Assessment Update

A brief summary of recent Middle States meetings

In June 2010, Alvernia submitted a Periodic Review Report (PRR) to Middle States. After review, the commission indicated that Alvernia did not fully address two standards. A Monitoring Report is now due November 1, 2011. This report is very important for continued accreditation, which is required to receive federal Title IV funding (including Pell grants, FSEOG, SMART Grants, Work Study, and federal Student loans like the Stafford, Perkins and Parent PLUS).

The Nov. report must include:

1. full implementation of processes to assess program-level and general education student learning outcomes,
2. evidence of faculty leadership in the assessment of student learning, and
3. further use of systematic student learning assessment results to improve teaching and learning and inform planning and budget decisions.

Last year, the Academic Assessment Committee recommended purchasing Tk20 CampusWide Comprehensive, which now must be fast-tracked so that data are available for review from all departments by the end of this semester. The system manages curriculum mapping and student assessment, while providing tools for electronic course evaluations, and much more. It provides an integrated system for data management, assessment, and reporting, which enables Alvernia to collect and manage data across all programs. Tk20 will be instrumental in terms of internal self-evaluation and external accreditation. Tk20 workshops will be offered in March and April.

Upcoming Events

3/08 Berks County College Fair (PEC) 8:30AM
3/14 Comedian: Brian O’Sullivan (Crusader) 12PM
3-14 BUS 438 Seminar Interviews (UC 227) 6PM
3/15 Edible Book Festival (Library Bonaventure) 1PM
3/15 Motivational Women’s Rights Speaker (BLH) 3PM
3/16 Native American Culture (BLH) 10AM
3/16 Irish Jig Dance by Kate MacHugh (SC) 5PM
3/17 Alumni preconcert Social (Bonaventure) 5:30PM
3/17 Ceili Rain Concert (FH Aud) 7PM
3/17 Afternoon Bingo (Crusader) 2PM
3/18 Alvernia Career & Internship Fair (PEC) 11AM
3/18 Bernardine Hall Movie (BH LH) 9PM

Athletic Contests

Basketball playoffs:
3/4 MEN’S TEAM @ Randolph-Macon 5:30PM
3/5 WOMEN’S TEAM @ Catholic University 6PM

Upcoming home games:
3/6 Men’s Lacrosse vs Hilbert 12PM
3/12 Men’s Lacrosse vs Bethany 2PM
3/15 Men’s Tennis vs York 3:30PM
3/15 Women’s Lacrosse vs Gwynedd-Mercy 7PM

Check out the Athletics website: http://athletics.alvernia.edu/
Alumni News

As the principal of Reading High School, Wynton Butler ’03, M’07 appeared on a special NBC Nightly News feature about the economic plight of the City of Reading. It was reported by Tom Brokaw and Brian Williams.

Click here to visit NBC Nightly News. Be sure to search for “Reading” in the lower left corner to see related videos.

Faculty & News

Joanna Pressimone (campus ministry) served on the planning committee for the February 2011 Pennsylvania Catholic Campus Ministers Association Conference. She planned the opening and closing experiences for the conference, in support of the theme “Ministry in Times of Crisis: How to Listen, When to Speak, What to Say,” as well as the conference Liturgy. Aaron Malnick and Sister Kristen Shukwit (campus ministry) also participated in the conference.

Joseph J. Cicala (university life) was invited to chair the senior student affairs officers roundtable at February’s Delaware Valley Student Affairs Conference.

Please welcome to Alvernia: Danielle Toth, administrative support for occupational therapy, Gregory Baxter, evening and weekend library assistant, and Aimee Gilmore, library graduate assistant.

Rosemary McFee (CJ) presented a paper, “Impact of Collaborative Efforts with Kiwanis International, Juvenile Probation and the Court,” at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Association of Criminal Justice Sciences in Toronto, Canada on March 5.

TOOLS TO SAVE A LIFE

Alvernia has nine Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs), including one unit in Schuylkill, one in Philadelphia and seven on main campus.

On main campus, three AED units are used by the Athletics department at sporting events. Other locations include the Public Safety office, outside of PEC room 205, in O’Pake Science Center room 3217, and in the front lobby of the Upland Center.

All of the AED units at Alvernia are fully automatic with voice prompts to guide a responder through the process of applying the AED during a sudden cardiac arrest emergency. Training in CPR and AEDs is available through the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association.
Ginny Hand announces retirement

Ginny Hand, Director of the Holleran Center for Community Engagement since August 2007 recently announced her plans to retire this July. Under her leadership, the Center has won several national awards and garnered unprecedented interest from many in the community.

“Ginny has made an extraordinary contribution to Alvernia as director of the Holleran Center,” said President Tom Flynn. “Beyond the wonderful impact on the campus and surrounding communities, and the enhancement of Alvernia’s reputation in the area, she has helped make possible the involvement of countless students and many faculty in important projects like the South Reading Youth Initiative. And we know that Alvernia’s national recognition for civic engagement owes much to her leadership and energy.

“I know we all wish Ginny and Terry well in their well-deserved retirement and look forward to them continuing as active members of our extended university community.”

Before making a name for the Holleran Center, Ginny served as Chief of Staff to Mayor Tom McMahon in the City of Reading, and Assistant Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education at Alvernia. A Fairfax County, Virginia native, Ginny is an honor graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas College and has her Master’s degree in Counseling from Long Island University in New York. She and her husband Terry have two children, son Eric, a journalist for Nature, Inc. in Washington D.C., and daughter Jamie, an architect and program director for the Van Alen Institute in New York City.

A national search will be conducted to find Ginny’s replacement. A farewell reception is planned for later this semester.

Rumor Has It...

The Alvernia Writers’ Series returns at 2PM, on Friday, March 18, in the Frank A. Franco Library’s Bonaventure Room. Join us to celebrate live readings from Alvernia students and faculty.

The Reading, Tennessee, and West Virginia Alternative Break Groups are selling Joe Corbis pizzas and desserts to raise money for their trips. If you would like to order something, please contact Chris Fake in the Holleran Center (x1527). Orders can be picked up Friday, April 1 from Noon to 4PM in the Upland Center Cafeteria.

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.

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.

Tracy is participating in a race. She overtakes the second person. What position is she in?

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

Bragging rights for last week go to Tracy Hine (university life). Answer: A telephone.