Updike Archives coming to Alvernia

This Friday through Sunday, Alvernia is hosting the first international conference of The John Updike Society, which is attracting scholars and enthusiasts from around the world. And this morning, President Tom Flynn will officially announce that a collection of Updike archives will soon be housed in the Franco Library.

At present, the archive consists of three collections: the Rachael C. Burchard Papers, the Larry C. Randen Collection, and the David Silcox/Thelma Lewis Collection.

Although the collections have not yet been cataloged, they are expected to include a wide range of materials related to Updike’s work and life that will serve as a significant resource for both scholars and students.

“We hope the archive will be used frequently,” said James Plath, professor of English at Illinois Wesleyan University and president of The John Updike Society. “It’s also an option, now, for those who might have materials to donate but prefer them to stay in-state.”

“With this addition, Alvernia becomes an important center for studies on the life and work of John Updike,” said Flynn. “It is truly an extraordinary occasion.”

Click here to read the full story.
Alumni News

The Alvernia Alumni Association would like to invite faculty and staff to Homecoming & Family Weekend, Oct 8-9, 2010.

The All-Campus Picnic Lunch to be held on Saturday, from 11AM-1PM in the Student Center Dining Hall.

Also on Saturday, please join us for an All Class and Department Reunion Program from 6:30-8:30PM (also in the Student Center). Please RSVP if you are planning on attending either or both of these events.

Faculty & Staff News

The Franco Library has announced that Heidi Ziemer will become a full-time Evening & Weekend Librarian beginning this Sunday, Oct. 3. Heidi has served in a part-time capacity since April, 2010. Concurrent with Heidi’s expanded hours, the library will expand normal hours to open at 7:30AM, Mon – Fri. It will close at 12 midnight on Sundays and Wednesdays. Once the library has sufficient staff in place, hours will extend until 12AM Sun – Thurs evenings.

Alvernia in the NEWS...

More than 200 news outlets have published articles about the new John Updike archives in the last two days.

Below are some highlights of the coverage:

- CBS NEWS
- Boston Globe
- Philadelphia Inquirer
- The Huffington Post
- Yahoo
- MSN
- Minneapolis Star Tribune
- Forbes
- ABC Eyewitness News

UPDIKE CONFERENCE ON CAMPUS

The First Biennial John Updike Society Conference is being held at Alvernia University this weekend, October 1-3, 2010.

Some conference events will be open to the public:

FRIDAY
Panel of Updike’s family members (10AM)
Keynote Presentation (4:30PM)

SATURDAY
Panel of Updike’s Shillington High classmates (11AM)
Dr. Jack DeBellis named Updike Scholar in Residence

Dr. Jack DeBellis, a member of The John Updike Society board who is best known for two invaluable resources — *The John Updike Encyclopedia* and *John Updike: A Bibliography of Primary & Secondary Materials, 1948-2007*, has been appointed the university’s Updike Scholar in Residence. In this role, DeBellis will foster critical study of Updike’s work on Alvernia’s campus through lectures, interactions with faculty and students and published articles. He will also provide advice and counsel related to the creation and development of the university’s Updike archive and collection.

“I am excited and honored to serve as the university’s first Updike Scholar,” said DeBellis. “Because Alvernia is close to Shillington and Reading where Updike was born and raised, and since the John Updike Society archive will be housed on campus, I and other scholars will have an extraordinary opportunity to further the study of the fiction and poetry of one of America’s most celebrated writers.”

Alvernia was recently selected to house The John Updike Society archives to promote research into the literature and life of John Updike

The editor of *John Updike: The Critical Responses to the “Rabbit” Saga* as well, DeBellis is Professor Emeritus at Lehigh University and the program director for the First Biennial John Updike Society Conference.

“You could not ask for a more qualified and well respected academic to serve as our John Updike Scholar in Residence,” said Shirley Williams (provost). “Jack will add so much depth to the study of John Updike on and outside our campus. Our students will gain unparalleled insight and perspective from his years of work, research and interactions with the Pulitzer Prize winning author.”

2nd annual St. Francis Day of Service
Tuesday, October 5

Help out at the Berks County Humane Society, Shady Hollow, or Opportunity House.

Join us at the traffic circle in front of the Student Center at 1:15PM. We’ll be back by 4:30PM

Contact Aaron Malnick (x8300) for details.

Rumor Has It...

Did you know that the leading cause of death in this country is cardiovascular disease? It claims almost as many lives each year as the next seven leading causes of death — combined. You can help. Alvernia’s human resources department created an Alvernia team of walkers to help raise funds for the American Heart Association. The team will be participating in this year’s Heart Walk, raising funds that are needed for heart disease and stroke research and education. Click here to join the Alvernia team

This year’s Heart Walk will begin at St. Joseph’s Medical Center, Sunday, October 3.

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Does your office have extra supplies? Don’t throw them out. Post them on the S Drive, and give them a new home. Look for “Clare’s List” for the form.

In honor of Banned Books Week:
How is a raven like a writing desk?
(And what banned book is this riddle from?)

Be the first to answer correctly!
Send your answer to:
Carey.Manzolillo@alvernia.edu

Bragging rights for last week go to Ryan Linaweaver (athletics). Answer: The horse’s name is Friday.

DO YOU HAVE NEWS?
SEND IT TO:
CAREY.MANZOLILLO@ALVERNIA.EDU