State of Alvernia Athletics

By James Hein
Staff Writer

Like most collegiate athletic programs, Alvernia has won championships and been through years of struggle. In past years, Alvernia has seen successful championship seasons from teams such as men’s and women’s basketball and baseball. The Alvernia Hall of Fame consists mostly of basketball, baseball, field hockey players and coaches as well as both a baseball and basketball team from the 1990s.

Those in the Alvernia Hall of Fame are spectacular athletes who at some point in their careers made an impact at Alvernia and, for the most part, have been recognized nationally, some in several instances.

Among the stand outs in the Hall of Fame are Jack McCloskey, Daimen Hunter and the men’s basketball team of 1997. Jack McCloskey was head basketball coach of the men’s team from 1991-2004 and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2008. He holds the school record with 227 wins, led 6 teams to 20-win seasons including the spectacular year of 1997, going 26-6 and making an appearance in the NCAA Division III Final Four. Daimen Hunter, a member of the 1997 men’s Final Four team, is second all-time in points per game, including 1995 ECAC South Rookie of the Year, the 1997 Dick Vitale Preseason Division III Player of the Year, two straight PAC Player of the Year awards, and was named to the 1997 All-American First Team and the Columbus Multimedia Mid-Atlantic and National Player of the Year.

The Alvernia baseball team of 1991 is another team that has been recently inducted into the Hall of Fame. Head Coach Yogi Lutz led the Crusaders, with a 30-9 overall record, to their first NAIA District 19 title and a berth into the NAIA Regional Tournament. Alvernia has produced extraordinary athletes and has developed a passion for success on and off the field of play. As a Division III athletic program, Alvernia stresses the importance of the student-athlete and the desire to compete on the field and succeed in the classroom.

In recent years, Alvernia athletics have seen successes in many of its 18 regularly running sports. The men’s basketball team won back-to-back PAC Championships in 2006 and 2007, while earning a berth in the 2007 NCAA Regional Tournament. The field hockey team earned a bid to play in the 2009 ECAC Championships; the team lost in the championship game, but received a bid to the NCAA Regional Tournament as the 17th seed.

Alvernia baseball won the ECAC Championship in 2008, the Freedom Conference of the MAC in 2009 and made an appearance in the 2009 NCAA Regional Tournament. The Alvernia ice hockey team has been to back-to-back conference championships the past two years.

Due to the recent success of these programs Alvernia has made several changes to the athletic facilities on and off campus. Alvernia has added a brand new turf field and track, as well as new baseball and softball fields.

Along with the new facilities some changes have come. New coaches, new sports and a new athletic director show Alvernia’s growth. Alvernia may seem like it is building for the future, but the athletic department is giving current student-athletes the opportunity to take advantage of the new facilities.

Alvernia’s new athletic director, Bill Stiles, comes to the university with extensive credentials. He was an assistant athletic director and baseball coach at Ursinus before going to Chestnut Hill College where he became the Director of Athletics and Recreation and completed the process of changing the college from Division III to Division II athletics. He is familiar with adding new athletic programs to the athletic department, which he accomplished at Chestnut Hill.

Alvernia has made a strategic move by hiring him to work on Alvernia’s future vision for the athletic department.

Of the coaches at Alvernia, there are two staples that stand out. Head baseball coach Yogi Lutz and women’s basketball coach Kevin Calabria have been running their respective programs over the past 20 years. Their longevity at Alvernia has resulted in great success and winning seasons. Because of their ability to implement their coaching skills, they have been able to keep their programs at the forefront of Alvernia athletics.

In other sports, Alvernia is in a transition stage of sorts. New coaches are in place and the determination to win is present, it is just a matter of time and commitment. With the tenured coaches at Alvernia, confidence is established because of the past successes they have had and the student-athletes know they can do big things.

Alvernia has put new, young, talented and qualified coaches in place throughout the past few seasons. At Alvernia, the community aspect of campus is noticeable and it is the same in the athletic department. The school has created a very close knit group of coaches and athletes. Athletics are possibly one of the most attractive aspects of a university. The development of a well-organized field house or athletic facility to allow athletes to improve their skills with top quality equipment will make the university more attractive to prospective student-athletes.

The construction of the new baseball and softball fields and the track and field shows the direction in which the university is heading. One downfall of the expense of the fields is the lack of training equipment. Ideal conditions would have a bigger weight training and conditioning area and locker rooms that are sport specific.

Despite the small problems with the current facilities, Alvernia has established a long-term plan to add sports as well as facilities to appease the faculty, coaches, athletes and students.

It looks as though Alvernia has primed its athletics program to succeed in the future as well as the present. What the coaches and student-athletes do with the opportunities placed in front of them is to be determined.
Walking A Mile in Combat Boots

By Chris Farley  
Contributing Writer

Few things can cause tension like a discussion about war. War, in its simplistic and terrifying nature, has the phenomenal ability to turn human beings into mechanical drones. War tears at the limbs of human nature and demands that it seclude itself in darkness. Audie Murphy, a celebrated young soldier in World War II and famous author of To Hell and Back said, “We have been so intent on death that we have forgotten life.”

Only war can breed such minds. In the present political spectrum, war has become a controversial topic of debate. It is an issue confusing the citizens of contemporary America. If we are to be Christian and to promote peace, should we not absolutely denounce war? If we are against war, is it possible to support the military? I present this article to claim that at least the latter question can be affirmed. These are questions that plague Americans. These are questions that tear apart military families. And in a Franciscan institution like Alvernia University, these are questions that haunt our souls.

I quote Audie Murphy’s words from his acclaimed book for a reason. Throughout the story, which takes you to the battlegrounds of the Second World War, Murphy paints a beautiful picture of who the United States soldier really is. Humble and courageous, honorable and loving, soulful and selfless are all qualities of the men with whom he served. As a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, I can attest that the U.S. military remains the same. The men and women with whom I served in my four years of active duty were the finest human beings I have ever met. Perhaps that is a cliché; a common line you hear most often from an older gentleman with a typical “old fashioned” perspective. But it is a cliché that remains true for those who have served. The question remains: How does Alvernia treat its veterans?

According to Christine Saa-di, the VA Certifying Official on campus, there are over thirty-five veterans currently registered at Alvernia University. Though a small body of students compared to the rest of the University, their experiences certainly make them among the most unique. There is little argument that Alvernia’s students welcome veterans with open arms. Allowing military veterans to pay for their tuition with the “GI Bill” and accepting the “Yellow-Ribbon” program give previous service members a head start toward earning their degrees. I have personally experienced the hospitality of Alvernia University’s staff as honorable people such as Dr. Joseph Cicitala, Christine Saad and Abby Swatchick have assisted me in developing the “Veteran’s Club.” This initiative is still in the works. Please look for its presence in the near future.

Now that I have explored the positives of how veterans are treated on campus, allow me to comment on the negative. I will start with a hypothetical scenario. College students live a paradoxical existence. Though many certainly work hard, life is not always so bleak. Perhaps some contemplate their next car, how they can’t wait to get the new iPhone, or how amazing it’s going to be when they party this weekend. Many live a life consumed by these desires. For some odd reason, many expect these luxuries to become rights and are taken for granted. But do their minds venture into the abyss of how all of this fortune came to be? Do their hearts contemplate that all of these things we take for granted—plentiful food, clothes, security, transportation, entertainment, the arts—all have been granted to us by sacrificial lambs. These “things” have been given to us because we have had our freedom procured by a national faction of security, commonly called the military.

The Alvernia is the official student newspaper of Alvernia University. The office telephone number is (610) 796-8358. Submissions for the Alvernia 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. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, accuracy, and length. The views expressed in the Alvernia are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the student body, faculty, staff, administration, or sponsors.

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Here’s to Whimsy - Chiefly at Christmas

By Dr. Vigna
Director, Center for Ethics and Leadership

Wandering through my mind, looking for something to contribute to the holiday fun . . . Nathan Thomas and I were talking yesterday about working as an actor. If you want to work as an actor, the saying goes, you can always find work. We got to talking about character actors. Like Walter Brennan, who played a crotchety old man from the time he was young and always worked. From there the conversation moved to two of your favorites, I’m sure – Thomas Mitchell and Henry Travers. That’s Uncle Billy and Clarence the Guardian Angel from Frank Capra’s It’s a Wonderful Life. They were not particularly attractive—any of these men—and they have funny voices. They certainly were not leading men. They played characters, just characters. Can an actor like that work today? Not as easily. The roles aren’t being written as they once were. We left it at that.

Then it was time for me to think about my Christmas wish list. I had not been able to come up with a story line for this column, so I decided I might as well tell my wife what I want for Christmas. The Incredible String Band. Were their vinyl ever converted to CD? Yes and yippee! Yippee for the group that was among the first of the flower children. The Incredible String Band made Donovan, he of “Sunshine Superman” and “Mellow Yellow” fame, sound like Lawrence Welk, and they did it entirely acoustically with about a dozen instruments ranging from flute to sitar to, well, you name it. Mike Heron and Robin Williamson, and a few others here and there, I loved them. They were whimsical: Oh oh ee ee oo there's absolutely no strife living the timeless life I don't need a wife living the timeless life If I need a friend I just give a wriggle Split right down the middle And when I look there's two of me Both as handsome as can be Oh here we go slithering, here we go squelching on

The above, from “The Hangman’s Beautiful Daughter,” released in 1968, was a welcome daydream tonic coming in the same year that The Rolling Stones asked Lucifer to introduce himself as a man of wealth and taste.

And then it hit me. Who would listen to ISB’s silly lyrics today? What scriptwriters would provide a multi-decade career for Brennan, Mitchell, or Travers? Where has the whimsy gone? Fortunately, it’s still here at Christmas, a season so joyous because of its very whimsical truth claim – that God wanted to become human rather than the other way ‘round – that flights of fancy are often thought of as the perfect way to capture the Christmas spirit.

So here’s a Christmas column dedicated to Clarence, Kris Kringle (for which Edmund Gwenn won a Best Supporting Oscar), Buddy the Elf, red-nosed reindeer, and of course The Waitresses singing Christmas Wrapping. From Robin, Mike and me:

May the long time sun shine upon you All love surround you And the pure light within you Guide you all the way on.

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

The Alvernian office is located in BH206.

Op-Ed

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Death Penalty Speaker Inspires Attitude of Forgiveness

By Jon Loszkie
Staff Writer

On Monday October 19, Vicki Scheiber came to Alvernia and spoke about her views on capital punishment and the death penalty. In memory of her daughter, Shannon Scheiber, she is fighting to have the death penalty outlawed as a form of punishment.

Mrs. Scheiber travels across the country telling her daughter’s story and her views about the death penalty. She begins her story talking about her smart daughter’s promising future. Shannon took the SAT’s and scored a 1290 out of 1600 on her first try. She was in seventh grade. After high school Shannon was accepted into Duke University and graduated in three years with an undergradate degree in three fields: math, economics, and philosophy.

She then was hired as a financial analyst in New York. At the age of twenty-two Shannon decided she no longer wanted to work in that field and went back to school. Shortly after Shannon was accepted into the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business, for financial accounting. It was during this time that Vicki Scheiber’s life would forever be changed.

Although the University at which Shannon attended was a prestigious school, the area in Philadelphia where she lived was not the safest area. In the time and area in which she lived there were accounts of four sexual assaults by the same man on four different women. This was all occurring within a six-month period. The police closed many of the cases because there was not enough evidence to link the four cases. It was this same man who would break into Shannon’s apartment and end her life.

In May 1998, Mrs. Scheiber’s daughter Shannon was getting ready for her final exam in financial accounting. When recalling the night before the incident, Vicki said that her daughter was excited yet nervous to take her test and be done for the summer. Shannon said that she was excited to see her brother and have lunch with him the next day after her exam. This would be the last time Mrs. Scheiber would hear from her daughter again. Later that night the sexual predator who had attacked many other women in the area broke into her daughter’s apartment. Although Shannon had a room on the second floor, the assailant still found a way in by climbing up the wall and breaking through the sliding glass door on the outdoor patio. Shannon screamed after she saw the assailant in her apartment. Hearing her scream, her neighbor from across the street called the police.

It is only recently that the Reading Police Academy is an everyday lesson in hard work. The Reading Police Academy is still going through the Academy’s presence on campus is very important because students see others going through the Academy.” Students who are undecided as to which track to take can see the Academy, the cadets, and decide if that course is for them.

Shannon was accepted into Duke University and graduated in three years with an undergradate degree in three fields: math, economics, and philosophy.

Also, Criminal Justice students at Alvernia University have an edge students in other schools do not have: the Reading Police Academy at Alvernia because of it’s previous location. As the Police Academy moved to Alvernia because of the available fields and training areas. This was supposed to be a temporary situation, but President Flynn and the RPA signed a ten-year lease in 2007.

The Reading Police Academy is a regional training facility for police departments. Students of the academy (cadets) come to learn after they complete the training are certified to become police officers. The academy runs its own state-managed curriculum and the program lasts for approximately five months.

The benefit for Criminal Justice majors comes during the fall of their senior year, when those taking courses for the Law Enforcement track actually enroll in the Academy. Students receive 15 credits for completing the Academy’s program, and also receive their ACT 120 certification to become a municipal police officer. They are able to get a head start on their careers as police officers.

It is only recently that the Reading Police Academy has become a formalized part of the Criminal Justice program, as reflected in this year’s course catalog. The Academy’s program is listed as a CJ470 class, for which students can register just like any other class. Instructors at the Reading Police Academy are senior officers with experience in law enforcement. They also participate in classes at the University, and University professors (such as Prof. LaTorre) are certified to teach at the academy. This creates an environment of sharing and harmony with the school and community.

It is also not uncommon for Criminal Justice majors who complete their academy training to receive a job offer as an officer at a municipal office. It is recommended that the students finish out the last term of their degree and then go work for the police force. However, the Criminal Justice department works with the students to create a flexible schedule where they could potentially work as officers and go to school.

By finishing the Criminal Justice degree, those hired as police officers can be hired on a higher pay scale (depending on the municipality in which they will be working). It is also beneficial to have a completed degree because of the possibility of promotion. In the words of Prof. LaTorre, “Police officers serve the public but at a greater sense put others’ lives before their own - this starts at the police academy.” The police academy is where those working toward a degree in Law Enforcement can witness this dedication.

Having the Reading Police Academy on campus helps Criminal Justice majors further their own career, but also gives them an example to follow. Said Prof. LaTorre, “[Students] need to know they represent something larger than themselves.”

Becoming a police officer is not simply taking a class and receiving a piece of paper that qualifies a cadet to serve: it is learning to be an example to the community--and also a major lesson in hard work. The Reading Police Academy at Alvernia is an everyday testament to the dedication given by the police officers of Reading.
Service Learning Gives Valuable Education

By Vanessa Policicre Staff Writer

Each semester students have the opportunity to take service learning courses. These courses give students the opportunity to work with a community partner and receive hours towards the community service requirement. Two service-learning courses this semester that offered students hands-on experience are NUR 412 Community Health, and the social work SW 290: Parenting Styles Strategies and Resources. According to Dr. Jodi Radosh, Associate Director of the Hollern Center for Community Engagement and an Associate Professor of Communications, “This past Fall, twelve service learning courses were offered in a variety of disciplines. Service learning is a win-win for the Berks County community and Alvernia. It gives students more real world experience than academic courses as the opportunity to assist the community.”

NUR 412: Community Health is a 5 credit course for senior nursing majors taught by Professor Con-

nie Twyman. This course is an in-class course as well as an out of class course. These nursing students spend nine weeks conducting several wellness programs for residents at three subsidized high-rise apartments that are operated by the Reading Housing Authority (RHA). These high-rise apartments houses 100 to 150 low-income, multicultural, disabled, and elderly residents. These weekly programs include exercise sessions, home visits to the residents, a health fair each week, and also cold and flu education. During their visits in the Reading Area School Districts, they assist certified school nurses in performing required start-of-the-school-year screenings, such as height and weight, scoliosis, vision, and hearing.

At the end of this course students complete a reflection paper in which they describe how their experiences added to their knowledge of community health and influenced personal growth. The students maintain a journal in which they ponder how their attitudes and feelings towards the less fortunate, the underserved, the men-
tally ill, and the elderly have changed.

The Social Work Honor Soci-

ety, Phi Alpha, is also photo courtesy alvernia.edu involved with the Christmas party. The honor society raised $600 dollars from selling pies on campus for Thanksgiving. All the proceeds were used to buy the thirty-five children educational presents. These toys encourage the children and parents the opportunity to assist the community.

Turkey Drive Needs Community, Mission

By Dani Cortes Staff Writer

As the holidays arrive, most students are excited to visit family and completely relax on their couches after a great home-cooked feast. The holiday break is meant to give the community the time, energy, and skills to give a little something back to the community.

The Mosaic House Clubhouse. The Mosaic House is a psychological rehabilitation model under the direction of Threshold. During their time there, students improve the health and wellness of members and residents by providing information on making healthy choices in the areas of nutrition, exercise and self care as well as increasing knowledge about chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and also cold and flu prevention.

Also as a part of the course students are scheduled for a one-day experience in selected schools in the Reading Area School Districts. During their visits in the Reading Area School Districts, they assist certified school nurses in performing required start-of-the-school-year screenings, such as height and weight, scoliosis, vision, and hearing.

Another aspect of this course includes partner-

ing with St. Joseph Medical Center, where they provide the annual Breast Cancer Screening event held in October at the St. Joseph Medical Center Community Campus. The students spend the day assisting attendees in completing registration and history forms, as well as accompanying the women for their physical exam, and lastly providing teaching on symptom recognition and breast self-exam.

At the end of this course students complete a reflection paper in which they describe how their experiences added to their knowledge of community health and influenced personal growth. The students maintain a journal in which they ponder how their attitudes and feelings towards the less fortunate, the underserved, the mentally ill, and the elderly have changed.

The other service-learning course is a social work elective open to all students, SW 290: Social Work Parenting Styles, Strategies, and Resources. The students from this class will be implementing their hands-on final by putting together a Christmas program for the Berks Community Action Program (BCAP). The party will be for seventeen families and thirty-five children who are in need of holiday cheer. This event will be held at Chef Alan’s Restau-

rant on Penn Avenue in West Reading from 5:30-8 pm on Monday, December 7, 2009. At this event there will be holiday activities and games.
By Jon Losozkie
Staff Writer

Many students look forward to Christmas break as a time to unwind and spend time with family and friends; others use it as a chance to earn a few extra bucks for the second semester. Unfortunately, there is one obstacle that students have to face before getting to Christmas break: Finals Week.

During this time of year many students go into panic mode and are under tremendous stress. That is why Student Life along with the Intramural Activities Board is holding events both before and during Finals Week to help with stress management. These events will be held from December 6th through December 9th. There will be cookies and milk, late-night breakfast in the cafeteria, and a trip to the movies. Along with the stress relief events, there will also be Christmas events throughout campus. The first holiday ceremony will be the Blessing and lighting of the Christmas tree, which will be held on December 1st. There will also be Christmas on Campus, held December 4th in the student center. All other events will be sent out through emails in the upcoming weeks.

When students are not studying, they can head down to the PEC and join some of the events that are held to help relieve stress. There are yoga classes in the fitness studio every week leading up to the end of the semester. They will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays starting at 5 pm. On Wednesday, December 9 the intramural activities board is holding a ping pong tournament in the PEC from 11:30 to 3 pm. Along with the ping pong tournament, there will be massage therapists at the Upland Center giving free massages from 1 to 3 pm.

If you’re feeling stressed in the next couple of weeks make your way down to the gym or partake in some of the activities around campus. For more information on the upcoming events go to the Student Activities calendar located on the Alvernia University website.

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Death Penalty continued from page 4

hall called 911. Police showed up five minutes after the call was made. They followed proper police protocol and knocked on the door and waited for a response. There was no noise within the apartment room. It is important to note, if the police responding to a 911 call feel that there is no suspicion leading to forcible entry, the police cannot break the door down. Later the family would realize that the reason that there was no response from Shannon was because the assailant killed her to keep her from screaming. After many years of police work, the criminal was found and arrested.

After he was caught trying to assault another college student in Colorado. During this part of the story Mrs. Scheiber broke into tears. She and her family had been through so much pain not only in waiting for the man to be caught and brought to justice, but because they had spent much time in his court case. Once he was found guilty

the district attorney asked the family what form of punishment the man should face: the death penalty or life in prison without parole. Although she had been through so much hurt and pain, Mrs. Scheiber and family made their decision upon their faith. “What he did is the most heinous of crimes that one can commit, but I have a strong belief in my [Christian] faith. Life is a gift from conception to natural death and no one but God can decide when that will be,” said Mrs. Scheiber.

Although he has otherwise not have funding. They in the judicial system made their decision upon their faith. “What he did is the most heinous of crimes that one can commit, but I have a strong belief in my [Christian] faith. Life is a gift from conception to natural death and no one but God can decide when that will be,” said Mrs. Scheiber.

A l t h o u g h

she will never understand why this man

killed their daughter and sister, Mrs. Scheiber and her family recommended that the man receive a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. “What Vicki Scheiber showed us is an example of what Christian values are about, even though she lost someone so special to her, to forgive her daughter’s murderer is Christianity at its finest,” commented Ms. Metzger, an Occupational Therapy professor at Alvernia. In the years that have passed Mrs. Scheiber has dedicated much of her time to voicing why the justice system needs to change some of its ways. She now travels the country speaking at universities, law schools, state legislatures, and various faith groups. She is also chairwoman of the board for Murder Victim’s Families for Human Rights, an organization that speaks openly against the use of the death penalty. Since her daughter’s case, there have been many changes in the judicial system regarding cases such as hers. The Philadelphia police now have a policy for emergency calls that resemble the one such as Shannon’s case. If an officer answering the call feels as though someone may be in danger, she can call it in to a supervisor who can then authorize the use of forced entry to investigate the situation. Along with these changes the Scheibers have also set up a scholarship at Duke University in Shannon’s name that awards money for tuition to a recipient who may otherwise not have funding. In her closing statement at the conference, Mrs. Scheiber left everyone with this thought: “It is not what happens to you but what you do with the situation that makes you stronger.”
Sports

Surprises in College Football Season Still Lead to Same Results

By Scott Rodgers

The more things change, the more they stay the same. This year in college football, things have been turned upside down. TCU, Cincinnati, and Boise State are the third, fourth, and sixth teams in the country. For seemingly the first time in forever, USC will not be in the Rose Bowl.

However, the defending national champion, Florida, still loomed at the top until its loss to Alabama. Alabama, however, is no stranger to winning it all with their 12 titles. Texas, who won it all in 2005, is returning to the big stage once again, setting up another heavyweight match-up. Despite this, the Rose Bowl has been one of the most entertaining to date. Sure, the top three in the rankings have seemingly been the same all year in some order or another, but overall the year has been full of surprises, even if the end result keeps the little guys off the biggest stage.

Possibly the most fascinating story of the year was Charlie Weis. Notre Dame, a team that controlled its own BCS destiny before dropping their last four games, was a roller coaster of emotions. So much so, in fact, that they declined a book invitation due to their current state of flux.

After the season opening shutout of Nevada, the Irish bandwagon was seemingly over-loaded. Even after close losses to Michigan and USC, the Irish still seemed to be a trendy pick for a BCS Bowl. That is not even counting their recent shutout of the Fighting Irish by the Bearcats. Jimmy Clausen performed well enough to shed the label of “pretty boy flop” and become a trendy pick for a BCS Bowl. However, they lost to Navy, then Pittsburgh, then Connecticut. Then Stanford. Mercifully, Charlie Weis was fired and sent back to Red Lobster. Jimmy Clausen probably tripped over themselves to get them from the land of potatoes once again. I am sure everyone remembers what happened the last time Boise State played in the Fiesta Bowl since Washington State in 2003. The Tostitos Fiesta Bowl probably tripped over themselves to get them from the land of potatoes once again. I am sure everyone remembers what happened the last time Boise State played in the Fiesta Bowl since Washington State in 2003.

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After top performances in their respective conference title games, Ingram and Spiller likely sit at the top. McCoy, whose team is going to the national championship, is likely the top quarterback choice in the eyes of the voters due to where his team is in the standings.

Tim Tebow, the second most loved man on ESPN behind Brett Favre, won the Heisman in 2007 and led the Florida Gators to the National Title last year. Even while injured, he still put up decent numbers though being upstaged by Ingram likely killed his chances. It did not help that he was crying on the sidelines, either. If I had a ballot, I would go with Ingram number one, Gerhart number two, Spiller three, Moore fourth, and McCoy fifth. Before Ingram ran over Florida, Gerhart was my first choice. But it is strange to think of a player from Boise State, Stanford, or even Clemson winning the Heisman, but it has just been one of those years. Ingram’s big game on a huge stage likely catapulted him to a victory and ended all speculation. And with that, we come full circle. After watching all of the contenders, the second best team I saw all year will not be in the championship game.

That team is the TCU Horned Frogs.

Sure, they are number four, but even if Texas had lost, Cincinnati would have catapulted by them. But TCU is legit. They crushed Utah (55-28) and BYU (38-7), and in their last four games (including Utah) they outscored their opponents 206-60. Cincinnati is a team that I cannot figure out. I was sure they would lose to West Virginia, but Tony Pike completed two passes for two touchdowns to seal the Mountaineers fate. I also felt as though Pitt was going to beat them, and once again, Tony Pike would not let his team lose. He led his team on a 61 yard drive that culminated with a touchdown pass to Armon Binns to win it for the Bearcats 45-44. With that victory, Cincy will play Tebow and the Gators in the Allstate Sugar Bowl.

Hats off to Boise State, as well. That early season win over Oregon looks mighty good as the Ducks, with a victory over the Oregon State Beavers, will be the first non-USC Pac-10 team to be in the Rose Bowl since Washington State in 2003. The Tostitos Fiesta Bowl probably tripped over themselves to get the team from the land of potatoes once again. I am sure everyone remembers what happened the last time Boise State played in the Fiesta Bowl since Washington State in 2003.

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It is impossible to hate any of them (unless you are a bitter Oklahoma Sooners fan), and it is irresistible not to cheer for them. I was not even able to get around to the other surprise of the year, Iowa. It is probably a good thing, though, knowing how many Penn State fans are on this campus. The Hawk-eyes will be playing a surprising Georgia Tech team in the FedEx Orange Bowl. Overall, I believe that this year definitely shows that despite all of the changes in the college football landscape, a few things can always be taken for granted.

The first is that one (or more) SEC teams will be in National Title contention. Whether it is Florida, Alabama, LSU, or Auburn (probably not again for a while), or Georgia (ditto), this conference consistently churns out some of the best teams in the country.

That is not even counting trendy picks like Tennessee, Ole Miss (well, when they have been losing), Florida State, as well. That early season win over Oregon looks mighty good as the Ducks, with a victory over the Oregon State Beavers, will be the first non-USC Pac-10 team to be in the Rose Bowl since Washington State in 2003.

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**New Moon Rising**

By Angela Miller

Entertainment Editor

Whoever thinks sequels do not surpass the original obviously did not see Twilight's sequel New Moon. New Moon had so much more to offer the audience including vampire fights, closer relationships, better special effects (namely the vampire running), romance, and even some snazzy lines.

The movie begins with Bella's birthday, which she dreads because she's one year older than Edward. Bella is afraid to get older because she does not want anyone to think that Edward is her son or grandson. Edward tries to tell Bella that her age does not matter to him, but Bella is not too stubborn and tells him so. Bella sees anything less than eternity with Edward. The Cullen family throws Bella a birthday party that ends in disaster when Bella gets a paper cut, which is the last thing Bella wants to happen in the third book, Eclipse.

The only way Bella can save Edward is to save him before it is too late. They make it just in time, but the wait is a long process. The three are allowed to leave peacefully provided that Bella be turned into a vampire. For those who have read, and re-read New Moon, it was not hard to pick out the major differences. The book was more subtle but obvious inconsistencies was Edward's eyes. During the whole movie his eyes were golden brown, which means he is well fed. But when Edward tries to reveal himself by stepping out into the sun, Bella describes his eyes as dark with deep purple shadows underneath them. The movie nailed Edward's tired and pained appearance with makeup, but his eyes did not match his tiredness. Another inconsistency with the book was the fight between Edward and the Volturi member Felix. In the book, Edward stands next to Bella and merely talks to the Volturi, not in the movies. Bella how much he loves and wants to protect her even if it means he has to give his life. This technically happens in the third book, Eclipse, when Bella witnesses Edward killing Victoria. Before that, however, Edward is a gentleman in Bella's eyes. Some conversations took place at the wrong time and places. For example, in the book, Edward confesses that he lied to Bella and tells her the real reason why he left her. It was a huge lie, like something not to miss from Italy. In the movie, Edward explains his motives right after Bella pushes him back into the shadows. One small conversation in New Moon does not even take place in the novel. One school to give her a birthday present in the book. Even more significant was Edward saying "How come Jacob Black can give you a gift, but I can't?" Why is this wrong? The reason is because that particular line is said in book three, Eclipse, not in New Moon. Of course any hard-core Twilight fan would know that.

Overall New Moon was a great movie. It was not hard to see that director Chris Weitz had a bigger budget and put great effort into the movie. There was more than romance in this Twilight sequel, which makes it somewhat more guy-friendly. Another major change from the book is Eclipse, New Moon was a little more true to its novel mainly because author Stephenie Meyer was there from beginning to end to watch her creation come to life. New Moon has delivered what it promised in the previews. Twilight fans can now look to Eclipse, which director David Slade and fans say will be the darkest, edgiest, and most dramatic of all the films.

**IMAX Promises Ultimate Theater Experience**

By Angela Miller

Entertainment Editor

If you are looking to go to the movies and have the best possible experience, then the only theater to go to is the IMAX Theater. The closest IMAX Theater to the Alvernia campus is on N. 2nd Street in Reading. The IMAX brings you the best possible picture, sound, seating, and even food. It will not doubt give you the best theater experience you will ever have.

The IMAX Theater is brightly colored and it adds to the buildup of your excitement. The theater does not look too big on the outside, but then again looks are deceiving. When you enter the IMAX Theater, it is immediately bigger than it appears from the outside: the lobby is comprised of wide open spaces with benches for seating. Employees are committed to providing the best experience possible. Looking through your ticket, you walk right into the concession area. A huge sixteen foot screen looms above you showing previews of Hollywood's hottest coming attractions programmed by manager David Campbell himself. The concession stand is right below the sixteen foot screen, and it offers what could be the best movie theater food you will ever eat. The wide area forks off to the different theaters. There is no narrow hallway with different dark rooms; everything is open and easy to find.

The IMAX screen itself is 72 feet by 40 feet. Once you step foot into this theater, the screen is lean back so even the people sitting in the front are not straining their necks trying to watch the movie. Everything in the theater, including lights, sound, and the picture, are all controlled by a central computer. This virtually eliminates the behind-the-scenes scenes people who build the projectors and make sure everything is running properly.

When movies come into the IMAX, they are on a hard drive, one exactly like what you could find at Best Buy. When movies come into the IMAX, they are on a hard drive, one exactly like what you could find at Best Buy. The projectors project at three thousand watts, which is significantly more than a normal theater.

Everything in the theater is controlled by that one projector, making the behind-the-scenes guys' job easier. The projector for the IMAX is bigger; the first difference is that it runs off of two projectors, running at six thousand watts. “For 2D films the projectors match the layers so everything sits on top of each other,” said David Campbell, general manager of the IMAX, "but for 3D films the projectors project the images slightly off of one another so it matches the 3D glasses we give you.” Every theater has a Sony DOLBY digital surround sound system. This helps to immerse the audience into the movie and make them feel they are really witnessing the events taking place. Anyone could see the differences between the IMAX Theater and a normal movie theater. In a normal theater, you feel like you are just sitting and watching a movie. There is nothing really special about it. But a trip to the IMAX Theater is something that will stick with you for a long time. When you are watching an IMAX movie, you experience the movie as directors want you to see it, not merely as an image projected on a screen.

The IMAX Theater even offers group options for college groups, our honor society. "Starting in January we are [planning] to start doing a weekly college night where college students could come in and get discounts," said Campbell. This experience is something you can't pass up! Check the IMAX Theater’s website, or call 610-374-2828, for show times and get the dream movie experience.
By Jessica Heller
Staff Writer

Since the early days of Alvernia College, now Alvernia University, students found theatre as a part of their college life. The big leap, however, came when former College President, Dr. Mazzeno, announced in his 2002 “State of the College” address the installation of the Theatre Program in the Alvernia curriculum. With this investiture came a new face to the Alvernia faculty and community, Dr. Nathan Thomas. Dr. Thomas took on the role of building a new program and was excited to work with an institution that “had shown a commitment to starting a solid Theatre Program.”

Many aspects of the program have changed over the past six years, the addition of Melissa Guyer, Theatre Design Specialist, the growth in student participation, as well as the introduction of the Theatre Major. The one aspect that has remained true to the program is Dr. Thomas’s belief that Alvernia’s Theatre Program is “all about being human.” The students work with one another to form a creative team. Ideas are formed and others are changed throughout the process giving life to the productions they build. From a humble ten-participating group to a troupe expanding past thirty, Alvernia Theatre Program has grown to become a gathering place for aspiring actors and actresses, as well as those just looking to for an interactive hobby. The early adventurers could have only hoped for such an incredible growth in such a short amount of time. Each year brings with it a new crop of various talents. Maria Lasica, a junior in the Communications and Accounting programs, is an approaching veteran of the Alvernia University stage. Maria’s position working in the Alvernia University Archives department has given her a broader outlook on the theatre program, past and present. “I have seen pictures and documents that are way different from what the Alvernia Theatre Program is right now, and I believe that it will still go a long way in the future,” says Maria. Those who have graced the “stage” and the participating audience members have given birth to some extraordinary and at times perplexing shows. Titles such as Before War, 9 Parts Ordinary and at times perplexing shows. Titles such as Before War, 9 Parts of Desire, Romeo and Juliet, Electra, Skin of Our Teeth, and The Last Days of Judas Iscariot have all been showcased in the Francis Hall Auditorium of Alvernia University. In the spring of 2009, Alvernia University was given an amazing chance to work on a new play, an opportunity many college theatre companies are never blessed with. Tales of Shoogilly by David Blakely gave Alvernia Theatre the recognition they much deserved, and the World Premiere added to the prestige of Alvernia University itself. Alvernia University Theatre (AUT) is not only making its name known around campus but throughout all of the Eastern Region. Alvernia has teamed up with other theatre companies such as Albright College and Kutztown University to provide opportunities for seeing performances at other locations. The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) has also provided a showcase for Alvernia’s talent. This festival is a chance for the performers to network with other companies, professional and amateur, view other college performances, and improve skills in the field of theatre from every angle of the performance. AUT has not even begun its unbelievable journey. Construction on Francis Hall brings improvements for the theatre department and the addition of the B.A. in Theatre shall surely encourage prospective students to enter into the development of the program. And with the first Theatre Majors set to graduate, AUT looks forward to seeing them join the ranks of Alvernia Theatre Alums such as Rachel Penny and Donald Dilliplane. What does the future hold in store for the Alvernia University Theatre Program? A full production of a musical is a definite goal for both the Theatre and Music programs. Dr. Thomas’s hope for the future of the AUT Program provides for “a somewhat easier space to work in with appropriate support and storage spaces, and a large group of students who enjoy working with each other to make interesting projects that make our audiences laugh, cry, and think.” The future is bright for this group of talented individuals, and with the continued support of faculty, administration, the community, and most importantly the Alvernia student body, the Alvernia University Theatre Program will hopefully never cease to encourage the art of being human.

It’s All About Being Human

By Jessica Heller
Staff Writer

Dr. Thomas’s belief that Alvernia’s Theatre Program is “all about being human.” The students work with one another to form a creative team. Ideas are formed and others are changed throughout the process giving life to the productions they build. From a humble ten-participating group to a troupe expanding past thirty, Alvernia Theatre Program has grown to become a gathering place for aspiring actors and actresses, as well as those just looking to for an interactive hobby. The early adventurers could have only hoped for such an incredible growth in such a short amount of time. Each year brings with it a new crop of various talents. Maria Lasica, a junior in the Communications and Accounting programs, is an approaching veteran of the Alvernia University stage. Maria’s position working in the Alvernia University Archives department has given her a broader outlook on the theatre program, past and present. “I have seen pictures and documents that are way different from what the Alvernia Theatre Program is right now, and I believe that it will still go a long way in the future,” says Maria. Those who have graced the “stage” and the participating audience members have given birth to some extraordinary and at times perplexing shows. Titles such as Before War, 9 Parts Ordinary and at times perplexing shows. Titles such as Before War, 9 Parts of Desire, Romeo and Juliet, Electra, Skin of Our Teeth, and The Last Days of Judas Iscariot have all been showcased in the Francis Hall Auditorium of Alvernia University. In the spring of 2009, Alvernia University was given an amazing chance to work on a new play, an opportunity many college theatre companies are never blessed with. Tales of Shoogilly by David Blakely gave Alvernia Theatre the recognition they much deserved, and the World Premiere added to the prestige of Alvernia University itself. Alvernia University Theatre (AUT) is not only making its name known around campus but throughout all of the Eastern Region. Alvernia has teamed up with other theatre companies such as Albright College and Kutztown University to provide opportunities for seeing performances at other locations. The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) has also provided a showcase for Alvernia’s talent. This festival is a chance for the performers to network with other companies, professional and amateur, view other college performances, and improve skills in the field of theatre from every angle of the performance. AUT has not even begun its unbelievable journey. Construction on Francis Hall brings improvements for the theatre department and the addition of the B.A. in Theatre shall surely encourage prospective students to enter into the development of the program. And with the first Theatre Majors set to graduate, AUT looks forward to seeing them join the ranks of Alvernia Theatre Alums such as Rachel Penny and Donald Dilliplane. What does the future hold in store for the Alvernia University Theatre Program? A full production of a musical is a definite goal for both the Theatre and Music programs. Dr. Thomas’s hope for the future of the AUT Program provides for “a somewhat easier space to work in with appropriate support and storage spaces, and a large group of students who enjoy working with each other to make interesting projects that make our audiences laugh, cry, and think.” The future is bright for this group of talented individuals, and with the continued support of faculty, administration, the community, and most importantly the Alvernia student body, the Alvernia University Theatre Program will hopefully never cease to encourage the art of being human.

Just Asking...

What are you looking forward to the most during the holidays?

What I’m looking forward to the most about the holidays is being able to relax and enjoy the surroundings of my home and family.

-Melissa Williams, Forensic Science Senior

I’m looking forward to spending time with my friends and family the most.

-Danielle Regimbal, Communications Junior

Being able to spend time with my family and friends. I most looking forward to is my whole entire family gathered in the kitchen trying to help with dinner. But most of all spending as much time as I can with my family and friends it my favorite thing to do over the holidays.

-Ashley Tantangelo, Business Management Junior

Entertainment

It’s All About Being Human

By Jessica Heller
Staff Writer

Theatre Program is “all about being human.” The students work with one another to form a creative team. Ideas are formed and others are changed throughout the process giving life to the productions they build. From a humble ten-participating group to a troupe expanding past thirty, Alvernia Theatre Program has grown to become a gathering place for aspiring actors and actresses, as well as those just looking to for an interactive hobby. The early adventurers could have only hoped for such an incredible growth in such a short amount of time. Each year brings with it a new crop of various talents. Maria Lasica, a junior in the Communications and Accounting programs, is an approaching veteran of the Alvernia University stage. Maria’s position working in the Alvernia University Archives department has given her a broader outlook on the theatre program, past and present. “I have seen pictures and documents that are way different from what the Alvernia Theatre Program is right now, and I believe that it will still go a long way in the future,” says Maria. Those who have graced the “stage” and the participating audience members have given birth to some extraordinary and at times perplexing shows. Titles such as Before War, 9 Parts Ordinary and at times perplexing shows. Titles such as Before War, 9 Parts of Desire, Romeo and Juliet, Electra, Skin of Our Teeth, and The Last Days of Judas Iscariot have all been showcased in the Francis Hall Auditorium of Alvernia University. In the spring of 2009, Alvernia University was given an amazing chance to work on a new play, an opportunity many college theatre companies are never blessed with. Tales of Shoogilly by David Blakely gave Alvernia Theatre the recognition they much deserved, and the World Premiere added to the prestige of Alvernia University itself. Alvernia University Theatre (AUT) is not only making its name known around campus but throughout all of the Eastern Region. Alvernia has teamed up with other theatre companies such as Albright College and Kutztown University to provide opportunities for seeing performances at other locations. The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) has also provided a showcase for Alvernia’s talent. This festival is a chance for the performers to network with other companies, professional and amateur, view other college performances, and improve skills in the field of theatre from every angle of the performance. AUT has not even begun its unbelievable journey. Construction on Francis Hall brings improvements for the theatre department and the addition of the B.A. in Theatre shall surely encourage prospective students to enter into the development of the program. And with the first Theatre Majors set to graduate, AUT looks forward to seeing them join the ranks of Alvernia Theatre Alums such as Rachel Penny and Donald Dilliplane. What does the future hold in store for the Alvernia University Theatre Program? A full production of a musical is a definite goal for both the Theatre and Music programs. Dr. Thomas’s hope for the future of the AUT Program provides for “a somewhat easier space to work in with appropriate support and storage spaces, and a large group of students who enjoy working with each other to make interesting projects that make our audiences laugh, cry, and think.” The future is bright for this group of talented individuals, and with the continued support of faculty, administration, the community, and most importantly the Alvernia student body, the Alvernia University Theatre Program will hopefully never cease to encourage the art of being human.
ARIES (March 21-April 19): You bring a lot of mental skills and understanding to whatever you do. Today may be one of those days where you seem to be spending more time in giving advice to others than you are in achieving results from your own work. You may find yourself in a situation where you will feel bold in expressing your opinions. Despite your achievements be sure to have patience with those who are less experienced. Find the preferred way to get ahead by asking questions, being polite and graceful as you were when you first started. Your growth and maturity will soon be attributed to your knowledge. Financial gain is in store. This is a great time to reflect and understand life and the paths you have traveled.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Right now, reaching a goal depends on your attitude. You are able to use your common sense to get ahead and make advancements where your planned achievements are concerned. You tend to make all the right moves, so do not second guess yourself. Good fortune and plain old luck are on your side. Life’s problems seem manageable and easy to solve. On the home front, old traditions may be enjoyed, perhaps through decorating and entertaining. Family members will notice your determination and you will receive praise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Mostly everyone surrounding you today is energetic and ready to move forward with projects. Having confidence in your own abilities makes it easy for you to rise above the usual routine and gain from your surroundings. Look around, there are exciting things happening in every corner so be sure not to miss out! Your friends are more intelligent than you think so be sure not to degrade them. Tonight is a time to recap and enjoy a movie with friends or family.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Answers to some troubling questions are easier to find today. File through ideas and concepts and use them to your advantage. Communicate and express them to others. Many think that the lack of money is the beginning of more troubling times, but have faith for this is not what it appears to be. You can use this lack of money around you and work to help others and serve the community in order to gain an appreciation for those who are less fortunate. Helping those who cannot help themselves is an essential lesson worth learning.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Everything seems to be running smoothly. It should be easy for you to push forward with new ideas or changes that you have been thinking of lately. If you have felt hesitant to bring up a subject, now is the best time to act. Things will seem almost magical in the way they work out in your favor. You have great timing and are able to get many things accomplished. Make time for friends tonight, they have been discussing how your work has taken over all your spare time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This is a good day to get things accomplished! Make it a point to take your breaks and get out-of-doors during the lunch break because the office or classroom could cause you to lose focus. There is a great demand for concentration and staying focused. You tend to be creative and original in your work, managing to bring new ideas and spontaneity to all things is what makes you stand out from the rest. You can afford to take risks today, so dare to be a little unconventional.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The confidence that you have gained in your work or educational surroundings may create a situation where you will feel bold in expressing your opinions. Despite your achievements be sure to have patience with those who are less experienced. Find the preferred way to get ahead by asking questions, being polite and graceful as you were when you first started. Your growth and maturity will soon be attributed to your knowledge. Financial gain is in store. This is a great time to reflect and understand life and the paths you have traveled.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You are feeling good—everything in your life just seems to be in order, alphabetically. However, if one thing becomes misplaced do not overreact for this out-of-order sequence will encourage new ideas. It may even create an opportunity for you to move up the ladder of success. Give things plenty of thought before acting on instinct. Perhaps some research is all you need to reach a final decision. Demonstrate your beliefs in showing concern for the needs of others. Those who are young and still in their formative years seek your advice, guide them towards the right path, because they are highly influential at this time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may find yourself in a disapproving mood; whether it deals with a family decision, a friend’s advice or even a teacher or boss’s assignment. Decisions made right now may have to be rethought later on so be aware and take your time in choosing. Great opportunities are in store for you to rise above your own limitations! Neighbors or family members may have a big impact on your future goals where professional plans are concerned. There are new goals to think about now. A relaxed evening with music or a good book can help you to refresh your energy and reach a decision on your future plans.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Events make it easy for you to be original, have breakthroughs and find new solutions to old problems. With little patience for roadblocks you insist on getting right to the heart of any question. Any advances you make that create growth for the community, environment or well-being are appreciated and enjoyed by all. You must exercise patience with those who have little knowledge of its importance. Major issues of ownership are in store.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your health and other obligations are important, but your health should be put first on the “to-do list.” Once that is complete set up a system of schedules and stick to them! You may experience dissatisfaction with what your schedules may consist of (perhaps a root canal) but everything is in your best interest. This can be a romantic time as well, whether you already involved or looking to become involved. You have new ideas that are creative and you should stop at nothing to express them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may have to excuse yourself from some of the interactions with co-workers today in order to get your own work accomplished. Right now is certainly a time for thinking and ideas. Sorting things out and getting organized will promote efficiency, but it also keeps you quite busy. With your attitude, much can be accomplished. This afternoon is a different atmosphere in that obtaining and exchanging information and becoming more involved with others can be enjoyed between a friend(s) or sibling(s). Relax with a favorite snack and beverage and listen to some music that you have put aside until now.
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)**

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<th>Undergraduate</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 109-W1: Human Biology</td>
<td>MBA 520-W1: Marketing Services</td>
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<td>HIS 112-W1: Study of American History</td>
<td>MBA 670-W1: Corporate Communications</td>
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<td>PHI 105-W1: Introduction to Philosophy</td>
<td>MED 508-W1: Advanced Educational Psychology</td>
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<td>PSY 101-W1: Introduction to Psychology</td>
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**BLENDED COURSES (Dec. 14 - Jan. 15)**

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<td>COR 510-W1: Moral Leadership</td>
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<td>ENG 103-W1: Intro to Poetry</td>
<td>COR 600-W1: Prof. &amp; Organizational Leadership</td>
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<td>PED 304-W1: Wellness for Life</td>
<td>MED 505-W1: Intro to Special Needs Students</td>
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<td>MED 610-W1: School Law and Social Advocacy</td>
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**CLASSROOM COURSES (Jan. 4 - Jan. 15)**

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<td>BUS 248-W1: Macroeconomics</td>
<td>MAT 208-W1: Intro to Statistics</td>
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<td>CIS 190-W1: MS Word Bootcamp</td>
<td>MUS 220-W1: Music &amp; Health</td>
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<td>CIS 190-W2: MS Excel Bootcamp</td>
<td>PSY 290-W1: Positive Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>COM 290-W1: Books to Film</td>
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For more information, please call us at 610-796-8228 or email: gradandce@alvernia.edu