Inaugural John Updike Conference coming to Alvernia

October 1-3, 2010

It seems only fitting that Updike scholars will return to the simple small town of John Updike’s childhood to gather for an international conference that celebrates his work. Such an honor is typically reserved for only the most revered authors, like Hemingway and Fitzgerald. Many believe Updike belongs in that company.

And so next fall, the literary world will focus on the Reading, Pa. area, where Updike was born and raised, for the very first John Updike Society Biennial Conference. The inaugural event will take place Oct. 1-3, 2010, at Alvernia University, which was founded the same year Updike saw publication of his very first book, *The Carpentered Hen and Other Tame Creatures* (1958).

The John Updike Society, formed several months after Updike’s death this past January, is devoting its first conference to celebrate the prolific writer’s masterwork, *Rabbit, Run*, which marks its 50th publishing anniversary in 2010.
Alumni News

Andrea Ache-Witmer ’93 visited Alvernia’s campus on Tuesday to talk to South Reading Youth Initiative kids about her career as a dentist, showing x-rays and answering questions for the group.

Student News

Nursing student, Katie Ayers, served on Young Women’s Symposium Healthcare Panel

Katie Ayers, a junior year nursing student, served on the healthcare panel for The Young Women’s Symposium: Pathway to Careers, on November 20, 2009. The annual program is intended to be an opportunity for mentoring and motivation for Berks County high school sophomore and junior girls. It is designed to help young women develop qualities for success that instill self-esteem, as well as offering information about career options and pursuing goals. Katie’s knowledge, confidence, and willingness to be open served as positive reinforcement to these young women, many of whom flocked up to her after the conference to ask additional questions. She represented both Alvernia University and the nursing profession well.

Faculty & Staff News

Congratulations to Tom Minick (IA) for being awarded the Outstanding Classroom Consultant Award from Junior Achievement of Greater Reading and Lehigh Valley. Be sure to check out area billboards in February and March for Junior Achievement ads featuring a photo and quote from Minick.

Alvernia in the NEWS...

U.S. Congressman Jim Gerlach announced a $600,000 grant to benefit Alvernia’s South Reading Youth Initiative, during a press conference in the Franco Library, Monday. Reporters from the Reading Eagle, WFMZ, and WEEU covered the event. Alvernia junior Bret Ames talked to the Reading Eagle about working with the program: “It gives you a great understanding of the struggles kids go through. You want to be there to help them overcome their struggles and succeed in whatever they do.”

The Reading Eagle covered an event for families that are enrolled in parenting classes with Berks Community Action Program (BCAP) on Tuesday. Alvernia alumna Bonnie Sue Pilat ’08, director of BCAP worked with Janice Fetrow-Stewart’s social work class to develop and run the event. Members of the Phi Alpha honor society raised $600 to fund the event.

BRAND SCENE INVESTIGATOR

Kudos to Toni Eckert and Leadership Berks for offering an Act 47 forum at Alvernia University on Tuesday evening. About 70 business and community leaders attended the forum to discuss how Act 47 will impact them and the city. The event was covered by the Reading Eagle and WFMZ Channel 69 News.

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Click here to read the Reading Eagle article.
Click here to view WFMZ’s story.

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Click here to see the story on WFMZ.

As part of his tour, he visited with student-athletes from the men’s and women’s basketball teams on the gym floor of the Physical Education Center, and even played a little one-on-one with men’s team senior captain Nick Rivera (Reading, Pa., Holy Name).

Rumor Has It...

Just in time for New Year’s resolutions, the Weight Watchers @ Work Program is officially launching at Alvernia, with a first meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 12PM, in BH-19. The program is open to anyone, with a fee of $135. The program will run from January until March, and will offer weekly Thursday meetings for 10 weeks. Contact Liz Fernandez (HR) for details.

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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.