athletes.

The commitment to academic excellence at Alvernia is demonstrated through the development of student-athlete services. Nicole Rhoads, the on-campus program coordinator, directs those in need to the use of the campus learning center and weekly study halls which are aimed toward keeping student-athletes on track to graduate with more than just the minimum requirements. In recent years, her efforts have led to a consistent increase in the number of conference all-academic award winners. Last year the Crusaders earned ninety-six total awards, the highest total to date and a 6 percent increase over the year prior.

The Crusaders are also making strides academically on the national level as evidenced by 2006 graduate and current Marketing & Communications Specialist, Carey Manzolillo earning the school’s first College Sports Information Director’s Academic All-American award.

Athletically, in the school’s 15th and final year of competition in the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC), Alvernia has amassed 93 conference championships appearances, reached the championship finals 36 times, and emerged 23 times as PAC Champion. The Crusaders hold a dozen individual titles in conference play and have garnered an impressive 164 All-PAC First Team awards and 21 times have accepted a player of the year award.

The accomplishments that prove academic and athletic excellence can easily be stacked up against many similar institutions. What will continue to set the Alvernia experience apart is the focused commitment to personal and career development and the commitment to service.

In the past four years, Alvernia has had three student-athletes chosen to attend the NCAA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida. The most recent representative, sophomore men’s basketball player Nick Rivera, is in his first year as a Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) representative for basketball, and credits his time in Orlando last June with helping him develop more confidence as a leader and supplying him with resources he may need down the road.

Rivera, a criminal justice major, was one of 10 freshmen in a conference of 300 student-athletes from around the country. “What sticks out for me is how the conference really gave me confidence in speaking out in a group of my peers,” recounted Rivera just hours before setting career highs in points and rebounds in a 79-48 win at Centenary College.

“I was in a group of 20-25 people who got together in Orlando to work on developing a drug testing policy and enforcement that would help our athletic departments,” said Rivera. “We all still keep in touch and want to move forward with our action plan. Other people we talk to started plans that have faded out, and we don’t want that happening to us.”

He notes that in order for their plan to succeed it becomes incumbent on the students to take responsibility for the action plan and not wait on action from coaches or administration.

Fellow student-athletes Janelle Lynch and Tom Novak attended a regional leadership workshop in Pittsburgh last January with staff advisory Kevin Meany where they picked up similar skills.

Lynch and Novak both recalled learning what makes a good and bad team leader. Novak enters his second season as a captain of the men’s lacrosse team and Lynch, the conference player of the year in field hockey.

“Captaincy is vital to a team’s success,” noted Lynch. “It has a lot to do with building moral. It’s a position that comes with a lot of responsibility.”

Novak is just starting preseason practice for his senior season on the lacrosse team. “As a leader you have to adapt the styles (continued on page 28)
that work for your teammates,” said Novak. “The regional conference and being a captain as a junior both taught me to take time after practice and games to think about how I might have to change my approach to being a leader.”

Novak recounted his high school captaincy as a blur, not really remembering much from that experience, but in college he has learned to take advantage of his opportunities. As a Sport Management major he jumped at the chance to be part of the Sport Management Association (SMA) and now serves as president of what became the largest club on campus on the first day of signups.

The fifth and final commitment in CHAMPS/Lifeskills, the commitment to service, is something all students at Alvernia take a hand in. Student-athletes in recent history have fulfilled a graduation requirement participating in a number of different service opportunities. In the fall, 11 student-athletes joined with representatives from other PAC schools to volunteer at the 21st Annual Ronald McDonald House of Scranton’s 5K Race in Nay Aug Park. The Department of Athletics & Recreation has also used student assistance to coordinate a Toys for Tots drive over the last two years, and the men’s basketball team participated in a Coaches vs. Cancer tripleheader hosted by the Reading Railers at the Sovereign Center. This spring a group of student-athletes will again join the PAC to volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity event in York.

Leadership training is an integral part of development for all students at Alvernia College from undergraduate through the newly developed PhD program. The Department of Athletics and Recreation, through the NCAA’s CHAMPS/Lifeskills Program, hopes to continue to build on a solid foundation as we all educate tomorrow’s leaders.

What will continue to set the Alvernia experience apart is the focused commitment to personal and career development and the commitment to service.

Finality is closing in—

Alvernia begins to wrap up PAC history

The advent of spring has Alvernia College putting the final touches on its own history in the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) with a move to the Freedom Conference schedule for the fall of 2008.

After earning eight PAC Titles under the guidance of head coach Yogi Lutz, baseball enters the season with about 17 players who can toe the rubber this year. Offensively, Alvernia returns senior catcher Dale Curry, a preseason All-American, and senior outfielder Steve Burdan, who led the nation in doubles per game.

Softball returns a solid core of senior leaders including the top four batters in the lineup from last season. Senior catcher Colleen Ambrosius led the way with a .417 average and Jackie Rhoads paced the team in both runs scored and RBIs. At least a dozen freshmen will also be vying for time this season.

The men’s golf program capped last season with a third place finish at the conference tournament and returns four seniors to the 2008 lineup as well as junior No. 1 Derek Stewart. Stewart led the team with a 77.3 stroke average in the fall season.

The defending PAC Championship Men’s Tennis team has five players back from a team that made Alvernia’s first NCAA appearance in the sport last season. Sophomore No. 1 Zach Lockwood returns at the top of a lineup that is bolstered by three returning seniors, Kyle Levengood, Phil Snyder, and David Schaeffer.

Women’s Lacrosse is looking to return to the form that carried it to the conference playoffs two seasons ago. The team will look for scoring from senior McKenna Shafer and midfield dominance from senior Katie O’Brien.

Men’s Lacrosse continues to gain momentum at Alvernia with a strong senior class. Senior captain Tom Novak needs only seventeen points to become the first Crusader to break the century mark for his career. Five teams hit the road for spring break the first week of March. Baseball is slated for the first home game on March 11, and the Crusaders final run through the PAC Championships will take place in late April and early May.
Class of 1969

In April 2007, Nancy Nicklas received the Department of Labor’s “Distinguished Career Service Award” after 29 years of service. Nancy was the only employee to receive the award at the Secretary’s Annual Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C. The award was presented by Secretary Elaine Chao and Assistant Secretary Patrick Pizzella.

Class of 1978

Jerri Sueck who was orphaned at age eight, wrote Letters My Mother Never Read as an autobiography focusing on her childhood and teenage years in foster care. She teaches in Philadelphia and is working on her second book, The Memory Quilt.

Class of 1979


Class of 1983

James Farley is engaged to marry Nancy Kohl on April 5, 2008.

Class of 1985

James Michalak was named partner at Herbein & Company. He will be responsible for accounting, auditing, and managing client accounts.

Class of 1988

Timothy Essig is the manager of Interpretation and Visitor Services at Landis Valley Museum in Lancaster. Timothy spent 17 years as an interpreter, guide supervisor, and museum educator at the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton, N.J., and the Daniel Boone Homestead.

Class of 1990

Damon Stuebner has been working for the Alaska State Library Historical Collections since 2005, doing digital photographic restoration of historical photos and video tape primarily for the statewide web site Alaska’s Digital Archives—http://vilda.alaska.edu.

Kim (Weidner) Raisnider received her real estate license in May and has a background in finance, as well as owning her own karaoke and moonbounce businesses.

Class of 1993

Rebecca Hartman married Matthew Foley on March 10, 2007, at Emmanuel Church, Souderton.

Patrícia Samará van Dongen ’03 M’05

Patrícia Samará van Dongen ’03 M’05 attended Alvernia College from the fall of 1999 to the fall of 2005. Because she attended high school in Brazil and wanted to repeat her senior year in the United States before college, she was sixteen when she started as a full time traditional day student at Alvernia. She earned her undergraduate degree in 2003, double majoring in Business Management and Business Marketing. She was then awarded a graduate assistantship at the Athletics Department, which allowed her to complete her MBA.

Patricia talked with Alvernia Magazine about living and working abroad.

What was your first job after college? After I completed my graduate degree at Alvernia, I was hired as an asset manager at ABN Amro Bank in The Netherlands. My job responsibilities require providing custodian services to our clients, many of whom are investment managers or investment advisors that I help in safekeeping their accounts. I meet with these clients regularly to discuss their experiences and future objectives, and how ABN Amro can help them realize a good return on their investment. On a more operational level, my activities include buying shares and assets for our clients and performing foreign exchanges.

Did you have any other travel abroad experience that prepared you to work in another country? I traveled all over the world already at a very young age, mostly with my father. When I came to The Netherlands in 2005, in theory I thought I would have a big advantage since I already spoke English. However, in the region where I live, most of the people only speak Dutch.

Nevertheless, my experience in the States helped me adapt more easily in The Netherlands. Besides language issues, there are always barriers due to cultural differences. Every country has its own habits, beliefs, traditions and of course in certain ways I have to follow them to be able to adapt better.

How did your experience at Alvernia prepare you for international work?

Alvernia has truly helped me become the person I am today, in both professional and personal ways. I spent six of the most important years of my life studying there. Besides theoretical skills, I received the right values and mindset that helps me today and will continue to help me in the future.

What are your strongest memories about Alvernia? I think of home and wonderful, warm hearted teachers and staff like Dr. Ballantyne, Dr. Berret and the athletics department staff, among others, who were passionate in what they did. As a foreigner at Alvernia, I was very involved in extra-curricular activities like college clubs, sports, work study positions, and volunteer activities.

What is the value in working in another country? You really broaden your horizons and don’t limit yourself to only one perspective when you work abroad. Every country has its own culture, beliefs, habits, and ways of conducting business. Talking to open-minded people with different backgrounds helped me improve my worldview. I strongly believe that everybody is a product of their experiences with friends, family, relationships, and culture. That’s what makes life interesting! That’s why almost all of my friends in The Netherlands are from different countries like Canada, Sweden, Central America.
Kari (Schneider) Plasha ’98, M’04 was featured in the Salisbury Press (October 31, 2007) as the owner and director of the newly formed “Apple of my Eye Tutoring” service. After teaching in the Reading School District for eight years, Kari decided to take on in-home schooling, with a staff of 17 tutors.

Class of 1999

Gangi Cucciuffo was named Principal of Highland Elementary School in the Ephrata Area School District.

Class of 2000

Cheryl (Metzler) Zimmerman, PTA, CMT, is employed by the Physical Therapy Association of Manheim.

Class of 2001

Donna Marie (DeStasio) Wagner is employed by Joe Barnhart Bee County Library in Texas as the Library Director.

Nicole (LaDolce) Ritter is a Research to Launch Technician at Sanofi Pasteur in Swiftwater, Pa., specializing in clinical and global vaccine formulations. She is married to Michael Ritter who also works for Sanofi Pasteur. The couple is expecting their first child in May.

Christy (Haxton) Weller, and her husband Todd, welcomed daughter Rebecca Anne to the world on October 2, 2007. She was 7 lbs. and 6 oz.

Rosemary (Feltenberger) Lamaestra, CPA has joined Levin, Savchak & Associates, P.C. of the Lehigh Valley as a tax manager.

Amy (Fielding) Miskey of Honey Brook died unexpectedly on Jan. 1, 2008, in M.S. Hershey Medical Center, due to complications related to the birth of her twin daughters on Christmas Day. A memorial is planned for May 10 at Alvernia.

In a Hearthstone Town and Country article on November 1, alumna Tonya Bauer said, “My degree in elementary education from Alvernia College in Reading and my teaching positions provide me with the experience required to face challenges, build teams, and solve problems constructively.”

Class of 2002

Robert Kovacs and Sandra Veresink were married on November 24, 2007. In attendance were Alvernia grads Wayne Holben ’00, Matthew Brile ’01, Jennifer Struck ’02 and Kristen (Reilly) Capone ’05.

Leo Rochon died on September 10, 2007. Leo received his bachelor’s degree in Addiction Studies in 2002 and received his masters in Liberal Studies in 2005.

Natalie (Cardone) Durrum was recently awarded the Fox Chapel Middle School Teacher of the Year award, in the first year she was eligible for the award. Natalie teaches eighth grade language arts and is also a track coach. She lives in Spring Hill, Fla., with her husband, Jesse, and daughter, Arianna.

Class of 2003

Ashley Clippinger will marry Jeremy Montgomery in August, 2008. Ashley is currently employed with Genesis Rehab Services as an Occupational Therapist and a Program Manager.


Karen (Frey) Heaney was inducted into the Gold Key International Optometric Honor Society on December 7, 2007. Gold Key recognizes upper-class students who have demonstrated outstanding professional and ethical attitudes through leadership.


Carla Orris married Dustin Page on September 22, 2007. She is a registered nurse, working in the operating room of Pottsville Hospital.

Kelly McBride will marry Robert Schnure IV in June 2008. Kelly is a school administrator with Twin Valley School District.
Class of 2004

Megan Carbonell is currently working at the Chester County Intermediate Unit in the Preschool Special Education Department as an Itinerant teacher.

Chief Inspector Keith Sadler ’04, M’06 became head of the Philadelphia Police Department’s Detective Bureau. He also recently began working towards a Ph.D. in education leadership.


Amanda Jo Hollenbacher married James Pierce on August 7, 2007 at Walt Disney World in Florida. Amanda is employed by Twin Valley School District.

Marci Ann Houser and Ronald Gubich II were married on July 7, 2007. Marci is employed with the Arc of Warren County.

Ashley Gilbert plans to marry James Di Piero, Jr. in June 2008.

Christopher O’Reilly married Kristin Kern on June 9, 2007. Christopher is employed by Caron Counseling Services.

Jennifer Shade married Brian Savage on April 14, 2007. Jennifer is employed by National Penn Bancshares Inc.

Steven C. Mattiuz, 47, of Waterford, Miss., formerly of Fogelsville, died November 6, 2007. He was employed as a logistics manager at Parker Hannifin, Holly Springs, Miss. and was the proprietor of Wyatt Crossing Outdoors, Waterford, Miss. Steven was also an Army veteran.

Stacey Ward ’04, M ’05 married Steven Rice August 10, 2007. Stacey is employed as a teacher at St. Francis Xavier School, Gettysburg.

Class of 2005

Steven Rothermel ’05, M ’07 married Sarah Eberwein on December 15, 2007. Steven is the Head Athletic Trainer at Fleetwood Area High School.

Jennifer Rinehart and Christopher Hemming have announced their engagement. Jennifer is currently employed by Lehigh Valley Hospital, Allentown.

Erin Fairchild married Marc Sedlak on October 6, 2007.

Mitchell Landis ’05 and Haley Gehringer ’02 were married in Lauerdale. Mitchell works for Richard B. Souder Masonry and Haley is employed by CNA Insurance.

Katherine Miller married Thomas Madden in Wilmington, De. on October 6, 2007.

Classmates Christian Jacobs and Brandon DeWald were married September 22, 2007.

Jaymie Lotz married Barron Line on September 15, 2007. She is employed by the Schuylkill County District Attorney’s Office as a criminal information processor.

Shana Gabler and Warren Blayney were engaged to be married on June 7, 2008. The two met while Warren was an Irish exchange student at Alvernia.

Class of 2006

Timothy Dwyer will marry Wendy Rineer on June 7, 2008. Timothy is employed by West Reading Manor Care.

Ryan Zimmerman is engaged to classmate Margaret Dunn. Ryan is working as a Pennsylvania State Trooper.

Michele Bosak and Wesley Bishop were married on June 16, 2007 in NY. Michele is employed as a human resource and office manager at Stairworks. Inc.


Class of 2007

Tracey Mellor and Todd Rudnick were married on July 21, 2007, in Sandals Grande Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Ashleigh Merena is an Account Executive at the Times Herald in Norristown, Pa.

St. Ambrose School welcomed Dr. Catherine Danczak as a new eighth grade teacher.

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.
If you mention the word provost within the academy, most know it dates back to medieval times when it meant supervisor or even prison warden. Outside of the academic arena, people may know that a provost is an important academic officer. At Alvernia, the provost is the second-ranking college officer underneath the president, and one chiefly responsible for all educational affairs, including oversight of the faculty and the academic curriculum.

Being a college provost affords a big-picture view of an institution. As exciting as that broad academic perspective is, the best part about being the provost at Alvernia is that the job demands looking and thinking beyond the institution, to the responsibilities the College has to students, to our parents, and to our accreditation agencies, to ensure the highest quality academics Alvernia can deliver.

Twenty-five years ago, the education industry began to be revolutionized by the educational standards movement. Triggered by economic forces, the 1980s became the age of accreditation and accountability in American education, first hitting K-12 schools, then logically extending into colleges and universities, into teacher preparation programs, then taking a berth within the wider higher education sector. Coincidentally and perhaps prophetically, my professional life followed the same path as the standards movement: I went from being a classroom biology teacher and school administrator in the early 80s, to an office manager for a surgical group, to finishing the decade as an assistant professor of education at the College of St. Francis.

A whole group of faculty at St. Francis felt very uncomfortable, threatened even, by the accountability movement in higher education, feeling that it compromised the sense academic freedom which drew them to work in higher education in the first place.

To someone from a working class family, the first generation in my family to finish college, accountability made perfect sense. I earned my undergraduate degree as an adult, like so many of Alvernia’s non-traditional students, and needed to know that an investment in an advanced education would help me obtain a better job. On the other hand, it became clear that a liberal arts education could broaden my understanding of a much different world and encourage me to ask the questions surrounding life's purpose.

Unlike pure liberal arts colleges, however, Alvernia has a strong base of professional programs (nursing, business, education, occupational therapy), which means we have a responsibility to our students and to our parents to ensure relevancy in our curriculum. We have to know what’s happening in the world of work. At an institution like Alvernia, the provost should know and wants to know what kinds of career preparation our curriculum needs to include for our students.

Because I believe in shared leadership and that strong communication is key to continuous quality improvement, I have an open door policy with faculty so that they feel they can stop in whenever the need arises. Other day-to-day responsibilities on the books include scheduled meetings with deans and with other college officers as well as impromptu meetings with students that may fall under the category of conflict resolution.

On any given day, my job responsibilities might include acting as a coach, a firefighter, a legal beagle, judge and jury, and a faculty advocate.

But my primary role is quality control. Because of our full complement of professional programs and undergraduate, graduate, and continuing studies programs, rooted in the Catholic and liberal arts traditions, I need to look beyond the walls and halls of Alvernia College to ensure quality really is job one.
March
23 Easter
25 Faculty Lecture Series: Candidates and their Faith:
   An Interdisciplinary Dialogue
27 Criminal Justice Alumni/Student Dinner
31 Hesburgh Lecture Series: What Race Is and What it is Not

April
1 Business Student/Alumni Interviews
9 Alumni Career Networking Event
16 Occupational Therapy Alumni/Student Dinner
21 Business Student/Alumni Networking Social
19 Undergraduate Open House
23 Executive Lecture Series:
   A Conversation with Emerging Leaders
24 Recycled Percussion Concert
26 Spring Fling
29 Business Student/Alumni Dinner

May
1 Margaritaville
10 Alumni Bus Trip to Hillwood, Washington, D.C.
17 Spring Graduation
26 Memorial Day
31 Alumni Bus Trip to Cirque du Solei—Kooza