Alvernia University has earned the 2008 Community Engagement Classification designation by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The elective classification in Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnerships places Alvernia University among an elite group of American institutions so recognized this year including Duke, Georgetown, and Purdue Universities.

“The designation from the Carnegie Foundation brings national recognition to Alvernia,” said Kathy Herbein ’95, chair of the University Board of Trustees. “It will also help us compete for grants from agencies who place a premium on community engagement.”

The Holleran Center for Community Engagement (HCCE) works in partnership with many community organizations and government agencies, including the South Reading Youth Initiative, the Institute of the Arts, and the City of Reading and on projects such as Creativity Camp, the Greater Reading Literary Festival, and a free community lecture series.

“Community-based learning and service learning experience allows students to bridge theory to practice by serving as mentors, tutors, and community volunteers,” said Ginny Hand (HCCE). “It requires compassion, commitment, and creativity to do this sort of work, precisely the qualities that make Alvernia University graduates engaged citizens in their professions and in their communities.” See page two for more on this story.

Tip of the Week...

Join the Alvernia community for a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Thursday, February 5, at 6:30PM (PEC).

The celebration will include the new hit play Auction Block to Hip Hop, music by We Three, and a dessert reception.

(Sponsored by the Higher Education Council of Berks County.)
Alumni News

Alumni Night at the Reading Royals
Saturday, March 7

Join alumni and friends for an exciting night of hockey as the Reading Royals take on the Cincinnati Cyclones. Dinner is 5:30PM, game time is 7:05PM.

Game Tickets and Dinner - $24
Game Tickets Only - $10
Dinner Only $15

Contact Darlene Berk to register by February 28.

Faculty & Staff News

Donna Yarri (theology) attended the annual Society of Christian Ethics meeting in early January 2009 in Chicago, where she moderated a “breakfast with an author” session on a book on genetic engineering, and moderated a paper session on the just war tradition. She also began a term as a mentor through the Women’s Caucus for female junior faculty and doctoral students who have professional concerns. In addition, she was asked to review books regularly in ethics for the Religious Studies Review journal.

Spence Stober (biology) presented a paper entitled “Mother Nature and Her Discontents: Gaia as a Metaphor for Environmental Sustainability,” at the International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability, in Mauritius, January 5. The paper has been accepted for spring 2009 publication in the International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability, published by Common Ground, Australia.

Please welcome to the Alvernia community: Allison Barnes, Graduate Assistant in Institutional Research; Marian Bompadre, Biology Instructor; Andrew Cousins, PC Specialist; Austin Cramer, Asst. Men’s Tennis Coach; and Jacqueline Trottier, Graduate Assistant in Admissions.

Alvernia in the NEWS...

A group of six Alvernia students were nominated to attend the Presidential Academic Seminar Series in Washington, D.C., in January. The group was featured in the Reading Eagle and on WFMZ Channel 69 News for their trip, which included attending the Presidential Inauguration.

A Reading Eagle column on January 17 featured alumnus Rev. Roger M. Ulrich ’00, as the new pastor of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ in Topton. As an Alvernia business student in the last ’90s, Ulrich found his calling after taking an elective theology course with Kevin Godfrey, arts and sciences. Godfrey was invited to speak to Ulrich’s congregation during his opening service this year.

Alvernia ice hockey player, John Caputo, was the subject of a Rox Review sports (Philadelphia) feature article on January 13. Click here to read the full article.

BRAND SCENE INVESTIGATOR
Carnegie Community Engagement Classification Team

Led by Ginny Hand, University team members Jodi Radosh (HCCE), Evelina Panayotova (institutional research), Beki Stein (registrar), Betsy Stiles (president’s office), and Shirley Williams (provost) compiled and submitted the successful Carnegie application.

This year, only 119 national applicants were successfully classified as engaged institutions; 68 are public institutions and 51 are private. They represent 34 states and Puerto Rico.
Eleven Days in Ireland...

Irish Heritage 11-Day Educational Tour
June 3-13, 2009

Join Alvernia faculty, students, and alumni as they explore Dublin, Cork, Galway, Derry, and Belfast!

Tour Highlights:
Temple Bar
Book of Kells at Trinity College
Dubrody Famine Ship
St. Finnbarre’s Cathedral
Cliffs of Moher
Murals of “The Troubles”
Shankill Row
And More!!

The tour includes:
Round-trip airfare, 9 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms, complete European breakfast daily, 4 dinners, full-time EF tour director, 2 educational lectures, select guides and entrances to special attractions as per itinerary.

For more information and a daily itinerary, contact: Carrie Fitzpatrick (570) 610-8305.

Register by April 30, 2009!!

Pricing: $2,360* for students (18-23 years-of-age)
$2,605* for adults
$95 reserves your space

Click here for information on how to enroll online.

Free Spring Wellness Classes

Power Yoga (Fitness Studio):
Monday 5-6 PM

Pilates (Fitness Studio):
Tuesday 5-6 PM

Relaxation Yoga (Fitness Studio):
Thursday 5-6 PM

Aerobics (PEC GYM):
Mon/Wed 11-11:50 AM
Kickboxing (PEC GYM):
Tues/Thurs 11-11:50 AM

Rumor Has It...

The Alvernia Writers’ Series first reading of the semester will be next Friday, 2-3PM in the library.

Join Alvernia Athletics for a ski trip to Bear Creek on Thursday, February 5: $10 lift tickets and transportation to the first 25 people. Contact Tom Novak (x8472) for details.

If you know of an alum worthy of being considered for the Ellen Frei Gruber or the Distinguished Alumni Award, please contact Darlene Berk by February 2. Criteria for award winners can be found on the S drive, in the folder “Alumni Awards.”

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

Alvernia Almanac is published weekly by the Marketing & Communications office, Upland Center. Deadline for copy is every Wednesday at 1:00PM.

Here’s an easy one to get your brain in gear for the new semester: if there are three apples and you take away two, how many do you have?

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

Have a good riddle to share with the Alvernia community? Click here to send it to the Almanac.