Opportunities to Students Who Love English

By Lisa James
Variety Editor

As the leaves began to change and the winds became cooler, the annual Greater Reading Literary Festival reached yet another successful finish. The festival included a number of events and gatherings open to anyone belonging to the surrounding community of Reading, PA. Monday, October 12 was the official kickoff start to “Life Between the Pages.” The first event was a smash hit, where the National Slam Poetry championship team, “The Dynamic Duo,” captured the audience’s attention with its quick wit and charisma.

A wine and cheese social, sponsored by Alumni Relations, was held Wednesday night (Oct. 14th) in the Student Center. The social was a delicious treat that gave students, faculty and staff the chance to blend ideas, discuss current topics, and engage in conversations all while sipping on wine and listening to the soothing melody of a jazz duo. Tuesday, October 20th brought a very important event to the Franco Library. A large turnout brought a very important event to the Franco Library. A large turnout made seating scarce; however, special accommodations were met so that seating was available for all to listen to New York Times’ bestselling author, Lee Woodruff, as she discussed her first book In an Instant.

The book was co-authored with her husband Bob Woodruff (an ABC News Anchor who was injured while on location as a correspondent in Iraq, back in 2006). The book received great praise and remained on the bestseller list for four weeks. Woodruff discussed her book’s focal point, Iraq war veterans and millions of American civilians who are suffering from acute brain injuries.

Her presentation was life changing, as she spoke of the personal life journeys that led her to speak at Alvernia. Lee and her husband continue to speak out and raise awareness for their cause and have started a foundation in her husband’s honor; ReMIND.org. (Check it out online for further details.)

The literary festival continued its three-week-long celebration with several other riveting lectures and events. Speaking of enthralling lectures, “The Consciousness of Nothing, from Art to Zen” presented by our very own professors Drs. Bongrae Seok & Marc Lucht took place in the Bernadine Lecture Hall on Thursday, October 22nd. Lucht and Seok spoke on the beauty of nothingness and how it is much more than...well...nothing. They provided a perspective that one would notordinarily obtain when pondering certain ideas of substance.

“Once you know the properties of something, you can change its elements,” was one of the many stand-out excerpts from Dr. Lucht’s philosophies on our world and how we perceive it. Dr. Lucht’s passion for the topics of discussion played a major role in captivating the audience. As for Dr. Seok, he spoke of space and how it is much more than empty. Space is “rigid and strong,” Dr. Seok said in his attempts to encourage the audience to embrace the concept of matter and nothingness.

All affairs for the Literary Festival were conveniently scheduled at various locations within Alvernia University’s main campus. The celebration concluded on October 30th, providing nearly twenty events in order to commemorate local and national authors who had been selected by the Literary Festival committee. Overall, each and every event for this year’s “Lit Fest” were well attended and a tremendous amount of energy was generated from the entire Alvernia community. The conclusion of this fourth annual festival was the annual Halloween costume contest, sponsored in part by Alvernia’s Sigma Tau Delta chapter. This event included a special tribute to Edgar Allan Poe, a great representative of classic literature. Festivities took place in the Student Center at 1 p.m. along with a reception full of activities and delicious treats for all!

As the literary festival came to a close, Professor Susan Guay, of the English and Communications department, said, “Sigma Tau Delta affords great opportunities to students who love English. The student must also have a 3.0 GPA and have completed at least three semesters of college course work. Graduate students must be enrolled in a graduate program in English (or an English specialization), have completed six semester hours of graduate work and have a minimum GPA of 3.3. The cost for membership is a one-time international induction fee of $37. According to Dr. Fitzpatrick, Sigma Tau Delta is a great organization for those majoring in English or related disciplines such as Communications and Rhetoric. By joining Sigma Tau students receive a variety of benefits such as networking opportunities, scholarships, and internships. Members of Sigma Tau Delta can apply for internship opportunities with major publishing companies and compete for several scholarships and awards. Members of Sigma Tau are also hired on a higher pay scale when applying for jobs in the government. Members can also submit papers for presentation at the Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in the spring. The convention, held this year in St. Louis, Missouri from March 17-20, is a great opportunity for students to showcase their creative and intellectual talents in front of students and teachers who share the same interests. In the words of Dr. Fitzpat-
The O’Pake Science Center. The Upland Center. Renovated classrooms in Bernardine Hall (with more to come!). A Student Life building. An expanded Student Center and new Green Campus Commons. The Baseball and Softball Complex in Angelica Park. An on-campus Track and Field. Apartments for juniors and seniors, with private rooms and full kitchens. And, yes, a very large parking lot.

Over the last few weeks, at several student and alumni gatherings, it was inspiring to hear the universal excitement about the physical transformation of the campus and the pride in Alvernia’s progress. Those of us on the faculty, staff, and administration tend to focus on challenges ahead, needed improvements, the ways things might be better. But make no mistake: students understand they are at Alvernia at a historic time of rapid, positive progress. And they are delighted.

But it is not simply about many new facilities and physical changes, important though they are to our students’ living and learning environment. Alvernia’s vitality also involves the quality of campus life and a spirit of active engagement. Perhaps a 10-day stretch in late October makes the point. Of consecutive nights, large crowds packed the Shander Room in the PEC and the Bonaventure Room in the Franco Library to hear the compelling testimony of a death penalty activist and an accomplished author who has written movingly about her experiences making support—victims of domestic and/or sexual violence, young and expectant mothers without familial support. One of the two executive directors, Mary Kay Bemosky of Berks Women in Crisis, is herself an Alvernia alumna. The other organization, Mary’s Shelter/Mary’s Home, has four former residents who are Alvernia alumnae as a result of a special scholarship program established several years ago. During Homecoming Weekend, we inducted several outstanding alums into the Athletic Hall of Fame, including the 1991 Baseball Team, the pioneers of what is now a championship-level program, led by Coach Yogi Lutz. Alvernia staff member Suzanne Miller and Dr. Chuck Barbera, Director of Emergency Medicine at Reading Hospital, received our highest alumni awards.

Mary’s Home, has four former residents who are Alvernia alumnae or staff member Suzanne Miller and Dr. Chuck Barbera, Director of Emergency Medicine at Reading Hospital, received our highest alumni awards. The Alvernia Writers’ Session was a smash success. Student poets shared some very fine work. Professor Beth DeMeeo read a marvelous

Photo courtesy alvernia.edu

The Flynn Files

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The Alvernian is now a club, and we need you!

Write for any section. Contribute as many articles as you want. Get your name in print!

Write about an idea you have, or email Dr. Kramp for an assignment. Contribute editorials — speak your mind!

Tell us what you want to see in the Alvernian.

Contact Dr. Kramp at michael.kramp@alvernia.edu if interested.

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The Alvernian is the official student newspaper of Alvernia University. The office telephone number is (610) 796-8358. Submissions for The Alvernian should be written in some semblance of AP style. Letters to the editor, requests for advertisements, and general comments and questions may be submitted to michael.kramp@alvernia.edu

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The O’Pake Science Center. The Upland Center. Renovated classrooms in Bernardine Hall (with more to come!). A Student Life building. An expanded Student Center and new Green Campus Commons. The Baseball and Softball Complex in Angelica Park. An on-campus Track and Field. Apartments for juniors and seniors, with private rooms and full kitchens. And, yes, a very large parking lot.

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Followership – The Other, Necessary Side of Leadership

By Dr. Gerald Vigna
Director, Center for Ethics and Leadership

“Followers are more important to leaders than leaders are to followers.” So writes Barbara Keller, James McGregor Burns Lecturer in Public Leadership at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in her recent (2008) book, Followership. Kellerman has been a leading researcher in leadership studies, whose books have addressed the more difficult issues in this burgeoning field. Her motivation for this book arises from her conviction that leadership studies have centered excessively on leaders. Speaking more technically, she wants to question the “great man” theory of leadership, since, as she writes, “Leadership and followership are inseparable.” What does she mean by this? Keller examines four cases and points to the role subordinates played in things going well or poorly. For example, she points to the Merck Vioxx scandal and shows how many of the VPs knew of the problems with the drug, but were not forthright with the CEO, who was not an expert in the pharmaceutical biochemistry. She also points to the sex abuse scandal in the Archdiocese of Boston and to how a group of Catholics formed Voice of the Faithful to address the problem as well as Bernard Cardinal Law to leave his post. Kellerman does not think subordinates should always be pointing out problems. Followers mostly follow and should, and most of us spend most of our time following, not leading. Another important figure in the field of followership is Ira Chaleff, who has tried to put forward the idea of “courageous followership.” It is not as idealistic as it sounds. Chaleff wants to build corporate cultures where employees feel safe to question policies and activities that seem unsound or out of sync with the organization’s mission. In our knowledge economy, where executives depend more and more on expertise that their employees have but they do not, argues Chaleff, courageous followership is an absolute necessity.

I thought of the topic in connection with creating a Christian ethic of followership. After all, discipleship is about following. It is also about humility, which is knowing one’s role and performing it faithfully. A Christian ethic of followership would situate itself in basic moral ideas such as human dignity, the goodness of creation (e.g., the environment), and related ideas. It might contend that the leader-follower is a servant leader, an idea our philosophy professor, Dr. Bongrae Seok, has shown as quite compatible with Franciscan core values.

As leadership gurus like Kellerman and Chaleff continue to work out their theories and help companies implement them, perhaps a task we can set ourselves at Alvernia is the broader question of moral followership.
New Apartments Develop Growing Pains

By Jon Lozoskie
Staff Writer

One prominent new attraction this year is the upscale apartments that are available to students of Alvernia University. They come with many new luxuries and features that the other resident halls do not have. Along with these new features come the standard amenities such as key swipes to unlock the doors and free washers and dryers. Since the apartments are brand new and come with a price tag of around $7,000, they have many new amenities that are not included in the other resident halls. Such features include upscale furniture, a living room, and full kitchen utilities. The new apartment buildings are 27,000 square feet and some rooms can accommodate up to 5 people per apartment.

Upon entering the apartment building, one walks into the lobby that comes with a gas fireplace and lounge area. Also found on the main floors are study boxes that include printers. Another new addition to the apartments that make them distinct from other residences is the fact that they come with wi-fi for the whole building. There is also a secluded parking lot behind the apartments that has 250 spaces and would include a gated entrance so only the residents of the apartments and Judge Hall can park there.

With new growth comes growing pains, and there have been many questions and concerns about the new apartments. One such question has to deal with the laundry rooms. For the second time this year there have been washers and dryers that are currently out of service. In the second of the two apartments there are currently two washers that are out of service. There have been repairmen working on the problem and the washers should be fixed shortly. “Not having the laundry room working is a huge inconvenience since I have to go to Judge Hall to wash my clothes,” says Bill Dale, a Sophomore resident in the second village apartment.

Another growing pain that has affected the residents of the new apartments has to deal with security issues. During move in and for the first week of the fall semester, there have been some questions about the new security system that is in place. Although the key swipes have not been fully installed it does not seem to be a big issue among residents in the apartments. Dale said, “It didn’t bother me that the key swipes weren’t installed yet because they have security guards in the lobbies.”

Along with the key swipes there have been some concerns about the new security system that is at the Cresona Mall. One prominent new attraction is the new apartments. One such question has to deal with the laundry rooms. For the second time this year there have been washers and dryers that are currently out of service. In the second of the two apartments there are currently two washers that are out of service. There have been repairmen working on the problem and the washers should be fixed shortly. “Not having the laundry room working is a huge inconvenience since I have to go to Judge Hall to wash my clothes,” says Bill Dale, a Sophomore resident in the second village apartment.

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Pete the Barber Keeps Alvernia Students Looking Good

By Danii Cortes
Staff Writer

He is known as “Pete the Barber,” and he is located in the old mail room of Francis Hall. Peter Marmarou has been cutting hair for 15 years; in other words, he has his share of experience. The first thing you see when you walk into the barbershop is a tall jolly barber with a great sense of humor.

Pete also manages to maintain another establishment, Sam’s Goose House, which is located on 10th and Exoder. Pete cuts hair at Alvernia University on Wednesdays until 4pm. He is also presently looking for a stylist for women’s hair. The idea of having an on-campus barber shop was first introduced by Doug Smith, the Vice President of Finance, who is a regular customer of Pete’s. Smith came up with the great idea of having a barber on campus, and believed it would be more convenient for students without transportation to the nearest barbershop. It seemed like a very convenient way for students to get a haircut at a reasonable price.

Many students have asked how to schedule appointments. Pete can usually work with walk-ins. He styles men’s and women’s hair but prefers cutting men’s hair. It is best if women call ahead to set up an appointment.

Pete said “[Students] can schedule an appointment but most of my customers are walk-ins. Usually the ones I want to schedule first are the women’s haircuts.” He then went on to say, “I think it’s a great idea; it gives the students a chance to get their hair cut on-campus instead of trying to find somewhere else. Other schools have barbers. It’s really convenient.” He then went on to list other schools such as La Salle, Drexel, and Penn State that have an on-campus barber/salon. All of these campuses also seem to understand how ideal and easy it is for students to go to a barbershop on campus.

Lisa Bailey said, “I think it is very convenient to have on campus and is a great idea. I would like to know if he can style women’s hair just as well as men’s. I look forward to trying this new hair stylist.” Another student, Pete C., said, “He is obviously a good barber if I keep coming back.”

Smith and Pete took into consideration how truly financially tied down a college student really is, and they agreed on a reasonable price of $10 a haircut for male students and $14 for faculty. Prices for women’s haircuts vary. As Vice President of Finance, Doug Smith knows a thing or two about students and their financial stability. This actually helps students save money and not burn a hole through their wallets while still looking good.

Pete is content with where he is for now, but he hopes to find a more visible location, making it easier for students to locate him. Pete said, “Students have been bringing this up… why in Francis Hall?! He is looking to be relocated after finding a woman’s hairstylist. He is interested in a location where all can find him easily. This will help the business grow and maybe help students let other know about the great barber on campus. All of the new and improved amenities on campus can only help make Alvernia University grow.

By Danii Cortes
Staff Writer

Looking Good

The Gateway Arch in St. Louis. Photo courtesy google.com

The convention theme for 2010, “Storytellers,” this year’s Common Reader at the convention. He is considered one of the best emerging African writers in half a century and is currently a professor at the University of California, Riverside. Judith Ortiz Cofer was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Patterson, New Jersey. Her writing reflects the experiences of being Puerto Rican and living, writing, and teaching in the United States. She has authored eleven books of various genres and is a professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Georgia.

Li-Young Lee has authored four critically acclaimed books of poetry. His great-grandfather was China’s first republican President and his father was a physician to Chairman Mao. After the People’s Republic of China was established, his parents escaped to Indonesia where Lee was born. They then fled to the United States to escape anti-Chinese sentiment. Lee’s poetry reflects the sorrow of exile and loss and the joy of family and love.

Azar Nafisi is best known for her national bestseller, Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books, which has spent over 117 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. Nafisi is a Visiting Professor and Director of Cultural Conversations at the Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University. She teaches courses on the relation between culture and politics as well as aesthetics and literature.

Students can also speak at the convention by submitting their own papers and creative work. Members may submit up to two works in separate categories. The categories are critical essay, creative nonfiction, poetry, fiction, drama/screenplay, or common reader (works concerning Abani’s Song for Night). Acceptance into the convention program is based on the merit of the work.

Other than academic pursuits, there are many fun things to do at the convention. These include a T-shirt design contest, a dramatic skit contest, and a bad poetry contest where contestants come up with the worst poetry possible and present it for judging.

There are also two commenters: a Red and Black Gala Celebration and an awards ceremony. Students will also be given opportunities to tour St. Louis and soak up some of the culture of the city. The Hyatt Regency St. Louis Waterfront Hotel (where the convention will be held) is directly adjacent to the Gateway Arch. It is also close to the Gateway Arch riverboats as well as many museums.

Sigma Tau Delta is more than an honor society, it is a place for lovers of English and literature to gather and share their passion in an environment that fosters growth and acceptance.

More information about Sigma Tau Delta can be found at www.english.org or by contacting either Carrie Fitzpatrick at carrie.fitzpatrick@alvernia.edu, Beth DeMee at beth.demeo@alvernia.edu or Sigma Tau President Scott Rodgers at kristopher.rogers@alvernia.edu.
Playoffs are Huge, Suspenseful; Series Themselves Lack Excitement

By Scott Rodgers
Sports Editor

This year’s MLB Playoffs have been, in one word, big. Big cities, big names, big questions, big roster decisions, the list goes on and on. There have been big comebacks, big name closers imploding, big contracts being earned or lost with every pitch thrown and every swing of the bat.

But there is just something missing (besides the Cubs). There has yet to be a truly competitive series. The first round featured three sweeps with only the Phillies dropping a game to Colorado. In the league championship, the Yankees had the “toughest” series, losing a mere two games to the Angels.

The big stars all enjoyed the spotlight. Alex Rodriguez has emerged into, seemingly, a one man wrecking machine, akin to Barry Bonds in 2002. Vladimir Guerrero was clutch for the Angels. Ryan Howard was record breaking.

The list goes on and on with impressive performances (tip of the hat to Cliff Lee, CC Sabathia, Andre Ethier, and Adam Wainwright). However, there have also been a lot of controversies.

Manny Ramirez sparked a national debate for being in the spotlight. Alex Rodriguez has been big comebacks, big name closers imploding, big contracts being earned or lost with every pitch thrown and every swing of the bat.

But take a look at the list of potential free agents: Albert Pujols, Joe Mauer, David Ortiz, Jason Bay, Jason Kubielski, Jimmy Rollins, Cliff Lee, Derek Jeter, and Josh Beckett.

And those are just from the playoff teams. I did not even get to Roy Halladay, Brandon Webb, Carlos Pena, Carl Crawford, Lance Berkman, Derek Lee, Tim Hudson, Jose Reyes, and Matt Cain.

Sure, some of these guys will not make it to free agency. Yankee fans need not worry about Jeter going to the Mets or anything like that.

But for Philadelphia, Boston, Minnesota, and St. Louis, it will be gut-check time.

The Yankees will loom large in the plans of many of these players, particularly Mauer as they will need a replacement for Jorge Posada by then. Since they have A-Rod and Teixeira, they are likely out of the running for Pujols. However, I am sure the Red Sox would have signed with such a “consolation prize” for losing Mauer.

This is a worst-case scenario, as I am hopeful the Twins and Cardinals lock up their best players.

Even if the Red Sox got both Mauer and Pujols, for me, as a fan, it would come with a hollow feeling. Stealing the franchise of two historic baseball towns just because, potentially, the player wanted $28 million instead of $20 million is mind-boggling.

Hopefully Philly fans are not screaming for a salary cap, there is no way it would pass given the current state of things. The MLBPA would never allow their employees to get a dollar less then they are worth. Even if it means the Yankees will be paying $201 million for their team versus the Marlins’ $36 million.

Even the difference between the Yankees and the second place Mets is stark. The Mets paid $135 million to see, well, one of the most hilariously pathetic baseball seasons I have ever witnessed. At any rate, I cannot sit here and fault the Yankees for paying what they do. I cannot fault the MLB for allowing them to do it, either. It is just something that has to be dealt with.

However, it does not make these playoffs any less exciting. Since my team got knocked out in the first round I have had almost as much fun rooting against the Yankees. So bring on next year, and the next class of high-priced free agents.
Alvernia’s women’s basketball team was impressive last season with a record of 18-10, 11-5 in conference play, and a pair of wins over Top 25 teams. The women started off slow by going 4-8 in their first 12 games of the season. However, finished the year strong, going 13-2 and clinching a spot in the postseason. After earning the three seed in the conference playoffs, the Crusaders lost to the second seeded Manhattanville Valiants in the conference semi-finals. The Crusaders were able to secure a bid into the ECAC tournament, after handily beating Neumann in the first round; they were once again knocked out in the semi-finals, this time by Juniata College. Despite the disappointing losses in the semi-finals, the Crusaders were able to put together a very impressive season. The Crusader’s were led by Alex Velazquez, who was named to the D3hoops.com All-Region Second team. Velazquez was second on the team averaging 16.8 points per game and led the team in rebounding average at 9.2 boards a game. Another notable player was freshman Allison Toczylowski, who was impressive in her first season as a Crusader. Allison was able to grab 236 rebounds, achieve a team high 23 blocks, and was the team’s third leading scorer behind Kelli McIntyre and Velazquez.

The women Crusaders are looking to expand upon last year’s season and make another push for the playoffs. They will be led by the duo of Velazquez and Toculowski, as well as the senior leadership of Joanna Graber and they will benefit from the return of McIntyre in the second semester. Alvernia will have a young team with only one senior on the projected roster, but are in good hands thanks to head coach Kevin Calabria, who is entering his 21st season as head coach. “We have virtually everyone returning this season,” Coach Calabria said. “We have good kids, hardworking kids and a great combination of players . . . we have great chemistry.”

This year the Crusaders look to make a mark in the Commonwealth division of the MAC and are confident that they will be successful.

“I feel that with the experience of the returning players combined with what the new players can bring . . . we will be competitive and do well in the conference,” Joanna Graber said.

The biggest challenges for the Crusaders will be the battles with Messiah College, who posted an 11-1 in the conference last season. They will also battle with Lebanon Valley and hometown rival Albright. Also, the Crusaders get the job done on and off the court. The team tallied an average GPA of 3.2 and also helped more than 30 kids from Reading Tennis in an event to inspire the children to want to go to college.

The Crusaders’ season tips off on November 20 at the Muhlenberg Invitational Tournament. The first home game is November 24 at 6 p.m. so be sure to get out and cheer on the Crusaders.
First Goals Made on New Turf Field
By Devon Coleman
Staff Writer

Being the first to do something is often an extraordinary achievement. Scoring first in an athletic competition is big. Scoring the first goal of the season is something that every athlete would love to do.

But scoring the first goals on a new field means something special. That’s just what three fall athletes did to open their seasons.

The men’s soccer team opened their season on Sept. 1 against PSU-Berks. The team won 3-1 over a tough Nittany Lions club. The first goal was scored by freshman Brice Stine who buried a pass from Junior Morgan Davideheiser. This marked not only the first goal for the team but the first goal ever on the new turf field.

The women’s soccer team had their home opener on Sept. 9 at Alvernia. In an exciting overtime game, sophomore Amy Mesce held at Alvernia. The team came out on fire putting together a convincing 5-2 win.

Sophomore Samaantha Landis scored the first goal for the team on the new field. “All I was thinking about was scoring and just as long as someone scores we win,” Landis said. “I just happened to be the first one to score that night, and I would not have been able to score without the help of my teammates.”

Landis had two goals in the win with the first one coming in the third minute that was unassisted, and the second of the day in the 30th minute assisted by Lauren Guascio and Jaclyn Guignet. “Recognition should go to the whole team for our big win on our new field,” Landis also said.

Field hockey had their home opener on Sept. 9 against Delaware Valley College. The field hockey team had their home opener on Sept. 9 against Delaware Valley College. The team came out on fire putting together a convincing 5-2 win.

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Men’s Basketball Looks to Improve
By James Hein
Staff Writer

Last season the Crusaders had some struggles, going 10-15 (6-10 in conference) and failed to make the playoffs for the first time in 20 years.

This year, the Crusaders are looking to turn it around and get back in the playoffs after the frustrations of last year. “By past performance, the Commonwealth has been a very good league,” head coach Mike Miller said. “It will be a very competitive race for the playoffs.”

The Crusaders will be a very young team that has only four returning players: two seniors and two sophomores. Coach Miller is excited about the new recruits this year. “I brought in a bunch of good freshman,” Miller said. Along with the freshmen, Miller brought in two transfers, Tadd Gillis and Seth Cornel. He feels both can come in and play well for the Crusaders.

Among the returning players is Nick Rivera, a senior, who brought down a team high 14 rebounds, led the team with 26 blocks, and was second on the team in points per game, averaging 10.2. He comes into the fall 2009 season as the team MVP and captain.

Charlie Hughes, the other returning senior, saw time in every game last season. He averaged 7.9 points per game and was named to the 2008-09 MACSAC Sportsmanship Team.

“I think this year we are ready to turn some heads,” Rivera said “Our team chemistry is a lot better this year, we played a lot this summer as a team so we got real close.”

This year’s team should be very competitive both in practice and in games. This competition helps keep them on their toes.

“There will be competition in practice to determine who plays,” Miller said.

The Crusaders open up the season against Penn State Berks on November 16, and then they will host the 11th Annual Tom Masano/Shera-ton Reading Tip-Off Tournament. This year’s schedule will be a tough grind. Twelve of their final eighteen games are against conference opponents.

Intramurals are a Chance to Have Some Friendly Fun
By James Hein
Staff Writer

As the numbers continue to increase at Alvernia, so does the turnout for intramurals. Alvernia’s Intramural Athletic Board has grown since last year thanks to new ideas.

Due to the number of seniors on the board it was necessary for the IAB to vote in new members in order to get some more youth into the club and try to generate some new ideas.

“I wanted to be a part of a group and the IAB interested me because I enjoy sports and intramurals,” Melina Whalen, a new sophomore member of the board, said.

The IAB focuses on bringing athletic recreation to those who are looking for some friendly competition. The goal of the IAB is to give students an opportunity to meet new people and get some exercise at the same time.

In the past few years, the IAB has developed new ideas for sports. One of the new sports that the IAB has been able to add is inner tube water polo. This is a co-ed event that takes place at the Body Zone.

Water polo provides a great opportunity for students to get into a pool in the middle of the fall season. This fall, inner tube water polo is one night and is scheduled to begin on Thursday, November 12.

Currently, the IAB is near the end of the fall flag football season. It is undoubtedly the most popular fall sport that intramurals has to offer.

The number of teams in both the co-ed and men’s league has doubled since last year. The increased involvement in flag football may be credited to the new turf field located on campus, where as in past years flag football was held at Governor Mifflin’s practice football field.

An advantage of having the 120 yard turf field is the ability to play games at three times an overtime. Along with the increased in teams comes the increase in competition.

“There is a great balance between competition and fun, and the fact that we get to play on the turf field makes flag football more enjoyable,” junior Jeremy Haushofer said.

The battle for a playoff spot is going to come down to the wire with the Sons of Anarchy locking up the number one seed. Teams such as Step Brothers and High School Heroes round out the top three seeds while Better then Lloyd and The Mitchell Report are in the bubble.

Playoff positioning is bound to change when teams vying for a playoff spot meet in late season battles. The playoffs are set to begin on October 21.

Flag football is not the only sport that will take place in the fall, keep your eyes open for 3-on-3 basketball which begins early in November.

This allows those that are not on the basketball teams to have an opportunity on the court and play pick-up games. Also, on study day, the IAB offers a great chance to relax and have some fun with friends with its semi-annual ping pong tournament in the PEC. It is another type of recreational activity that the IAB offers to students that is not usually an everyday activity.

Not only does the IAB sponsor on campus events, but there are trips off campus as well. The IAB sponsors both a ski trip and a rafting trip, which is offered to students at a discounted price and is a great way to get away from campus and relax for a few hours. Intramurals is successful because it allows students to have fun with their friends and be competitive at the same time,” Bridget Burger, senior president of the IAB said. “Everyone knows each other which makes the games and events that much more successful.

More information about Intramurals can be found on the Alvernia Athletics website, and do not forget to keep your eyes open for sport sign ups. And start getting your teams ready for the upcoming seasons.
“The Rolling Exhibition” Comes to Alvernia

By Angela Miller
Entertainment Editor

There are a lot of things we take for granted every day. We breathe, we walk, we talk, we can see and hear, taste and smell, but do we ever take the time to stop and truly realize how blessed we really are? Most don’t even stop to realize what we are doing. Instead we go through life blind to what we have.

On November 19, Kevin Connolly, author of the book Double Take, will be coming to Alvernia to share his experience and talk about his work. Connolly was born without legs, but this did not stop him from living a normal life. He went to bars, flirted with girls, and survived through school. He did not let his handicap stop him from doing the travelling he wanted to do. At the age of twenty-four Kevin has accomplished more than most average college students. “I’m twenty-four years old,” said Connolly. “My book was finished before my senior year of college. I feel it is important to be able to directly talk to people my age.”

Even without legs, Connolly lived a typical childhood. It was not easy for him though. When you read about his childhood in his book you think it wouldn’t have been so powerful or moving without my childhood. Expressing feelings like that kind of takes away from masculinity because it is hard for men to express themselves like that,” said Connolly. Imagine what it must feel like to have yourself completely exposed in writing for everyone to see and read. Could any of us have that kind of courage? Connolly’s family was not rich, but he grew up in a comfortable middle class homr. His project was funded by the prize money he won in the 2006 winter X-Games. His project was funded by the prix money he won in the 2006 winter X-Games. Connolly is an avid skier and it is something he enjoys even without legs.

Connolly has travelled the world on a photo project Kevin Connolly put together from all over have come to see his art. When he comes to Alvernia University in November take the time to go hear him talk. His story will no doubt inspire you. Connolly is an overall good guy with a lot to teach us the way we look at other people.

By Jessica Lopez
Contributing Writer

The Ritz theaters of Philadelphia are just an hour and a half from Alvernia University. Unlike the standard movie theaters you and I attend, these theaters show independent films. The Ritz theaters are part of a theater chain owned by Landmark Theaters. Located on Walnut St. in Olde City Philadelphia, the Ritz Five got its name for the five theaters it houses. The building is obviously small in size but the theaters themselves are still comfortable. It was here that M. Night Shyamalan’s debut feature film, Praying With Anger premiered. It showcases the friendly staff and old fashioned concession stand like the other Ritz Theaters.

The movies showing are always changing as new titles are released. Movies such as Juno and Little Miss Sunshine both started out as independent films that eventually made it to the big screen. At theaters such as the Ritz, you are able to view movies that haven’t been discovered yet. And then you have the bragging rights to say you saw them first when they make it to the big screen. Granted, not all independent films go so far.

However you will quickly find that some deserve such recognition. Currently playing at the Ritz at the Bourse is the French film Paris. Complete with subtitles, this movie is described as “a valentine to the city of lights,” on the movie’s website. Some of France’s biggest stars in cinema come together to present a movie to showcase the city of love. A heart transplant reunites a broken family and shows a man what really matters in his life. The New York Times states that this movie is, “Purely entertaining. Poignant. Above all, Paris, in which the monuments are spread out before you like a sumptuous outdoor banquet, evokes the city as a robust social organism.”

Some other movies currently showing at the Ritz theaters include Bright Star, Coco Before Chanel, Capitalism: A Love Story, and Paris. Visit www.landmarktheaters.com to find a schedule for the movie playing in the month of November. The theaters also host occasional midnight showings of classic movies such as Beetle The Goomies.
Alegria Mesmerizes Audience Members

By Jessica Heller

Tuesday, October 20, 2009, the Reading Sovereign Center played host to the enigmatic Cirque Du Soleil Alegria. The intense spectacle was a continuous breath taker with a sophisticated blend of euphoric lights, rhythmic sounds, vibrant costumes and overwhelming talent. Since 1994 Alegria, Spanish for “jubilation,” has been captivating audiences with its tale of a changing world and struggle for power. Characters such as Fleur and the Old Birds represent the old world order, while the aristocracy that used to hold every ounce of power. The elaborate costumes covered in velvet and pearls, gold trim and lace, mask the falling reign they attempt to preserve. A changing world, however, leaves a void in power soon to be filled by the new generation of youth. The Bronx and Nymphs collectively leaves the stage flaming along with their energetic type, horse show, a paper airplane competition and the intense ending to the act, a confetti storm that enveloped the entire audience in a blanket of “snow.” The second act, although shorter in time, was grander in talent. Suspended more than forty feet above the stage, these flyers soared from the beams to a cradle-like swing and back again as if they were angels. With only a forty ounce of adventure, their acrobats flew through the air from flexible bar to bar as catchers ensure they landed on the two inch beams balanced on their shoulders. A composed opposition in action was the graceful flexibility of the contortionists. Weaving their bodies in and out of each other they sculpted new images of imagination for the audience. The final act of the night was performed by a group of unbelievably talented men. Suspended more than forty feet above the stage, these flyers soared from the beams to a cradle-like swing and back again as if they themselves had wings. With only a net below as any form of safety, the fierce bravery of these gentlemen is hidden behind the calm charisma of agility and trapeze style acrobatics. There is no doubt that the challenges in both skill and artistic imagination culminated in this night that left an impression upon every member of the awe-stricken audience. Every intricate detail of this spectacular performance displayed the amount of work and energy that backs the Cirque Du Soleil organization. The talented individuals and the outstanding designers were well deserving of the standing ovation delivered to them on the opening night at the Sovereign Center.

The Death Trend is Still Rampant

By Angela Miller

The death trend is still in high gear. No matter where you turn, death is staring you in the face. Hollywood seems to be corrupting our minds, trying to tell us our time is coming. Movies coming out this winter are not about cheery holidays, but rather the end of Earth, making deals with the devil, and a little girl giving her version of heaven after she is brutally killed by her father’s friend. Avatar comes out on December eighteenth. The movie takes place on a fictional moon called Pandora. The main character is wounded in a war going on down on the Earth, and the injury he received has paralyzed him from the waist down. He is nominated for the Avatar program which will grant him the ability to walk, and he is sent to Pandora. He meets the fictional race called the Navi. The Navi stand three meters tall, have sparkling blue skin, and are formidable warriors. Jake Sully, the protagonist, finds himself immersed in their culture and in a battle which will determine the fate of the world. The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus is the story of a man who was granted immortality by the devil. He has a travelling show where members of the audience get an opportunity to choose between light and joy or darkness and gloom. He has a gift to guide the imaginations of his audience. When he meets his true love, Parnassus asks the devil for youth instead of immortality, but he must give up his firstborn to Mr. Nick at the age of sixteen. When his daughter approaches the age of sixteen, Parnassus finds himself desperate to protect his daughter. The bet is renegotiated and the first man to seduce five souls will win Valentina. Parnassus finds himself in a race against time, and surrendering his daughter’s hand in marriage to the man who helps him win the bet. The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus is the last movie Heath Ledger completed before his tragic death. It is worth seeing his final performance. The Lovely Bones is the story of a young girl, named Susie Salmon, who is killed by her neighbor after taking a short cut home from school. After her murder Susie ends up in heaven, and the rest of the movie takes place in her version of heaven. She befriends a girl named Holly who is another murdered girl. All Susie wants is to be back with the people she loves most, but she must watch them from afar. She watches her family fall apart, and looks on as her father is consumed with the obsession of catching her daughter’s murderer. Susie must face a choice: to hold onto her own need for vengeance or begin to see the world without her in it. The new Fall television schedule brought a new season of House. It began with House being admitted into a mental institution where he resides with mentally challenged people. Of course, House won’t go willingly and starts devising his own plans to get out. Once he realizes his plans aren’t working he gives in and lets the doctor’s help him. The season focuses on House fully overcoming his addiction and dealing with his own misery. Will House still be House in the end or will he be a different House without his addiction to Vodicon? The season started out with excellent episodes, and the pattern will no doubt continue as the season progresses. Will Hollywood ever move past the death trend or will this be the trend for a long time to come? It is time Hollywood moved onto something different instead of giving its audience a morbid outlook on life.
AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18)
There is a lot of commotion existing within your family and it could end up being stressful if the issue is ongoing. Try to hold your ground, but have an open discussion with everyone so that miscommunication does not prolong the situation any further.

ARIES (March 21- April 19)
You MUST be able to pick apart the best and worst parts of a situation, and apply the successes of the past while learning from the mistakes. A bold move is going to be required in upcoming events so keep a level head and go with what suits you best.

CANCER (June 21- July 22)
You are very serious and dedicated to everything going on in your life right now. However second-guessing yourself is something you practice routinely. As long as your efforts are genuine and your thoughts are level headed/reasonable, then you needn’t worry.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)
It seems as though you need to be the responsible one in the group. Keep people in line, but don’t take it as far as to act as a parental figure; this could result in offense being taken. Follow the rules, but remember to be flexible with them.

CANCER (June 21- July 22)
You are very serious and dedicated to everything going on in your life right now. However second-guessing yourself is something you practice routinely. As long as your efforts are genuine and your thoughts are level headed/reasonable, then you needn’t worry.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20)
You are beginning to have issues over taking on too much responsibility. You might see that more work takes away from personal time. You are challenged to take opportunities while still keeping relationships satisfied.

LEO (July 23-August 22)
It’s important to learn as much as you can instead of acting on instinct. This is a good time to reflect, to study, to practice, to rehearse, and even to be criticized constructively. Don’t take on anything out of your league just yet; you need preparation first.

LIBRA (September 22-October 22)
Patience and consideration are qualities that are necessary to practice in the upcoming days. Avoid making rash decisions because they could very well end up disappointing you in the long run. Sit back and relax, the facts will come in on their own.

PISCES (February 19- March 20)
Romance is not dead! Those who want to believe it is nonexistent, ignore them. Approach situations with an attitude that is beneficial to both you and your partner. Learn the rules of respect and practice them; everything will flow naturally once those means are met.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22- December 21)
Right now might be a time to sacrifice personal pleasure for professional achievement. Do not burn bridges in close relationships, because you will need allies in something important dealing with your career.

SCORPIO (October 23- November 21)
You have a goal that can only be achieved with the proper approach and choosing reliable people to help with the cause. You may have to coerce others in the beginning in order to get the ball rolling. Be certain to manage you time wisely.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You are known for saying things people don’t want to hear. What people do not realize is it’s probably not so much an issue of telling the truth, but more so of getting something off your chest. Mother knows best; if you don’t have anything nice to say don’t say it at all.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22)
You are focused on accomplishing and maintaining financial stability. Recognize those who are in your life for genuine reasons and those who only see you as someone to push aside in order to achieve success. A breakthrough is in the near future.

Photos courtesy google.com

Just Asking...

With all the new changes Alvernia has implemented this school year, what do you enjoy the most?

I would have to say the new parking lot has been my favorite new addition to the campus! Last year it was getting a bit ridiculous trying to find a spot that wasn’t a mile away, so this was the perfect addition!
(Tammie Kennedy, Senior, Nursing)

I feel the changes that have been happening on campus are a great thing. My favorite change is the new apartment buildings where I am living this year. Being able to cook for myself and living in an apartment style room is helping me get ready for when I graduate.
(Austine Fronhesier, Senior, Accounting)

I feel that the changes are very nice, one thing I would like to see change is having someplace to eat before 11 a.m. on the weekends. I think our cafe should be open from 7 a.m. -7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday to allow students a more flexible time to eat. I really enjoy the new turf field.
(Ashley Knight, Senior, Elementary Education)

My favorite new addition is the track. It gives me somewhere to run outside of the gym.
(Bree Mahoney, Senior, English, Education, minor in Psychology)

By Vanessa Policare, Staff Writer
Stay on course this winter
Classes begin Dec. 14

Get ahead this winter break with a large selection of undergraduate and graduate courses from Alvernia University. Courses are taught in an innovative accelerated term and are offered in three convenient formats: on-line, classroom, and blended (on-line and classroom).

Classes are designed to help students get ahead at a faster pace and move one step closer to graduation.

ONLINE COURSES (Dec. 14 - Jan. 15)

Undergraduate
BIO 109-W1: Human Biology
HIS 112-W1: Study of American History
PHI 105-W1: Introduction to Philosophy
PSY 101-W1: Introduction to Psychology
THE 105-W1 Introduction to Theology

Graduate
MBA 520-W1: Marketing Services
MBA 670-W1: Corporate Communications
MED 508-W1: Advanced Educational Psychology

BLENDED COURSES (Dec. 14 - Jan. 15)

Undergraduate
COM 340-W1: Advertising Workshop
ENG 103-W1: Intro to Poetry
PED 304-W1: Wellness for Life

Graduate
COR 510-W1: Moral Leadership
COR 600-W1: Prof. & Organizational Leadership
MED 505-W1: Intro to Special Needs Students
MED 610-W1: School Law and Social Advocacy

CLASSROOM COURSES (Jan. 4 - Jan. 15)

Undergraduate
BUS 248-W1: Macroeconomics
CIS 190-W1: MS Word Bootcamp
CIS 190-W2: MS Excel Bootcamp
COM 290-W1: Books to Film

Graduate
MAT 208-W1: Intro to Statistics
MUS 220-W1: Music & Health
PSY 290-W1: Positive Psychology

Register Today!
Visit our website and register at www.alvernia.edu/winter
For more information, please call us at 610-796-8228 or email: gradandce@alvernia.edu