New Semester Underway

The Class of 2014 has begun classes, but not before spending a day participating in community service at 16 different locations in Berks County, as part of an annual Day of Service. (Visit “Alvernia in the NEWS” to view media coverage of the event.)

This year, 30% of our first year students are from out-of-state, and traditional undergraduate enrollment has grown more than 50% since 2000. This means that Alvernia now has the largest overall undergraduate population ever along with the most students ever living on campus.

Alvernia’s facilities department was very busy this summer — working to complete projects before students and faculty returned. New signage, and a new entryway, now greets Alvernia visitors at Angelica Park on Route 10. In addition to a newly re-designed lobby, Bernardine’s Lecture Hall is now a state-of-the-art facility (be sure to check it out during Literary Festival events this October) and the Francis Hall Auditorium now has air-conditioning, new seating, and will soon have several other amenities — including a new elevator! Be sure to catch some home athletic events, and notice the large light and sound barrier bordering the field. Alvernia’s next home athletic contest will be Wednesday, September 1 at 7PM, as the field hockey team takes on York College.
Please join the Athletics Department in congratulating Jon and Megan King on their addition to the family, Leah Ryan. She was born July 29, 2010 at 9:34PM, weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 inches long. Leah joins big sister Mallory.

Tim Blessing (history) has been elected Vice-President (2010-2012) and President-Elect (2012-2014) of the Pennsylvania Division of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

James Siburt (Ph.D. program student and adjunct) will be presenting a paper at the Semiotic Society of America’s annual conference October 2010 in Louisville, KY entitled “The Zombie as Sign and Symbol.” He is also scheduled to lead a round table discussion about online and distance learning at the Annual American Academy of Religion conference in Atlanta, GA this October. The discussion will be titled “Distant and Communal: Exploring New Forms of Online Pedagogy.”

Alvernia has two new DOCTORS this summer: Deborah Greenawald, Ph.D. — Assistant Professor of Nursing, and Kathy Wisser, Ph.D. — Assistant Professor of Nursing. Congratulations Dr. Greenawald and Dr. Wisser!

Alumni News

Krysta Blocher ’10 is a new on-air personality at Y102. Blocher was an intern at the radio station before graduating in May.

Faculty & Staff News

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PLEASE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW FACULTY:

Professor John Barone (OT)
Dr. Liang Ding (BUS)
Dr. Michele Garrett (NUR)
Dr. Kathleen McCord (ED)
Professor Rosemary McFee (CJ)
Sr. John Ann Proach, OSF (ED)
Dr. William Renninger (THE)
Dr. Hans Schmidt (COM)
Professor Mary Seamon-Zellers (OT)
Dr. Andrea Sholtz (PHI)
Professor Holly Smith (ED)
**Extreme Home Makeover...**

Toni Eckert, and a group of Leadership Berks alumni, were selected to be volunteers at the Extreme Makeover Home Edition house build that will benefited a local family, the Urbans.

Leadership Berks volunteers included:

- Toni Eckert, (Director)
- Anne Ostrowski ’07, (Council President)
- Amy Fick ’08, (Alumni Council)
- Dominic Rinaudo ’07, (Alumni Council)
- Eileen Rinaudo ’08
- Michelle Sowers ’09
- Amy Davidson ’07
- Carolyn Spano ’04
- Ro Wolf ’10
- Gina Cotteta ’07
- Ralia Vardaxis ’99
- Kristin Kramer ’09
- Angie Gurney ’06

In addition, Jodi Radosh and a group of communication students helped the producers to choose Berks County when they (quietly) shot video at the request of Opportunity House this past January.

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**GOT NEWS?**

Faculty/Staff news?
Student news?

Have an announcement?

Get in the groove, and EMAIL it to: Carey.Manzolillo@alvernia.edu for inclusion in the *Alvernia Almanac*.

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**Rumor Has It...**

Come to Mass in the Grotto, this Sunday, August 29 at 5PM. In case of rain, Mass will be held in Sacred Heart Chapel at 7PM.

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The (self-appointed) Impromptu Collegiality Committee (Dave Stuart and Jo Pressimone) cordially invite any and all faculty and staff to join them for some much needed mingling at Canal Street Pub on Tuesday, August 31, at 5PM. (Meet on the Pub Deck.)

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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.

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**DO YOU HAVE NEWS?**
SEND IT TO: Carey.Manzolillo@alvernia.edu

Have you heard a great riddle? Submissions are welcome!

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What do you give a bald rabbit?
Be the first to answer correctly!
Send your answer to:
Carey.Manzolillo@alvernia.edu

Have you heard a great riddle? Submissions are welcome!