DNA & the Divine
Science and religion collide over designer genes
When Tuskegee Airman Eugene Richardson spoke at Alvernia this spring as part of Black History Month, he captivated a capacity crowd. His account detailed how the first African American military aviators in the United States armed forces rose above adversity and racial discrimination to open doors that were once closed to black Americans.

Read the full story on page 32
As summer returns to Alvernia and the excitement of commencement begins to fade, I find myself marveling at the year just ending. In the aftermath of our anniversary celebration and achievement of university status, this past year has been a time of remarkable progress and future promise. Amidst economic challenges for higher education and all of American society, Alvernia has begun its second half-century in grand fashion!

It has also, of course, been a year marked by great sadness, but also appreciation, as we ponder the legacy of our dear Sister Pacelli. Sister was an Alvernia treasure who represented our best selves and our highest aspirations as an academic community. She was a visionary academic leader, a devoted teacher-scholar, a Renaissance woman, a delightful and witty colleague, and above all, an inspirational Franciscan.

You will enjoy the eloquent tribute to Sister Pacelli by one of her former students, Sister Rosemary Stets, on the inside back cover of the magazine. And mark your calendar for a celebration of Sister Pacelli to be held Homecoming Weekend on Saturday, Oct. 9, at 4 p.m., in the Francis Hall auditorium.

Speaking of our magazine, you will notice we have a vibrant new look. It is intended to better reflect the heart and soul of Alvernia and also to bring alive the intellectual voice of our university. With a smart new design, expanded articles, new sections, more pictures, and enhanced coverage of our faculty’s achievements, the Alvernia Magazine will continue to tell our story in a way that does us all proud. I hope you enjoy it.

As we all know well, service is at the heart of Alvernia’s story. Or as I say to prospective students, “service is part of our DNA!” Whether through efforts to help earthquake victims or protect the environment, Alvernia students are a force to be reckoned with. With our three University Days of Service and the wide-ranging programs of the Holleran Center for Community Engagement, Alvernia is being recognized as a national model of civic engagement and community service.

The Center received a $600,000 federal grant earlier this year to expand its South Reading Youth Initiative to help even more children from the South Reading area. Small wonder Alvernia has been named again to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, this time designated “With Distinction” in a highly selective category.

The Alternative Breaks Program, coordinated by Campus Ministry, saw Alvernia students and staff travel to locations as far as Ecuador, West Virginia, and New Orleans and as near as Reading to tackle caulking and painting projects, demolish a house, work in after-school programs, reflect on social justice issues, and explore spirituality and religious faith. Student participation in the program is up over 100% from last year. More evidence that Alvernia students, like our alumni, do good while doing well!

Alvernia is being recognized as a national model of civic engagement and community service.

Our resident students who have returned home for the summer have been replaced by always-welcome construction workers who are busy on several initiatives. Included among them is a new Educational Technology Center that incorporates distance education capabilities that will continue the transformation of Bernardine Hall. Even more exciting are the initial steps in the renovation of historic Francis Hall, as we make improvements to the building’s infrastructure, including an elevator, and turn the auditorium into Alvernia’s first recital hall and theater.

Great progress continues at Alvernia that is drawing interest from students far and wide. So stop by and visit us this summer — you are always welcome!

Thomas F. Flynn
President

Alvernia University Magazine
Alvernia hosting first Updike conference

It seems only fitting that Updike scholars would return to the simple small town of John Updike’s childhood to gather for an international conference that celebrates his work. Such an honor is typically reserved for only the most revered authors, like Hemingway and Fitzgerald. Many believe Updike belongs in that company.

And so this October, the literary world will focus on Alvernia University and the Reading area where Updike was born and raised for the very first John Updike Society Biennial Conference.

According to the New York Times, Updike was perhaps the most prominent writer of his generation who was equally prolific and respected as a critic. Twice Updike won the Pulitzer Prize in fiction (for Rabbit Is Rich and Rabbit at Rest), one of only three American writers to earn that distinction.

Along with more than 30 novels and collections of stories, Updike published nine volumes of poetry and memoirs. His first book was published the same year of Alvernia’s founding (1958). “Alvernia is honored to host the very first Updike Conference,” said Alvernia President Thomas Flynn, himself a professor of modern American literature. “Updike was one of the great American writers of the 20th century, and it’s fitting that a society would come together to promote reader interest in his work.”

After Updike’s death in 2009, the Society was formed to build awareness of the writer and his career. With members in more than 11 countries, the group is devoting its first conference to celebrate the prolific writer’s masterwork, Rabbit, Run, which marks its 50th publishing anniversary in 2010. The novel gave readers the iconic character Harry “Rabbit” Angstrom, an American Everyman. “Updike’s most famous creation, Rabbit Angstrom, has become, like Huckleberry Finn, an American icon,” said Dr. James Schiff, editor of the Society’s journal, The John Updike Review.

“In his general appeal to an enormous and varied readership, Updike has few peers,” said scholar Jack De Bellis, who with Updike’s local contact Dave Silcox will serve as co-director of the conference. Updike published one book each year over a career that made him one of America’s literary legends.

The conference, primarily for Society members, will showcase recent research and critical studies. Conference participants will tour local Reading sites important to Updike and his fiction. “We hope this conference will contribute to the continued interest in John Updike’s literature and life, ideally leading to even more critical responses to his works,” said Society President James Plath, who edited Conversations with John Updike.

Public events will include panel discussions featuring Updike’s classmates and keynote presentations by acclaimed author Ann Beattie (whose story Janus was included in Updike’s Best American Short Stories of the Century) and nationally recognized painter Lincoln Perry.

“The Updike Society could have chosen any number of venerable institutions to host this conference,” said Sue Guay, assistant professor of English and communication, who is helping to coordinate the conference with the Society. “That they selected Alvernia reinforces a distinctive dimension of our university.”

For information about the First Biennial John Updike Society Conference or to join The John Updike Society, visit www.alvernia.edu/john updike.

Neag professorships created

Educational quality, a key strategic priority for Alvernia, has taken a giant step forward with the recent establishment of two Neag professorships. Named for Ray and Carole Neag, generous friends of Alvernia for many years, the professorships will partially endow faculty positions to support scholarly research and writing, while promoting such work on campus. Faculty in these professorships, who will initially carry a 2½ year appointment, will be selected and renewed by President Flynn.

One professorship will be devoted to professional programs, with focus on graduate education; the other will be directed at the undergraduate liberal arts programs. These faculty endowments are the first of their kind at Alvernia.

“No donors have cared as much about our faculty as Ray and Carole Neag,” said J. Michael Pressimone, vice president of advancement. “Their endowed professorships will help us recruit and retain top scholar-teachers within the ranks of our faculty. We are grateful for their ongoing support of the university and their visionary investments to strengthen our academic quality. “The first Neag professors will be named this fall.
occupied by retailers. "It's clear that more adult learners are continuing their education in order to get a leg up in a challenging economy," said Dean Kathy Davis, Ph.D., associate vice president for adult education and dean of the School of Graduate Studies. "Our goal is to fill a growing need for educational opportunities and prepare area residents to advance in their careers or start new ones."

The new central location (at the intersections of Routes 61 and 183) will make Alvernia's bachelor's and master's degree programs even more accessible to the local community, with nearby bus routes and plenty of free parking. "We want to help adult students to successfully juggle personal lives and job responsibilities while earning a top-quality education that will serve them long after they've graduated from the University," said Davis. "A larger location in the heart of Schuylkill County helps us do just that."

The new facility features eight classrooms, two laptop computer labs, SMART classroom technology, and generous lounge areas for students and staff. As adult learners continue to look for better career avenues, many will take advantage of the Alvernia Schuylkill Center's flexible evening and weekend schedule. "We take pride in giving each student the personal attention and support that everyone needs in today’s 'fast-paced, take-a-number' society," explained Davis.

Godfrey appointed AFCU exec. director

Theology professor takes important role with AFCU

Alvernia's Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and theology professor Dr. Kevin Godfrey has been named the Executive Director of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) effective July 1.

Dr. Godfrey succeeds Sr. Gabrielle Kowalski, Ph.D., the first director of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities. "I am truly excited about the opportunity to help chart a course for the future of the AFCU and honored that they have selected me for this role," said Godfrey. "I look forward to using my personal and professional experiences to further Franciscan higher education on behalf of AFCU's member schools, which is something my time at Alvernia has well prepared me for."

With Dr. Godfrey’s appointment, the national office of the AFCU will move from its Wisconsin location in Cardinal Stritch University to Alvernia University and will continue to support all 22 Franciscan colleges and universities.

His expertise and administrative credentials helped Dr. Godfrey clearly stand out as the top candidate during the Board of Directors' extensive search and interview process. "We are so fortunate to have found someone like Kevin who possesses a depth of scholarly expertise in Catholic theology as well significant personal and professional experiences in Franciscan studies," said Sister Elise Kriss, chair of the AFCU Board of Directors and president of the University of Saint Francis. "His academic background, administrative talents, and leadership experience will be a great asset in moving our organization forward."

Among his AFCU duties, Godfrey will coordinate the development of a Franciscan Leadership Academy, a new initiative designed to prepare future leaders at colleges and universities. He will also work with the AFCU board and member institutions to chart the strategic direction for the organization.

After completing his term as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in June, Godfrey will return to the full-time faculty, splitting his time between AFCU duties and teaching theology.

President’s honor roll

Alvernia recognized for community service accomplishments

Alvernia has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, with Distinction, by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Honor Roll recognizes the highest levels of the federal government, for the university’s commitment to service and civic engagement on campus and in our nation.

"The Holleran Center is pleased that once again, the President’s Higher Education Honor Roll has recognized Alvernia University’s commitment to community service and civic engagement,” said Director Ginny Hand. “As one of only 17 higher education institutions in Pennsylvania to earn this recognition with Distinction in 2009, we are grateful for the acknowledgment.

Pictured left to right: Tim Seip (PA State Representative, 125th District), Jerry Knowles (PA State Representative, 124th District), Thomas F. Flynn, Ph.D. (Alvernia President), Senator David Argall (29th District), and Ed Kleha (Schuylkill County Chair) prepare for the ceremonial ribbon cutting at the new Schuylkill Center facility.
that our curricular and extracurricular student programs continue to make a positive difference in our community.”

The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, launched in 2006, annually recognizes institutions of higher education for their commitment to and achievement in community service. It is designed to increase the public’s awareness of contributions that colleges and their students make to local communities and the nation as a whole.

Alvernia’s Holleran Center for Community Engagement (HCCE) is a model for other institutions, connecting college students with community needs. “Our students see results from a number of broad-ranging programs that help community members of all ages,” explained Hand. “These include efforts like the South Reading Youth Initiative after-school program for middle school students, to an innovative initiative that connects our nursing students with area seniors living in elderly high-rise apartments to help with health issues, to community service days in various nonprofit agencies. These activities and their results encourage our students to make a lifelong commitment to serve in their communities.”

Holleran program receives grant

Dept. of Justice gives $600,000 to SRYI

Alvernia University and U.S. Congressman Jim Gerlach recently announced a special $600,000 grant from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The new grant will support expansion of Alvernia’s South Reading Youth Initiative (SRYI).

The SRYI is an innovative youth program for Reading’s inner-city students ages 7-14 and is funded completely by grants and the support of Alvernia’s Holleran Center for Community Engagement.

The initiative began in 2006 when a group of community leaders expressed mutual concern regarding the attrition rates in the Reading School District and the correspondingly disappointing rates of college attendance (specifically among the Hispanic and Latino populations).

Reading Mayor Thomas McMahon, Senator Michael O’Pake, and Jonathan Encarnacion of Reading’s Hispanic Center joined together with Alvernia President Thomas P. Flynn and representatives from the Jesuit Center in Wernersville to discuss a solution.

“The group recognized that no after-school programs existed in the South Reading area that provided a ‘safe haven’ for children in the after-school hours, allowing them to stay committed to their education and make healthy choices during their critical decision-making years,” said Dr. Flynn.

Initial funding for the SRYI program came in the form of a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, secured with the support of Sen. O’Pake.

A gift Taylor made

When country star Taylor Swift celebrated her birthday, she had gift-giving on her mind.

Superstar entertainer Taylor Swift has many credits to her name, including Artist of the Year and Grammy Award winner, and she’s given more than a few memorable shows.

But one of her most remarkable performances came well before she was a household name, and it took place on Alvernia’s campus. In 2000, when the Wyomissing, Pa., native was just 11 years old, she took center stage at the Physical Education Center to belt out a memorable version of the Star Spangled Banner as a prelude to the annual Red Cross Celebrity Tennis Tournament. The performance drew raves and foreshadowed great things to come.

But that wasn’t her first connection with Alvernia. That came many years earlier, when she attended the Alvernia Montessori School. Swift remembered her Alvernia roots recently, in honor of her birthday, with a generous financial gift to support the Montessori School.

“Because of our recent move to a bigger facility, our resources were tight and we had not been able to purchase all the playground equipment or academic support supplies we wanted,” said Sister Ann Marie Coll, the school’s director. “So the timing of Taylor’s contribution was even more humbling than her thoughtfulness.”

“My daughter Taylor attended pre-school and kindergarten at Alvernia Montessori and loved her time there with Sister Ann Marie, Sister Philip Ann, and all of the other sisters,” said mother Andrea Swift. “She began writing in a journal at the age of 5 during class time at Alvernia, and I’m sure that this contributed to Taylor’s love of writing.”

The nuns at the school remember Taylor fondly as a sweet, smart, and inquisitive young student. “She was a little shy in school, but she always liked to sing,” Coll said. “When she was in grade school, she came back and played guitar for the children.”

Staff at the school were so appreciative of the gift Taylor made, they had their students create individual valentines and a poster that were mailed to the country music star in February. With the notes of gratitude came an invitation to come back soon to help celebrate the school’s 40th anniversary this year.

No word yet whether Taylor can fit a stop in on her busy world tour, but regardless, she remains a favorite with the Sisters and students and has made a lasting positive mark on the school and Alvernia.
Within a month, the Holleran Center for Community Engagement held its first Creativity Camp with a week’s worth of activities for 27 inner-city students in grades two through eight. Now in its fourth year, the SRYI has touched the lives of hundreds of children and their parents, with programming designed to guide area students to personal achievement, social responsibility, and moral integrity.

“The program currently has more than 25 community partners and has received funds from still many others, including Jerry and Carolyn Holleran, for whom the Holleran Center is now named,” said Ginny Hand, Director of the Holleran Center.

Carpenter scholars debut
Program supports students, faculty
To kindle increased research and provide support for the scholarly activities of students and faculty, a new Carpenter Scholars program has been created, with the program’s first recipients being named this fall.

The program is supported by funds from the Carpenter Technology Corporation, a Reading-based global leader in the development, manufacturing, and distribution of stainless steel and specialty alloys. Throughout its history, Alvernia has enjoyed a strong relationship with Carpenter, and a number of prominent corporate executives have served on Alvernia’s board, including current trustee Sumil Widge, chief technology officer emeritus.

“Enhanced research activities supported by the Carpenter Scholars program will certainly bolster the quality of teaching and scholarship for both our students and faculty,” said Alvernia’s Provost Shirley Williams.

Overseen by the Holleran Center and the Carpenter Fellowship Committee, the Scholars program will support community-based research addressing important societal needs. Collaborative projects teaming faculty and student scholars will be strongly encouraged through the program.

When possible, Carpenter faculty scholars will enter into a relationship with counterparts at Carpenter to create industry-relevant research projects.

Sigma Tau Delta convention
Students and faculty shine at annual event
More than 950 people from 165 colleges and universities (as far away as Alaska and Kuwait) attended the 2010 Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society Conference in St. Louis last March, making it the largest convention in the organization’s history. Yet among all the participants, one in particular stood out.

Carrie Fitzpatrick, Alvernia Assistant Professor of English, Communication, and CIS, was joined at the event by 12 undergraduate students, two graduate students, and three other faculty members from Alvernia. As chairperson of the conference, Fitzpatrick organized more than 215 sessions, gave several speeches, and introduced a number of green initiatives that will be adopted for future conventions. She was also honored for 10 years of service as a chapter sponsor and reelected to the Board of Directors.

However, she was not the only Alvernan to be honored at the event. Beth DeMeo, chair of the English, communication, and CIS department, received a standing ovation for the group’s most prestigious award: the Delta Award. The award is given for exceptional service on a national level. She was only the eighth recipient in the 85-year history of the society.

An impressive 13 members of the Alvernia community assisted in a double-blind judging of more than 900 critical essays, creative non-fiction, poetry, fiction, and panel proposals.

The Alvernia cohort won the Better World Books Service Award and collaborated in researching and presenting two separate panels. Professor Jodi Radosh and six students (Carly Glasmyre, Aida Garmen, Heather Kissing, Jessica Slavin, Rebecca Wasser, and Rebecca Wisniewski) explored the current popularity of gothic and modern vampire literature and films with their “Sucked In: Hot Confessions of Not-So-Cold-Blooded Vampire Addicts” panel.

Professor DeMeo worked with five students (Sean Cullen, Sean Gibbons, Sarah Heckman, Laura Hefner, and Kristopher Rogers) to posthumously “try” the character of Captain Vere from Melville’s Billy Budd in their panel “Billy Budd’s Captain Vere: Convening the Court.”

To find out more about the annual convention and the International English Honor Society, visit Sigma Tau Delta on the web: www.english.org.

Flynn co-chairs task force
Alvernia President tapped to co-chair library group
It’s no secret, Berks County libraries are in trouble. With decreased hours and staff cuts, many area libraries are also eliminating purchases of new materials and reducing services. In fact, even

Bishop’s visit

During his recent campus visit, Allentown Diocese Bishop John O. Barres toured campus and met with President Flynn (above), as well as faculty and students. Bishop Barres, who played basketball as a Princeton student, also made a stop at the gym to meet with the men’s basketball team and show off his playing skills. 
the popular book mobile program was dramatically affected last year. Officials are worried that Berks County libraries are surviving at subsistence levels without any contingency to rely on for unforeseen challenges or essential needs.

“Now is the time to act,” said Dr. Thomas F. Flynn, president of Alvernia University, who with Karen Rightmire, president of the Wyomissing Foundation, is working to make a difference in area libraries by co-chairing the Berks County Libraries Task Force. "Our county libraries are a critical community resource. We need to develop a long-term strategy to ensure we have a first-rate library system appropriate for the 21st century," said Flynn.

Working with an impressive group of area leaders, the pair hopes to create a comprehensive plan for a sustainable structure for libraries in Berks County, rather than create a short-term "band-aid."

“The Berks County Community Foundation created the task force to develop recommendations that will ensure our local libraries are adequately funded and organized,” Rightmire said. “Libraries are key community resources that connect people to information in a variety of ways that go beyond traditional book lending. It is critical, particularly in this economy, that the libraries remain open and accessible.”

Throughout the summer, task force teams will focus on critical areas including best practices, the Reading Public Library, and Community Input. The teams will use what they have learned to develop recommendations for a comprehensive 21st century library system.

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Earth Day 2010

More than 100 Alvernia students, faculty, and staff members donned gloves and went outside for this year’s annual Earth Day celebration and day of service on Thursday, April 22.

This year’s celebration began with shuttles to St. Joe’s Villa Courtyard, Angelica Park, and the Schuylkill River Trail, where volunteers worked to clean up natural areas. Earth Day marked the last of three service days for the academic year, which included Founders Day (September) and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January).

After completing service projects, participants joined community members on campus for a variety of Earth Day-themed events, including “Determining your Carbon Footprint” and “Residence Hall Olympics.” A special tree was dedicated to Sister Fabia and Biology Professor Jim Klucarits spoke about Earth Day to participants.

On Friday, the new wetland area in Angelica Park and the proposed community Environmental Education Center was celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony, followed by an “Eco Fun Day” event for more than 300 sixth grade students from the nearby Gateway School for Agriculture, Science, and Ecology at Millmont Elementary.

A nature trail with stations throughout the wetland was staffed by professors, students, and volunteers from community organizations.

Eco Fun Day was coordinated by Alvernia’s science department with representatives from the science club, environmental club, and the Angelica Environmental Education Center Committee.

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Campus News

Marjan Bompadre (biology professor), left, and Gretchen Greenwald (intravarsity staff members) helped clear weeds from Angelica Park as part of this year’s Earth Day of Service.

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Honors convocation

Faculty and students receive awards

Each year, Alvernia celebrates the academic achievements of students and faculty during its spring Honors Convocation. It is an occasion to recognize the scholarly works of faculty members who have authored academic works, presented findings on new ideas, performed musical pieces and received awards and grants during the year. It is also a time to spotlight student accomplishment. This year, almost 50 departmental awards were presented to graduating students and faculty from all disciplines across campus.

In addition, University Awards were given to outstanding students and faculty for a range of accomplishments. This year’s award recipients included the following:

• Bridge Burger and Zach Lockwood received Scholar Athlete Awards. These awards are given to male and female senior athletes with the highest cumulative grade point averages. Its purpose is to encourage, recognize, and reward outstanding academic achievement of intercollegiate four-year varsity sport letter winners.

• Burger, a sport management major with a cumulative GPA of 3.8 was a four-year leader of the women’s cross country program and three-time team Most Valuable Player. She was named Second Team All-Pennsylvania Athletic Conference as a freshman and was named to Conference All-Academic teams in each of her four years as a player.

• Lockwood majored in accounting and earned a cumulative GPA of 3.7. He was a four-year member of the men’s tennis team and a member of the first-ever NCAA qualifying team in 2007. He was named to the conference All-Academic team every year and was a two-time team MVP.

Maureen Plover received The Franciscan Peace and Justice Award. This award is given to a graduating senior who demonstrates a spirit of service and leadership in academic and co-curricular activities, promoting diversity and respect for all people. Through her participation in a pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome, her work in helping fellow students to learn about world hunger, and organizing aid for earthquake victims in Haiti, Plover demonstrated an outstanding commitment to Alvernia’s Franciscan values. After graduation, Plover will continue her passion for peace and justice by participating in a one-year service program.

Kelsey Brown and Lauren Kurak were named this year’s Senior Scholars. Each year, Alvernia’s Honors and Awards Committee collaborates with the Academic Standards Committee to select one student — the Senior Scholar — to receive a major scholarship used on senior year tuition at the university. The lengthy selection process involves pouring through applications, transcripts, and references to find one student with the right combination of focus, vision, academic excellence, and humanity.

This year, two students, Brown and Kurak, stood out equally and shared the Senior Scholar title and $10,000 award. Both students will represent Alvernia at campus and external functions as needed, and will complete a senior research project with the guidance of a chosen faculty partner.

Brown is a dual major in business management and human resources management who has flourished at Alvernia. As Senior Scholar, Brown will research the role of human resource management in the success of small and medium-sized businesses.
Students lead Haiti aid efforts

Although aftershocks from the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that rocked Haiti’s cities and rural neighborhoods in January have long subsided, the devastation continues to impact the lives of 1.3 million people made homeless. An estimated three million were affected by the quake and the Haitian Government reports that up to 230,000 people have died, with an estimated 300,000 injured.

Fourteen Alvernia students, faculty, and staff members participating in service projects with the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters at their facility in nearby Santo Domingo — just a few hundred miles away from the epicenter — skirted harm’s way, as did student Courtney Renshaw. Renshaw, a senior athletic training major, was working at an orphanage just outside Port-au-Prince when the earthquake struck. She escaped injury but was witness to the devastation and helped with relief efforts.

On campus, students took action almost immediately to help victims. That support would continue for an amazing five months through the organized efforts of the Student Government Association, Campus Ministry, and the Office of Student Activities.

Phase I fundraising kicked off during the campus Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration in January. Efforts included a special “Sundaes for Change for Haiti” event in the Crusader Café, where ice cream sundaes were sold for spare change, as well a campaign of support. But really, I am not surprised. This kind of compassion and outreach to those in need is typical of our students. Our student response to the Haiti earthquake was simply amazing,” said Vice President for University Life and Dean of Students Joseph J. Cicala. “We are all so very impressed with the way they responded to this tragedy with a five-month long campaign of support. But really, I am not surprised. This kind of compassion and outreach to those in need is typical of our students and it truly is a point of pride.”

Phase II involved collecting needed items like clothing, nonperishable food goods, toys, sanitary items, and first aid supplies that were distributed in Haiti through the Reading-based Caribbean Community Group. Phase III of the multi-month support program culminated with a stage performance by popular comedian and writer from NBC’s “The Office” B.J. Novak. His routine was a hit with students and community members alike who crowded into the Physical Education Center in late April to catch the young star’s comedy routine. Proceeds from ticket sales supported Mercy Corps’ ongoing efforts in Haiti.

“Students lead Haiti aid efforts” by Alvernia University Magazine

Campus News

Donatella award goes to Porrazzo

The Sister Donatella Legacy Award is an annual award presented to a faculty member of long-standing service to the university in teaching, advising, service, and support. Awardees are faculty members who embrace Alvernia’s Franciscan values both professionally and personally and who demonstrate the university’s mission through their teaching and work with students.

“If that doesn’t describe this year’s Sister Donatella awardee, it can’t describe anyone,” said presenter Polly Mathys, professor of computer information systems at Alvernia, as she presented the 2010 award to Tom Porrazzo, associate professor of athletic training.

With a Ph.D. in Kinesiology from Temple University and six different health-related certifications, Porrazzo serves as head athletic trainer at Alvernia. In addition to a full and demanding academic load, Porrazzo can be seen at a wide variety of campus

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athletic events, tending to the injuries of both Alvernia and opposition athletes.

He serves on several faculty committees, including the Academic Standards Committee — where he protects standards while providing the best opportunity for students to meet those standards. “For Tom, the entire student experience is all about growth: intellectually, socially, and morally,” explained Mathys. “In fact, he always reaches a class during the winter term, offering an opportunity for students — especially at-risk athletes — to pick up some credits,” said Mathys. “What they don’t realize is that he bundles life experience lessons and three weeks of intensive mentoring into their experience.”

Mathys recounted a faculty meeting in the Bernardine Lecture Hall many years ago, when a colleague tripped down the stairs and landed at the bottom in great pain. “While all the rest of us sat there in shock, Tom rushed to his side and — with both skill and great compassion — tended to his needs,” said Mathys. “I can see that image still, and it had to be 15 years ago.”

Porrazzo and his wife Gail have four children: two are teenaged sons (one, a freshman soccer player at Alvernia), and the other two are young daughters they recently adopted.

Since 1988, Porrazzo has been a missionary, a physical education instructor, a coach, an NCAA faculty athletics representative, an athletic trainer, a professor, and a trainer of trainers at Alvernia. “There is a common thread to all of these titles,” said Mathys. “Service to others — making Porrazzo a perfect recipient for the 2010 Sister Donatella Legacy Award.”

New initiative Superintendent certification program launched

Helping students to reach their potential takes more than administrative training — it takes leadership. That’s why Alvernia University is now offering a Superintendent’s Letter of Eligibility Certification program for graduate students.

The new program provides an opportunity for students to obtain a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania certification that will open doors for several positions, including superintendent, assistant superintendent, supervisor of curriculum and instruction, supervisor of pupil personnel services, and elementary, middle, or secondary principal.

“The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the employment of education administrators will grow,” said Sister Margaret Anne Dougherty, associate professor and coordinator of the Principal and Superintendent’s letter certification programs. “So our students can be in demand, while doing what they love.”

Alvernia has developed this unique program for those seeking educational leadership positions. It is designed to prepare them to be strategic system leaders who can effectively and ethically bring about continuous system improvements that result in increased student achievement.

Spencer S. Stober, professor of biology — who was instrumental in getting the program off the ground, believes that earning the Superintendent’s Letter of Eligibility Certification while working toward a Ph.D. in leadership is a dynamic experience filled with theory and practice.

“This program combines a number of unique features not generally found in most superintendent certification programs,” he said. “It aims to develop self-directed and competent district-wide administrators who are capable of decision-making in all phases of their professional responsibilities.”

Certification by the state of Pennsylvania requires a minimum of five years of building administrative experience as a certified principal or assistant principal. The five years of administrative experience must be completed before endorsement will be granted by the university.

Visit alvernia.edu for more information about this and other graduate programs offered.

Faculty news

Faculty scholarly efforts on the rise

Scholarly work of Alvernia’s faculty members as well as their active discourse, publication, and participation in conferences for their respective fields, continues to offer an impressive testimony to their talents that well reflects the academic strength of the university. Below are a few highlights of select recent activities, accomplishments, and awards given to faculty members. More can be found on Alvernia’s website at www.alvernia.edu.

Publications

Dolores Bertoti

Associate professor of occupational therapy and athletic training


The National Athletic Training Association invited Professor Bertoti to write a peer review for publication in its scholarly publication — NATA News.

Scott Ballantyne, Ed.D., PRSBA

Associate professor of Business

Beth A. Berret, Ed.D., SPHR

Associate professor of Business

William A. Harst, Ed.D.

Associate professor of education (retired)

Co-authored “Tenure Track Faculty Perceptions of Leadership Capacity in Adjunct Faculty: The Need to Maintain Franciscan Identity,” published in the American Society of Business and Behavioral Sciences 2010 Proceedings. The purpose of this study was to determine the perception of full-time faculty regarding the leadership capability of adjunct faculty in institutional governance and Franciscan brand identity. It was presented at the Eastern Education Research Association (EERA) Conference, February 2010.
Stober to lead ethics center; Tiglioglu named for Ph.D. program

A number of important appointments were made recently related to key university programs. Dr. Spencer Stober, professor of biology and director of the Ph.D. program in leadership, was named Director of the Center for Ethics and Leadership. He succeeds Dr. Gerald Vigna, the center’s founding director, who is returning to the humanities department to teach undergraduate and graduate theology classes.

In addition, Dr. Tufan Tiglioglu, associate professor in business and director of the MBA degree program, has accepted the position as Director of the Ph.D. in Leadership program, filling the opening created by Dr. Stober’s new appointment. All appointments are effective July 1.

“On behalf of the entire university community, I thank Spence, Tufan, and Jerry for their continued hard work to make Alvernia an institution committed to its Franciscan mission,” said Provost Shirley Williams. “I look forward to working with all of them in their new roles.”

Alvernia’s Center for Ethics and Leadership is designed to create dialogue, education, and service opportunities with members of the Alvernia, local and regional communities. Dr. Stober’s strong academic background and work with numerous community organizations has well prepared him to direct the leadership programs under the center’s “umbrella” of initiatives which includes Leadership Berk’s. The center will maintain its close affiliation with the Holleran Center for Community Engagement and is well positioned for creation of new ventures in the future.

The Ph.D. in leadership program is an interdisciplinary doctoral degree program that provides scholars enrolled in the program with practical leadership experience and the opportunity to apply their skills in a research-rich environment. The program offers three areas of concentration in leadership — corporate, education, and community. Dr. Tiglioglu’s reputation as a rigorous graduate professor and scholar makes him ideal to lead the program and build on the excellent work undertaken during the program’s initial years.

Presentations

Dr. Spencer Stober


Dr. Tufan Tiglioglu

- This paper is the result of a collaborative effort combining results from long-term studies of American Kestrel Nest-Box Programs in North America to examine possible causes of population declines of Kestrels. Potential causes examined include the spread of West Nile Virus, increases in Cooper’s Hawks populations, and loss of suitable habitats.

M. Eva Wecker, M.D., M.B.A

- assistant professor of Biology
- Author of NCELEX Anatomy and Physiology Review Ed.1

This easy-to-read outline lets students review and link to important concepts in AbP for NCELEX exams. The book showcases key facts for in-depth review. The exterior column lists only the most crucial points for quickest review of disease and normal and abnormal laboratory values.

Presentations

Karen Ann V. Cameron, Ph.D., OTR, OTR/L

- Associate professor and program director of occupational therapy

Catherine Emery, MS, OTR/L

- Assistant professor of occupational therapy
- Presented “Outcomes Analysis Using FIM in Adult Rehabilitation” at the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, Pa., October 2009.

This research paper presentation discussed the research-based case findings, examining the effects of reflex neurovascular dystrophy on the adolescent female relative to occupational performance. It showed best evaluation and intervention strategies for the occupational therapist.

Daria T. LaTorre, J.D.

- Associate professor of Criminal Justice
- The undergraduate CJ curriculum should prepare students to become successful criminal justice professionals. What knowledge base and/or skills does a successful student possess upon graduation? Are employers looking for students to possess the requisite substantive knowledge or a specific skill set? Different criminal justice educational models may yield various results, LaTorre concluded.

Kathleen Muzevich, Ed.D.

- Assistant professor of education
Dialogue addressed the dispositions required of those entering the teaching profession. Conversations centered on society’s expectations of teacher professionalism: acting, looking, and becoming the part. Participants discussed initiatives at their institutions that brought about significant changes that hold promise for the improvement of teacher preparation in this area.

Neil H. Penny, OTR/L, Ed.D. assistant professor of occupational therapy
Presented “Evaluating Student Outcomes in the Area of Ethical Reasoning” to the American Occupational Therapy Association 90th Annual Conference and EXPO, Orlando, Fla., April 2010.
Dr. Penny presented the findings from a mixed methodology research design that investigated the usefulness of DIT-2 as a student outcome measure in the area of ethical reasoning. Data was gathered from students and faculty.

Mary B. Schreiner, Ph.D. associate professor of education
Presented “IEP Road Hazards with Defensive Driving Techniques Beginning Teachers Need to Know” for the Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children, November 2009.
The potential perils of the Individual Education Plan, the legal document, and process for students receiving special education, with demonstration of how these perils can be managed effectively, were presented in an interactive workshop to students about to enter the field, joined by teacher educators, parents, and attorney-advocates.

Mary Ellen Symanski, Ph.D., RN associate professor of Nursing
Karen S. Thacker, Ph.D., RN, CNE dean, College of professional programs associate professor of Nursing
In its sixth year, the Pre-Nursing Program gives a second chance to students whose high school records fell below entrance requirements. Many lessons were learned and numerous students overcame the “not good enough” stigma to successfully progress through nursing education.

Mary Ellen Wells, JD, LLM associate professor of Business
This paper analyzed issues regarding the commercial speech doctrine, free speech protection and their inter-relationship with the Federal Trade Commission’s attempt to revise its regulations to incorporate the use of new technologies by marketers, potentially holding them liable for deceptive practices resulting from the buzz they create on the Internet.

Kathleen Z. Wisser, MS, RN, CPHQ assistant professor of Nursing
Presented “The Use of Logic Modeling in Outcome Measurement” at the National Association of Healthcare Quality Annual Conference in Grapevine, Texas, September 2009.
Wisser concluded that programs must cast a critical eye when designing and implementing evaluative processes. This presentation examined how a mental health program used the logic model as a tool for illustrating critical program elements and identified outcomes and ways to measure outcomes for providing quality services and effective financial management.

Awards & Grants
Scott Ballantyne, Ed.D., PRSBA associate professor of Business
Received the 2009 “Excellence in Teaching Award” for Region 2 of the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs, and the 2009 Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award from the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation.

Travis A. Berger, M.Ed. instructor of sport management
Awarded the 23rd Annual IUP Foundation Doctoral Fellowship for the 2009-10 academic year.

Karen Ann V. Cameron, Ph.D., OTR/L associate professor of occupational therapy
Occupational Therapy program director
Awarded the 2009 American Occupational Therapy Association/ American Occupational Therapy Foundation Leadership Fellow.

Frances Ross assistant professor of art
Received the Jack Coggins Memorial Prize for her artwork titled “Indian River” (a pastel painting) at the 32nd Annual Open Juried Art Exhibit at the Reading Public Museum.

Hollywood comes to AU
Spring theatre graced by award-winning actor

In April, Alvernia Theatre brought a touch of Hollywood magic to its spring production of The Seagull, as part of the last production before Francis Hall renovations this summer. The classic Chekhov play featured William Salyers (pictured above, center), an award-winning actor, as Sorin.
Salyers, a professional union actor for many years, has made a career acting in films, television, and theatre as well as providing voices for animated characters in cartoons and video games.
“We were incredibly lucky to bring someone with William’s experience to campus,” said Nathan Thomas, director of theatre at Alvernia University.
“Not only were our students able to work with a very talented artist from the West Coast, but they also were exposed to a depth of experience related to making a career in the various media of show business today.”
Salyers appeared in a recurring role in the television series “Judging Amy.” He appeared in the feature film Bedazzled and independent films including Damaged Goods and Crocodile Tears as well as the John Cabrera short, Crazy Love. Salyers maintains a regular presence in the theater, and has won the prestigious Garland Award for playing the lead role in The Louis Slotin Sonata both in Los Angeles and New York. The Los Angeles Times noted Salyers’ work in Men of Tortuga saying he “mines real comic depth.” Thomas commented, “That’s the reason we wanted him here for a show. He is strong in comedy and drama. He can do it all.”
Alvernia student Rebecca Wisniewski, who played “Vina” in the Alvernia production, was a little overwhelmed when she discovered she’d be working with a professional. “I never thought I’d have an opportunity like this in college,” she said.
Father George Aschenbrenner

“Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine, you are precious in my eyes, you are honored and I love you.”

Isaiah 43

I was first asked about the priesthood as a young student at Reading Central Catholic High School. Truthfully, I really did not want to face the idea seriously at that point, so I moved onto St. Joseph’s College where I had received a scholarship. However, I continued to think about the priesthood throughout my collegiate years, and found encouragement from the Jesuit priests at St. Joe’s who were such a positive force.

As my senior year in college came to an end, I was faced with a decision that all priests must make — to commit my life to Christ or pursue a more secular path. This was not easy because I had many interests at that point — just like any young person would. But in the end, the choice for me was clear and a lot of this was done by the Holy Spirit working beyond my own awareness. I soon entered the Jesuit Novitiate near my home in Reading after graduation and have never looked back or regretted the life I did not pursue.

At Jesuit Novitiate, I learned a lot about the vision and spirituality of St. Ignatius. This spirituality of St. Ignatius has revealed my own true self and identity. It leads me more and more to live this identity. In no way can I walk away from this spirituality; and so I have continued all these years. I was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1965 — and am eager to continue to this day. In my priestly life, I have experienced more joy and love for people — and received more from people — than I could ever had imagined. Mine is a very happy life and truly a life fulfilled.

A priest’s faith

Life for all of us involves loneliness at times. In the way of a priest, this loneliness has a special meaning that has challenged me on occasion. But it has also led me very personally and deeply into God’s love, especially in my relationship with the Risen Jesus today. Nobody is so loving, real, and personally present with me every second of my life as the Risen Jesus. I did not have this very explicitly when I was ordained, but now I cannot think of life without Him.

As a priest I have been called many times to express my belief in faith. This is something that’s not done much these days. I feel that a priest is someone who must give expression in many ways to the religious aspect of our world and lives. This is never easy (and often misunderstood or ridiculed) but it is important for people in our society.

An unexpected test

My faith was tested in October of 2009 while in Orlando giving a retreat to about 45 priests. I fell ill and wound up in a hospital, having suffered a stroke that robbed me of my speech and memory. I have never experienced anything like this before and know that my renewal and recovery is because of God’s goodness and the prayers of many. This has been a very challenging experience for me as a person and priest. After a few more months of rest and prayer, I will move into work again at our Institute for Priestly Formation with many diocesan seminarians and priests.

Whatever one’s vocation — priestly or other — it always involves not getting stuck in ourselves but getting caught in loving and serving others. Though we must learn and trust our vocation from God, life finally is not about ourselves but about service to everybody else, as God has shown us in Jesus. The danger is that we often make too much about ourselves, which often leads to worry and fear, rather than about joy and trust.
I think the greatest event of my 50 years as a priest actually happened at the very beginning of my priesthood. It was the Second Vatican Council. Vatican II had far-reaching effects that continue to this day. I was a priest for only a few years when the council was convened. Some priests — both old and young — did not particularly care for the changes that were initiated with Vatican II. But many of us not only accepted the changes, we looked forward to them.

Many parts of Vatican II influenced ways of thinking and social justice. But what affected people most directly were the liturgical changes. Altars were turned around to face the people. Mass was no longer celebrated in Latin, but in English (or the native language of the country). And there was a new emphasis on the role of laity in the life of the church that has had such a dramatic positive impact in many parishes. Such changes had not taken place in 500 years. It was wonderful!

Effects of change

Those changes continue to reverberate through churches today, and in my home parish of St. Ignatius Loyola, the spirit of Vatican II is very much alive through stewardship programs. Every gift comes from God, and so as a thanksgiving we should want to give back to Him through use of our time, talent, and treasure and to give to Him through service to others.

Of course, this is a cornerstone of stewardship that resonates so strongly in our parish. I’ve found that the earlier you can get someone to embrace stewardship, the better their life will be. It is a conversion process and one of the ways we can combat the ill effects of materialism and secularism.

A papal encounter

Almost 40 years later, I experienced one of the highlights of my priesthood. I went to Rome with other priests celebrating their 40th anniversary and while there, I was invited to con-celebrate the Mass with Pope John Paul II in his private chapel. There were only about 20 others there, and I was asked to proclaim the Gospel. It was an extraordinary moment and such a privilege. Even though his health was failing at that point, the Holy Father was a great example of Christianity — he traveled to so many countries to evangelize the people despite the physical challenges that confronted him. He was a role model for every priest.

My decision to become a priest has proven to be an excellent choice, and I have the privilege of being able to say I never looked back or second-guessed my decision. This is a good life that is full and rich.

But I am troubled by how many people today try to define happiness with dollar bills or by a certain lifestyle or social status. Ultimately, happiness is not measured by position or dollars in our wallets.

Throughout my priesthood, I’ve encouraged others to keep seeking the Lord. Seek out the life of Christ and continue to study Him. It’s important for us to maintain daily conversations with God and build a friendship. You have no greater friend than God.

And what do friends do? They talk a lot. So talk to God through your prayers. He’s never far away and always listens.

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:32
Steve Elmarzouky recently joined the ranks of Alvernia’s Board of Trustees. He is a recognized figure in the Reading area, active Berks County community member, and successful restaurateur. The list of organizations Elmarzouky adds his time and talents toward is extensive: he is founder and president of the Islamic Center of Reading, a chaplain for the Reading Police Department, a volunteer clergy member for the Berks County Prison, and a volunteer teacher for Alvernia Seniors College.

“Steve is widely recognized for his leadership and generous commitments to the citizens of Reading,” said Kathleen D. Herbein ’95, Alvernia’s board chair. “We are fortunate to have Steve involved at our university and look forward to his active participation in our board activities.”

Last year, the Seniors College awarded Elmarzouky the Rabbi Alan Weitzman Award for Community Service at its annual luncheon attended by hundreds of community members. The award recognizes his commitment toward making the community a better place through a life of service to others, especially senior citizens.

Steve recently shared his thoughts on a range of topics.

**Q** How long have you lived in the Berks County area? How did you get your start here?

**A** I was born and raised in Egypt (and still visit there at least once every year). I have a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Egypt’s University of Zagazig and worked as an accountant in a construction company there. After immigrating to the USA in 1979, I moved around the states from the East Coast to the West Coast, and finally settled in Pennsylvania in 1984. I’ve now lived in Berks County for 20 years.

**Q** Between managing three restaurants and staying active in the community, what do you do to relax?

**A** My wife Catherine and I have four grown children: Nora, Zienah, Sabrena, and Zackeraya. Free time is a valued commodity as a restaurateur and director of the Islamic Center, so when I have it, I simply like to spend time with my family.

**Q** What is it like to serve as chaplain for the police department (for three years) and Berks County Prison (for 17 years)?

**A** I enjoy the interaction with people who need someone to talk to—whether that’s for spiritual guidance, or just to be there. Police officers put their lives on the line each day to protect us, so it’s our duty to stand behind them, to support them, and provide them with someone to talk to during the stressful times.

Prison inmates also need guidance and someone to talk to about what they have done, and how to prepare to be good, productive citizens when they are released.

**Q** What do you enjoy most about your role as restaurateur?

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**Route honoree with Weitzman award**

Each April, Alvernia’s seniors College presents a special award to an outstanding individual who, though a selfless life of service to others (especially senior citizens) has helped to make the community a better place. The award, presented at the annual seniors College luncheon, is named in honor of Rabbi Alan G. Weitzman, the founder and long-time director of the Alvernia seniors College.

This year’s award was presented to a dedicated community leader, Rev. I. Utter H. Routte, the associate pastor of Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Plowville, Pa. He has dedicated his life to fighting injustice and to fostering interfaith dialog and understanding. Though he continues to address issues facing our community as host of the monthly BCTV show “Generation Gap,” he is best known for wading into any situation to deal with a problem directly—be it racial discrimination, religious intolerance,
or gang violence. A man of deep conviction and principle, he is a respected leader whose impact will be felt for generations.

route was born in Jamaica, Long Island, to Pastor Jesse W. route and Attorney Maude G. route. A 1960 honors graduate of Wagner College, he began his life of service with the New York City Board of Youth, where he worked with teenaged gang members. Later, he joined the New York City Department of Social Services, developing and running senior center programs for 12 years. In 1988, he graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and—following in his father’s footsteps—entered ministry as the associate pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing, where he served continuously until his retirement in 2007. In 2009, he reentered pastoral ministry at Robeson Lutheran Church.

In addition, Rev. route has been involved in international missions in Tanzania, and together with Rabbi Weitzman, battled the Ku Klux Klan’s entry into Reading. The reverend and his wife (of 31 years) Carol have two grown children, Jesse and Irene, both of whom are emulating their parents by trying to make the world a better place to live.

Q What are your thoughts about Alvernia?
A I think more people should know that Alvernia is doing well, is on the move, and is led by honest, devoted people. I would like to see the university explore opportunities to bring more international students to campus and also explore interest in Arabic and Middle Eastern study. I think there is benefit in our global society in helping students learn about the cultures of other countries.

Q What is the Islamic Center like?
A The Islamic Center is open every single day from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and welcomes anyone who would like to learn about the real Islam and real Muslims. It seeks to serve the Muslim community and visitors of other faiths who have interest in Islamic beliefs and way of life. The center also provides an interfaith program for children of all backgrounds.

A I get to interact with many different kinds of people every day. Most people do not realize how diverse Berks County really is and I enjoy the daily interaction with community members.

The Alvernia University Magazine is a publication of the university that highlights the achievements and events taking place on campus. It serves as a platform for students, faculty, and staff to share their stories and experiences.
Designing our next generation?

Years underground and the millions of dollars earned at exhibitions that have traveled the world, we still didn’t know all that much about King Tut — until recently, that is. Thanks to advanced DNA testing, the first ever done on mummies, scientists can now say with reasonable probability that King Tut died of a severe bout of brain malaria combined with a degenerative bone condition. His parents were most likely brother and sister, a common practice at the time.

The revelations have caused a flurry of excitement, as they open a new window on a lost world about which we could previously only speculate and conjecture. The growing power of DNA testing to uncover secrets does not only pertain to ancient mummies, of course. As the science of genetic research and engineering advances at a quickening pace, we are learning more not only about our past but also about our present and our future, as well as our limitations. We have, in fact, arrived at a time in which we are uncovering the building blocks of our very existence — the intrinsic code that makes us who we are. And with that knowledge, we are gaining the power to alter who we are and how we live, and what the next generation will look like.

This moment in science is “right up there with Darwin’s theories of evolution and our understanding of the atom and nuclear energy,” says Dr. Spencer S. Stober, professor of biology at Alvernia who is co-author of the book *God, Science and Designer Genes* (Praeger, 2009) with Dr. Donna Yarri, associate professor of theology at Alvernia. The book provides an in-depth examination of the myriad ethical, legal, and social implications of genetic science and its...
impact on religion and theology, a topic that Stober says “will be relevant from now until we stop doing science.”

That’s because scientific advances have probably brought us closer to “playing God” than ever before. While discoveries in science that help prolong life — from powerful antibiotics to heart stents and pioneering oncology treatments — are accepted as welcome firepower in the medical arsenal, tampering with genetic makeup has riled religious leaders and communities and forced them to grapple with questions that were once only the stuff of science fiction. These range from creating “designer babies” with traits picked out by parents, to cloning and enhancing and extending life through genetic engineering. “The potential of genetics is vast,” Stober adds, “but so is the potential for accidents.”

In many ways, genetics is taking aim at the underpinnings of faith, prompting us to reconsider and reevaluate many precepts and belief systems. “It can be disturbing,” Yarri says about the questions being raised. “Are we venturing into God’s territory?” she asks.

“Catholic Social Teaching and the Church’s teaching always starts with the bedrock of human dignity. Not only is life sacred, but each individual has rights and responsibilities,” said Father Kevin Queally, university chaplain and director of Campus Ministry. “In this context, it is important to consider each development in medical science from the viewpoint of the dignity of the unique individual person.

“The technical or medical use of genetic engineering must first always preserve human dignity, human freedom, and the right to the fulfillment of human potential.”

Consider in vitro fertilization, or IVF, which is a now commonplace process of fertilization by manually combining an egg and a sperm in a laboratory dish. Yarri points out that many Christians have no problem with this procedure, while others are opposed regardless of any argument in its favor. The Catholic Church for instance is clear in its teaching that IVF is not acceptable under any circumstance. At the same time, ethicists embrace the full spectrum on how to deal with IVF. “Some say the sky is falling while for another person it’s a good thing,” Yarri notes. “It all depends on your faith.”

For Alvernia students, exposure to Catholic and Christian teachings gives them a foundation from which to shape their perspectives on all topics related to bioethics. Courses like Medical Moral Theology, Christian Approaches to Morality, and God, Science, and Designer Genes (a special topics course taught by Drs. Stober and Yarri) often address issues such as genetic engineering and moral applications of emerging medical technologies, while integrating a religious point of view.

next generation?

Thanks to DNA science in use today, it is possible to clone embryos, screen for genetic diseases, choose the physical features and sex of your child, even increase lifespans. But with the increased technological capability comes serious concerns about to what extent we might be “playing God.”
Often, to make their point to students in class, Stober and Yarri literally wear different caps — one labeled “biology” and the other “theology” — to illustrate the conflicts that exist in trying to balance faith and science. Trying to achieve that balance is critical — which is why they decided to teach the class; because both professors believe that science is moving faster than society is when it comes to dealing with the momentous issues raised by genetics.

“There is a recognition that moral reasoning is lagging behind, that we as humans can’t grapple with the magnitude of it,” Stober says. Instead of shutting down scientific research until it catches up, however, both professors argue for continuing an open and forceful debate.

One recent example of a hot button genetic issue was a story in the Wall Street Journal cheekily titled, “A Baby, Please. Blond, Freckles – Hold the Colic,” which reports that a Los Angeles clinic called Fertility Institutes claims it will soon be able to help couples select both gender and physical traits when they undergo a form of fertility treatment called pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD). The article notes that while PGD has long been used to avert life-threatening diseases in children by selecting embryos without a disposition to certain diseases, the procedure is starting to be used to determine gender and “the next controversial step is to select physical traits for cosmetic reasons.” That is, allowing parents to say they prefer their child to have a certain eye or hair color — the so-called “designer baby” — a development which is worrying to many.

Catholic Church teaching staunchly opposes using genetic engineering to enhance or alter genes for reasons that are not related to curing diseases. The church is not the only group objecting, and not always exclusively on moral grounds.

“This is a wake-up call that the technology is advancing rapidly and outstripping how we should use it responsibly,” says Marcy Darnovsky, associate executive director of the Center for Genetics and Society, a Berkeley, California-based nonprofit. In the Wall Street Journal story, the director of the clinic disagreed with critics and defended the service by saying that it’s “cosmetic medicine.” But Darnovsky’s concern focuses on the implications for social justice. “We have worked for decades to reduce injustice and disparities connected with socio-economic status, race, and gender,” Darnovsky explains, “and what we are talking about here is moving toward a society in which we can genetically determine one’s closeness to perfect — or an ideal of perfection.” She notes that some scientists and others speculate that designer babies could one day lead to a society in which 10 percent of the population — the enhanced ones — are in charge, while the remaining 90 percent, unenhanced, will be sweeping the floors.

Far fetched? Perhaps. But Darnovsky says it’s critical to question where this technology is taking us, so that the public as well as the scientific community understands the possible ramifications. While dozens of countries around the world have policies in place to deal with issues such as cloning and designer babies, there are no federal or state regulations in the U.S. currently in place concerning PGD. Banning human cloning, Darnovsky adds, should be a no-brainer. But because cloning has been caught up in the battle over stemcell research, nothing has so far been done.

The “genome” is a term used to represent the total amount of DNA — our genetic information or code in chemical form — contained in a cell or organism. The first complete human genome was mapped in 2003 after 13 years of research and a cost of almost $3 billion. That mapping has led to a series of rapid breakthroughs in science’s ability to test and engineer — or manipulate — those genes. We have seen DNA testing used in many episodes of “Law & Order,” and we hear about how testing has exonerated convicted criminals. It is being used to explain behaviors and to give us the odds about whether we might get a certain type of cancer.

Genetics is also revolutionizing how we create our offspring. As outlined in the professors’ book, potential parents who are (for example) asymptomatic carriers of the gene for cystic fibrosis have a one-in-four chance of having a child with the disease. This couple now has choices in trying to avoid passing this disease on: they can use genetic testing to screen the fetus followed by selective termination, or they can use IVF and PGD to select a healthy pre-implantation embryo.

These choices provide the capability to radically alter the “natural” course of our lives and those of our children. They also raise some thorny theological questions. Some would say that God’s plan includes suffering for human beings, and that it is God’s will that certain people will be born with disabilities. From there we can ask, “Should we be tampering with God’s plan, however difficult that child’s life will be?” Moreover, if we can make such selections as a form of gene therapy to prevent disabilities — the next step is gene enhancement, or manipulating DNA to ensure that our offspring are smarter or thinner or better athletes.

Drs. Stober and Yarri argue that we already do this, to a certain extent, by sending children to tutors and SAT classes and tennis camps. But how far should we take this striving to be more than what is given to us by God? One problem, Yarri explains, when we think about weeding out disabilities, is that there’s no fixed definition of a disability. “There are some genetic problems that would result in a diminished quality of life, but that is different than trying to give your child the best opportunity possible with enhancement,” she says.

In the ongoing gene wars, nothing has roiled the scientific and religious communities — as well as legislators and
lobbyists — more than embryonic stem cell research. Many people have ethical concerns that harvesting stem cells (which have the ability to self-renew, or to divide without becoming specialized) from a human embryo is an immoral destruction of life. Yet many scientists believe that stem cells could pave the way for great medical advances to enhance our health and save lives.

Debate over the issue, and a long-standing ban on federal funds for stem-cell research (which was overturned by President Obama) has raged for years and garnered much press attention. One vexing issue related to this is the possibility of stemcell research leading to the ability to use one’s own cells to regenerate aging body parts. The professors point out that someday we could be able to extend our lives by reprogramming genetic material and to maintain and generate cells to guarantee very long lives.

A tantalizing thought, to be sure. Yet this sits in direct opposition to Catholic doctrine on natural law and would upend fundamental Christian faith and theological concepts that we will live with God forever in the next life, not in this one. It also challenges basic Christian doctrines of sin, the Fall, death, and salvation, as Stober and Yarri point out in their book. That doesn’t mean research should be stopped, according to Jonathan D. Moreno, professor of medical ethics and the history of science at the University of Pennsylvania. “There has always been long-standing anxiety about science and where science is taking us, and you can’t dismiss those concerns,” Moreno says. But if there is a potential for benefiting people, he adds, it is worth it to push ahead “with fear and trembling.”

One area of genetics that is booming is the commercialization of DNA testing, which is making the process faster, cheaper, and more detailed than ever before. For $999 the California company Navigenics will provide a comprehensive genetic screening, using a saliva sample, to let you know if you have a predisposition for a range of diseases, from breast and colon cancer to Alzheimer’s and Chron’s disease, melanoma, glaucoma and even obesity. (The company says it will only test for diseases that medicine can do something about.) Another genetic testing company, 23andme, screens for 137 health issues and traits, including propensity for...
earwax and muscular performance. With the catchy slogan, “Get to know your DNA. All it takes is a little bit of spit,” 23andme encourages customers to “take charge of your health” by being able to make more informed decisions.

It’s critical to continue to have these ethical debates.”

Or put individuals in a quandary. What these companies can tell you is whether you have a “lifetime estimated risk” or an “odds ratio” to become afflicted with a certain disease. What they can’t tell you is a definitive yes or no, unless they are looking for a single gene disease such as Cystic Fibrosis or Huntington’s disease. Just because you have a marker or series of markers for a specific affliction doesn’t mean you are going to get it, as many other factors are likely to come into play, such as environment and diet. With genetic testing “some things are predictable, like curly hair,” Stober says, but “other traits that require many steps from the expression of that trait are places where nature can intervene.”

An article in the New York Times in 2008 noted (for example) that about 90 percent of men in a Wake Forest University School of Medicine survey had one or more of the gene variants for prostate cancer, and that more than half had two or more. Such tests, the article said, are “the forefront of what is expected to be a revolution in medical prognostication.” But they also raise a crucial question: what should you do with the information — that is, should we play God now that we know something of what the future holds for us?

With these questions in mind, it’s not surprising that the genetics testing companies have not been besieged with people trying to find out more about themselves and what illnesses might await them. A New York Times article this year noted that 23andme had managed to sign up only 35,000 customers and Navigenics about 20,000, due in part to the fact that “the genetic variations known so far can explain only a very small part of the risk of getting most diseases.” And many of the results offered by the companies — say, that your breast cancer risk is 10 percent — are considered meaningless when we already know that the overall lifetime breast cancer risk is 12 percent. That might change, of course, with the mapping of an entire human genome — rather than just a part of it, as these companies do — to find the exact genetic causes of diseases, which is now possible for a reasonable price of around $50,000.

DNA testing isn’t stopping at eye or hair color or a propensity for certain diseases. The next step along this path is to consider whether there are genes linked to certain behaviors, such as alcoholism and violence — or say, a sexual preference, like homosexuality. These genes don’t cause any of these behaviors, scientists allow, but they do provide some statistical links, however tenuous, between the genes and these behaviors.

If true, the “my genes made me do it” argument sets up a direct confrontation with some basic Christian tenets concerning the concept of God, human nature, free will, and moral choices (not to mention knotty legal issues, if you can say, “my genes made me rob that bank!”) After all, if we are not masters of our fate, then this complicates our understanding of moral responsibility and sin. Moreover, “it would challenge the very notion of what it means to be a human being, distinct from other species, but also as made in the image of God,” Stober and Yarri conclude in their book.

With such fundamental questions about science and faith in play as genetics moves forward, professors Stober and Yarri say the students in their class are both animated and reflective about the subject. Class debates between students with opposing views are
frequent, perhaps because it’s provocative to see two professors disagreeing in a polite manner, they say. Moreover, Yarri believes that students are more intellectually challenged and involved because the subject has the potential to affect their lives in a direct way, in that many of them will be forced to make decisions on these very questions while previous generations did not.

In any discussion of faith and science and genetics, the question eventually returns to “are we playing God?” When asked about their personal views, both Stober and Yarri say that advances in genetic science are unlocking secrets and have the potential to benefit humankind, but add that critical issues must be addressed about how we go forward.

As a theologian, Yarri believes it’s important to ponder what role we (as humans) play in this universe, and what role is God’s. While there are lines we do not want to cross, she explains, we have to consider that God gave us a brain and the ability to reason and to figure things out, and to better the human condition. “If a surgeon performs surgery we don’t say that’s playing God,” she clarifies. That said, we have to ask whether “when we monkey around with DNA,” if that is different than other scientific endeavors.

Stober sees genetic research as a natural extension of “what makes our species unique,” and concludes quite clearly that we are not playing God. Because DNA is an information molecule that orchestrates all life and its interactions with other life forms and the environment, there’s a delicate balance we should always be aware of. “Especially if we are altering that balance,” he adds. Still, Stober says, “our DNA will survive in spite of us.”

Ernest Beck is a freelance journalist and former veteran Wall Street Journal reporter. He writes on a range of subjects for publications including The New York Times and SmallBiz.
Lessons in nursing

When Lee Woodruff traveled to Alvernia last semester as keynote speaker for a nursing conference on traumatic brain injuries, she was well past the initial horror of a family crisis that in an instant changed everything.

Before that day in January 2006 when her husband suffered a near-fatal brain injury, her life was a modern fairytale.

She was a successful public relations professional having worked at some of the most notable firms in the country, including Porter Novelli and Hill & Knowlton. She had reached the pinnacle of her career, having been in executive-level positions—working and traveling nationally and internationally.

In 1991, she started her own freelance writing and public relations business, wanting more flexibility to be a mother to her four children: Mack, Cathryn, and twins Nora and Claire. Her 20-year marriage to journalist Bob Woodruff was thriving as was her husband’s career.

In late 2005, Bob was named co-anchor of ABC’s “World News Tonight,” finally attaining his dream job. It was ABC News President David Westin. Sensing it wasn’t good news, she listened as Westin told her that Bob was badly injured while embedded with U.S. troops, reporting on American and Iraqi security forces near Taji, Iraq. The military tank he was riding in was hit by a roadside bomb.

It had been less than a month after Bob started the new co-anchor job. Lee’s mind raced with questions. What would happen to her husband? Would he live? What would his quality of life be? What should she say to her four kids? How would she take care of everybody? How would she take care of him? What would he be like when and if he recovered?

Fast forward to today

The roadside bomb did not end Bob’s life. In fact, he has had a nearly full recovery. His outcome is considered nothing short of miraculous, and many point to the immediate surgery and his follow-up care as the reason. Though his recovery has been long, Lee says the nursing staff played a huge role in his (and her) recovery. She has written two books on the subject and now tours the country telling her family’s story.

Lee Woodruff visited Alvernia to tell her story as part of an annual nursing conference. During the sold-out event, several renowned doctors and nurses appeared (including Dr. Stephen Swartz, Dr. Thomas Geng, Anita Mammarella, RN, Fran Musto, Psy.D, RN, Margaret Montgomery, RN, BSN, and David Nicodemus, MS, Neuro-psychologist). The group discussed with nursing students and RNs in the audience the many facets of brain injuries and shared valuable information and insights into the world of brain injuries.

But it was Woodruff’s witty and inspiring account of her experiences that left many excited by their choice of profession.

Woodruff expressed what it was like to watch her husband lie in a medically induced coma for 36 days. She watched him emerge from the coma to an even tougher fight—the fight to recover from traumatic brain injury. She talked compellingly about her experiences with the nurses and medical staff she got to know during Bob’s stay at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

“You know, ultimately nursing is where the rubber meets the road,” she said. “Nurses see things 24/7, they are able to comfort and console. The nursing staff at Bethesda

When Abc-tv news Anchor bob Woodruff suffered a severe traumatic brain injury, doctors saved his life. But according to his wife, it was his nurses that helped the family recover.
shared so many insights, telling me of other families and their experiences. They never over-promised, but told stories of what they saw with other people who had similar injuries, subtle suggestions that kept hope alive for me. I really appreciated that. Actually, I really needed that.

“Nurses are just really special people,” she said. “In my experience, they were always professionals and had a job to do, but still had a smile. They spoke directly to me, looking me in the eyes. These are important things that I am not even sure they realized they were doing, but it meant the world to me.”

Woodruff considers nursing a calling that requires compassion, a sense of humor, the ability to listen, and patience. During the conference, she offered advice to would-be nurses, “Even on your worst days, always try to walk into the workplace and put yourself into the patient’s shoes. Remember that even the tiniest connection means something to the family and in fact, could be a lifesaver for them. Compassion fatigue is a real thing,” said Woodruff.

“Make sure you take good care of yourself so you can take care of others and know how thankful families are for your presence and your hard work—even if they are not capable of showing it while in the midst of a crisis.”

Through sharing her family’s experience, Woodruff captured the multifaceted nature of nursing practice, according to Dr. Karen S. Thacker, dean of professional programs and associate professor of nursing. “Nurses influenced Bob’s care from the moment of injury, through multiple surgeries, critical and acute care, and on through the rehabilitation process. In the midst of caring for Bob’s complicated physical needs, the family was accepted and became a seamless part of the overall plan of care. I am grateful to Lee for sharing her observations about the complexity and richness characteristic of the nursing profession,” said Thacker.

The Woodruffs were so grateful to the team at Bethesda that about six months after Bob’s release, they made a special visit. It was a joy for him, says Lee, to walk there on his own steam; to shake hands and say thank you for all the work and care.

Lee’s first book, a New York Times bestseller, In an Instant: A Family’s Journey of Love and Healing, was co-authored with her husband after the accident and recounts—in gripping detail—their life before and after the accident. Reading the book and listening to the couple speak, one senses that the family considers the injury, while crushing, a blessing that has transformed their lives.


ReMIND.org

As of spring 2010, more than 36,000 service members have been wounded in action and 4,100 killed in action in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Bob Woodruff Foundation was established to help ensure our nation’s service members return to a home front ready to support them.

Through a program within the foundation called r emind.Org, the public is being educated about the needs of service members and our nation’s greater responsibility to ensure our heroes and their families receive the support necessary to successfully reintegrate into their communities.

The Bob Woodruff Foundation has spent nearly $4.5 million on programs, reaching more than 500,000 service members, support personnel, veterans and their families nationwide.

The foundation strives to create awareness and educate individuals nationally on the hidden injuries of war by helping injured service members and their families with opportunities to navigate their own journey, the organization hopes to make certain all who have been wounded receive the best treatment and the best chance of resuming their lives as successful honored members of their communities.
The Foundation, ReMIND.org, funds more than 35 grassroots organizations that help reintegrate veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars back into their lives. Since its inception, it has raised more than $6 million and funded more than $3.4 million in programs that directly impact more than half-a-million service members, veterans, and their families.

Second chance at a modern-day fairytale

According to the Woodruffs, things are mostly back to normal. “He is my Bob again,” Lee often says. “His life was spared and I know there must be a reason why. His work is unfinished in so many ways.”

Together, they are modeling for their children how to leave the world a better place than they found it. They continue to advocate for veterans’ health care and are champions for the vocation of nursing. Last year, Lee released a second book, Perfectly Imperfect: A Life in Progress, which traces the events that continue to shape the couple’s life together.

And thanks to the care Bob received—like the book—the Woodruff family life continues.

Lina Barbieri is a mother of two children who often authors articles for college and university magazines.

The road to recovery

As an embedded journalist with an Army infantry unit in Iraq, Bob Woodruff knew the dangers of the job.

On January 29, 2006, the vehicle that Woodruff and his cameraman were traveling in was attacked by an improvised explosive device (IED). Despite the use of protective body armor and a Kevlar helmet, Woodruff sustained severe shrapnel wounds to the head, nearly killing him. The traumatic brain injury (TBI) left Woodruff in a medically induced coma for 36 days. Part of his skull had to be removed, as pieces of debris and shrapnel had deeply penetrated his head and upper body.

Woodruff required numerous surgeries to remove the debris, reduce the intracranial pressure, and to also reconstruct his facial structure.

Though many expected the worst, Woodruff miraculously survived the IED attack.

His recovery has been long and physical—and the effects of his TBI are still evident and include mild aphasia (a language disorder that causes one to have difficulty finding the words they wish to say).

Since recovering from his injury, Woodruff has been a tireless advocate of TBI and post traumatic stress disorder in combat veterans. His organization, ReMIND.org, serves injured veterans and their families by providing services to help with their recovery and daily living beyond treatment.
Emily Berret returned to Alvernia’s campus for her junior year feeling proud. To her delight, the university had rid its dining halls of food trays in hopes of cutting waste and conserving water. Fliers in the dining halls touted the environmental benefits. Staff showed anyone who needed assistance how to balance their food. When Berret, a founding member of the university’s Environmental Club, heard any friends grumble about the lack of trays, she assured them that they would get used to it. The dumpsters tell the rest of the story: food waste has dropped so dramatically since the Fall of 2009 that trash is picked up only twice a week instead of six times a week outside the main dining hall. “Students eat what they can carry,” said Tom Benfield, the university’s director of dining services. Changing behaviors can be difficult, as any employer, teacher, or parent knows.
But members of Alvernia’s Green Initiatives Committee and the student-run Environmental Club are trying to foster change among students, faculty, and staff by raising environmental awareness and launching initiatives.

In the library, students now have the option of printing materials in Ecofont, which saves toner by leaving imperceptible holes in printed words, and they are printing to both sides of a sheet of paper rather than one. Across campus, more recycling bins have been added to make recycling a more convenient option. Construction debris is crushed and reused. And more often, pitchers of water are replacing bottles of water in meeting rooms.

“We’ve been working, in a very concerted way, to get the green on,” said Deborah Greenawald, an assistant professor of nursing who is a member of the Green Initiatives Committee.

While some people are in the habit of recycling or making environmentally friendly decisions, others may need a gentle push or convincing.

Dr. Laura Carlson, who gave this year’s Hesburgh Lecture on the “Psychology of Deciding to be Green” in April, said researchers believe people have two systems for thinking—one that is intuitive and automatic—and another that is rational, reflective, and more deliberative.

People make most of their everyday decisions, such as whether to throw a plastic bottle into the trash, automatically and intuitively. “We don’t want to have to reason through each of these small decisions. That takes time and effort,” said Carlson. So people use this automatic system that consists of heuristics or rules of thumb that usually get them to the right answer but without the extra effort.

However, she said, if people instead use their rational system to decide whether to toss a bottle into the trash, they might reason about how much better it would be for the environment to hold onto it until they find a recycling bin.

Carlson, a psychology professor with the University of Notre Dame, said there are two ways to get everyday decisions to be more environmentally friendly: get people to use their rational system and reason about why something is better for the environment, or nudge them toward a more environmentally friendly option if they are using their automatic system. As an example of the latter, she said, a recycling bin could be put in a more convenient location than the trash bin.

According to environmental expert Paul Hawken, going green nationally begins with reduced consumption. “Really going green means having less, he explains. “Everyone is saying, ‘You don’t have to change your lifestyle.’ Well, yes, actually, you do. I think the old style of addressing environmental problems is ebbing, but the rise of the so-called ‘conservative, political movement’ in this country is not a trend towards the future, but a reaction to this very broad shift that we are undergoing.”

At Alvernia, leaders are framing the environmental message by making the connection to the university’s Franciscan identity.

“Part of our mission is to educate and inspire,” said Ginny Hand, co-chair of the Green Initiatives Committee and director of the Holleran Center for Community Engagement.

Priorities include a sustainability plan and a stronger recycling plan. As stewards for the next generation, Hand said, “It makes sense to do this.”

Young students have been receptive to the changes on campus, Hand said. They’ve seen efforts all around them, at home and at their high schools before coming to the university. “They understand it,” she said. “They get it.”

A recent study completed by EnviroMedia Social Marketing shows that more than any other age group, 18- to 34-year-old consumers believe there is a direct link
Environmental impact

Students are in a hurry and recycling bins again, she said, the problem might be that people want to do it,” she acknowledged, for the environment. “It’s hard to make students aware of the option and to encourage environmentally friendly decisions. “Also, it is important to understand what aspects of the programs are working so that the programs can be tweaked to be even more effective.”

Alvernia is not alone in its emphasis on sustainability. More and more, colleges across the country are embracing environmentalism. The Sustainable Endowments Institute, a research organization that tracks not only dining policies but also administrators’ commitment to sustainability, found that many colleges increased their green commitments in the past year despite budget issues, said spokesperson Lea Lupkin. Of the 323 colleges surveyed for the 2010 Green Report card (greenreportcard.org), more than two-thirds have full-time staff dedicated to sustainability. Among other initiatives, nearly two-thirds have a community garden or farm on campus, and two-thirds have initiated trayless dining programs.

Berret, who is president of Student Government, was exposed to what other colleges are doing—and found inspiration—when she attended the Clinton Global Institute’s gathering of student and university leaders in Texas last year. She was told that change is slow, and she’d likely get frustrated, but that she could foster change. Berret came back to campus believing one person could make a difference.

Armed with all of the green initiatives at Alvernia over the past year, Berret heads back to the Clinton Global Institute, this time in Florida, with a full portfolio to demonstrate all that Alvernia is doing to help the environment.

In 2009, Alvernia recycled nearly 9.9 tons of office paper, 85.94 tons of cardboard, 2.8 tons of aluminum cans, 6.2 tons of colored glass bottles, and 10.85 tons of clear glass bottles and jars. The dining hall’s food costs are down about 4 percent, and chemical costs, such as dish soap, are down a whopping 18 percent.

When the Student Center was being renovated, demolition debris was sorted on-site and hauled to separate locations for recycling—concrete, glass, wood, drywall. “We recycle as much as we can,” said David Reppert, the university’s director of facilities planning and construction management. “It’s just good business.”

The O’Pake Science Center was designed to be as efficient as possible, he said. And when the artificial turf athletic fields were constructed and apartment-style residence halls added, the excavated rock was crushed and reused as a base for a parking lot and connecting road. When something makes sense from a dollar-and-cents standpoint, Reppert said, people are accepting.

More initiatives are on the horizon, including expanded use of the university’s community garden and wider purchase of recycled materials.

“Whether everyone can be persuaded to “go green” depends on many factors.”

Decisions have multiple components, explained Carlson. For example, if people are trying to decide which kitchen cleaner to purchase, they may consider the cost, effectiveness, environmental impact, and reputation of a product, she said. But people weigh each element differently.

“If you are on a tight budget, then the cost dimension may be defining,” Carlson said. “You may want to purchase a more environmentally friendly product, but if it comes at a higher cost, then you may not be able to spend the extra money on it.”

Some researchers believe the environmental dimension is, at best, a tie-between human activities and global warming. Because of this belief, this group (of an estimated 76 million people) will most likely drive green trends moving forward.

Student Kristine Keener, who is co-chairing Alvernia’s Earth Day Committee, said recycling at home was automatic for her. So, she got involved in the university’s green initiatives early on when she opted to help clean up Angelica Park as a way to earn community service credits. From there, she joined the Environmental Club, eventually serving for a time as president.

To push fellow students to use Ecofont in the library, the club put up fliers in cubicles to make students aware of the option and its environmental benefits. Keener has encouraged her friends to choose the font, pointing out that it saves toner and is better for the environment. “It’s hard to make people want to do it,” she acknowledged, especially if the students are in a hurry. And some professors might stipulate that students use a particular font for papers.

With recycling, if Keener sees a student about to throw a bottle into the trash, she’ll give a shout: “Hey, you can recycle that.” But again, she said, the problem might be that students are in a hurry and recycling bins aren’t nearby. More education is needed too, because students aren’t always sure what they can recycle, she said. She and others are discussing whether to distribute magnets that list what is acceptable.

Still, Keener is encouraged by her fellow students’ behaviors. “People are trying, which is great,” she said.

Given the costs of new programs, Carlson said it’s important to measure and track behavior to make sure initiatives are effective. Otherwise, she said, the money should be invested in other ways to encourage environmentally friendly decisions. “Also, it is important to understand what aspects of the programs are working so that the programs can be tweaked to be even more effective.”

Caring for the environment is alive and well on Alvernia’s campus. Students above show their spirit for sustainability during Earth Day 2010 activities.
When Tuskegee Airman Eugene Richardson spoke at Alvernia this spring as part of Black History Month, he captivated an overflowing crowd. His account detailed how the first African American military aviators in the United States armed forces rose above adversity and racial discrimination to open doors that were once closed to black Americans.

At the time, African Americans in many U.S. states were subject to Jim Crow laws, and the American military was racially segregated, as was much of the federal government. The Tuskegee Airmen were subject to discrimination in and outside the service. Despite these challenges, they flew with distinction and became pioneers for racial equality.

It was a quiet, crisp February evening on Alvernia’s campus, when a bus pulled up to Bernardine Hall. Thirty people got out. “Can we help you?” asked a nearby student. “We’re here for tonight’s Tuskegee Airmen event,” said one gentleman. “Oh, well I don’t think that will be starting for another hour…” replied the student, pointing the way to the lecture hall. “We know… wanted to make sure we got good seats though,” said the man as the group filed into the hall.

As it turned out, that early group had the right idea. More than 350 people squeezed their way into the lecture hall within the next hour. Hundreds of students, realizing that there would not be enough room for everyone, gave their seats to community members and found room on the floor, or stood along walls.

Packed in as they were, everyone in attendance rose respectfully to give no fewer than five standing ovations (one for each veteran who spoke). They stood to pay respect to the men, not just because of their gallantry against Nazi Germany in World War II, but also for their courage in another battle on home soil: the battle against racism.

As he stepped to the podium, Tuskegee Airman Eugene Richardson, Jr. quieted the crowd with one statement: “Although I’m glad to see so many people here for Black History Month, it shouldn’t be. There shouldn’t be a Black History Month.

“It’s evident that things have changed,” said Richardson, “but there’s still racism and I guess there always will be so long as you have people identifying with my group, and that group, and those groups. But this does give us an opportunity to plug up some of the holes in history.”

As he talked about the gallantry of Buffalo soldiers in the Civil War, his passion for the history of blacks in the military shone through. However, his own story did not begin until the mid 1940s — in the height of World War II.

Richardson had discovered flying at an early age, when his father took him to see a group of black pilots called the “Blackbirds” at a local air show. With his eyes on the sky, Richardson enlisted in the Army Air Corps at the age of 17, passed a pilot qualification test, and found his way to the Tuskegee Army Air Field less than half a year later.
But his path was paved by the struggles of many African Americans before him. Quoting a 1925 report by the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., Richardson said that all across the country, African Americans were up against deep prejudice. Prejudice that he says is often difficult for people to understand today.

To help illustrate his point, Richardson obtained a copy of the report entitled “The Use of Negro Manpower in War” (stamped “secret,” but declassified in 1988) through the Freedom of Information Act. The report, used by politicians trying to end the Tuskegee Experiment, was called an “analysis of physical, mental, moral, and psychological qualities and characteristics of the Negro.” As he read the report’s summary, listeners jeered and even laughed at the absurdity of its “findings.”

Richardson read highlighted statements in the report, such as: “The negro is low on the scale of human evolution,” and “We may not expect to draw leadership material from his race; it is an impossibility to place leaders of his race over whites.” The report claimed that “Negros are immoral,” and that “Negros’ mental, moral, and other psychological qualities and characteristics have made it impossible for [them] to associate socially with any except the lowest class of whites.”

By the time Richardson found his way to Tuskegee in 1945, the program had fought its way into being the only place that blacks could train to be pilots for the Army Air Corps. It was a hard-fought battle, one that recruits like Richardson were well aware of before they even stepped foot on the base. Newspapers across the country kept tabs on the controversial subject of blacks in the military and in the skies.

Because there were very few pilots of any race after the Great Depression, the army started offering civilian pilot training programs through colleges, in order to build their flying potential. However, no black students were permitted to enter these programs.

Things took a turn in the late 1930s, when President Roosevelt needed to prove to the black community that he was sympathetic to their needs. He promoted a black man (former Buffalo Soldier Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr.) to rank of Brigadier General and signed legislation to allow six black colleges to offer civilian pilot training programs. Of those colleges, only Delaware State still has its flying program today.

One of those schools, The Tuskegee Institute, wanted to offer a more advanced program. It looked to the Julius Rosenwald Fund after being turned down for funding by the Army. One member of the Julius Rosenwald board was First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

In June of 1941, the First Lady happened to be in the Tuskegee, Ala., area for a conference about utilizing black soldiers.

She was also interested in a Polio treatment program at the Tuskegee hospital, mainly because her husband suffered from the disease.

While in the area, she impulsively visited the airfield to see the black pilots. When she stated that she wanted to fly with one, →
her FBI escorts balked, but Roosevelt was a very strong-willed woman. Though her bodyguards told her that she should not fly with the pilots, she brazenly ignored their direction and took to the skies with Charles Alfred Anderson, chief instructor at Tuskegee. In fact, she flew for more than an hour with the self-taught pilot who just happened to be African American.

A few months later, the Tuskegee Experiment was finally born. It is believed that Mrs. Roosevelt played a big role in Tuskegee’s ability to gain the sole contract to teach black men to fly for the U.S. Army. In any case, the “experiment” was expected to “prove that black men couldn’t be pilots.”

There were 42 black civilian instructors in 1941, all with impressive backgrounds. Some (like Anderson) were self-taught, others made their way to France to learn, and some, like Eugene Bullard (a young man from Georgia) even joined the French Foreign Legion—just to learn to fly. Bullard, who flew with French pilots in World War I, was the first black fighter pilot.

One man, Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr., entered West Point Military Academy in 1932, sponsored by the only black member of congress, Representative Oscar De Priest of Chicago.

Davis was shunned by his classmates for the entire four years he spent at West Point. He never had a roommate. He ate by himself. Although his classmates hoped that the “silent treatment” would drive him out of the Academy, Davis became more determined, and graduated 35th in his class of 278 in 1936. He was the academy’s fourth black graduate. When he was commissioned as a second lieutenant, the Army had a grand total of two black line officers—Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., and his father, Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., a Brigadier General.

Davis Jr. applied for the Army Air Corps but was rejected because it did not accept blacks. He was instead assigned to the all-black 24th Infantry Regiment (one of the original Buffalo Soldier regiments) at Fort Benning, Ga., where — though he was an officer — he was not allowed inside the base officers’ club.

The first Tuskegee class started off with 13 men who — unlike white pilots — completed all 40 weeks of training in one facility. White pilots went to different training facilities for four 10-week segments. Five graduated from that first Tuskegee class. Of those, one was Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr. — who finally got his chance to fly after 10 years of persistence. He became the Captain of Squadron 99, its highest-ranking officer.

Every five weeks, a new class would begin training at Tuskegee. It took a total of 15 weeks after the first class graduated for the group to have the 26 men required to fill up a squadron. Although they were ready to help rid the world of Fascism and Nazism, there was no commander in Europe who would take the squadron. It took eight more months of political maneuvering (from people like Eleanor Roosevelt) to get the black pilots into combat.

The extra training time boded well for the 99th. After proving themselves in combat during 1943, the squadron was assigned to escort and protect bombers, so that the aircraft (each carrying 10 men) could make it to their targets and back home safely. They escorted bombers on a whopping 200 missions, with the lowest number of losses of any fighter group during the war.

Because of their excellent record, bomber pilots often requested Squadron 99 — asking for them by describing the “red tails” that were painted on their aircraft (actually painted red to cover up old markings on the tails of the used P-47s) the squadron was assigned.

It’s evident that things have changed, but there’s still racism and ... always will be so long as you have people identifying with my group, and that group, and those groups.

Eugene Richardson
Scott and Michelle Davis are among Alvernia’s most ardent benefactors. As a member of the Board of Trustees, Michelle shares her husband’s deep appreciation for the difference the university makes in the lives of its students. In addition to their annual support of the Alvernia Fund, the Davises have made a significant commitment to Values & Vision, The Alvernia 50th Anniversary Campaign.

To honor their generosity, and all those who support Alvernia at a leadership level, the university has created the Cedar Hill Society. Named in recognition of the gift of Cedar Hill Farm by Jerry and Carolyn Holleran, the Society pays tribute to those who set the standard for philanthropy at the university.

“We’re passionate about Alvernia’s mission to produce graduates who have acquired the professional skills to excel while having developed the values and ethical foundation that organizations are so hungry for today,” said Scott and Michelle.

“We also feel it’s important to support the university’s Franciscan principles that promote a strong commitment to community service.

“We hope others will be inspired to join us as members of the Cedar Hill Society. Alvernia is an invaluable asset that is truly worthy of support.”

To learn more about the Cedar Hill Society and named giving opportunities at Alvernia, contact Michael Pressimone at 610-796-8282, or visit us on the web at www.alvernia.edu/giving.
Faculty Spotlight

Profile: criminal justice

Alvernia’s Criminal Justice Program was founded in 1974 by the late Sister Pacelli. At the time, Sister Pacelli was the only woman in the nation to head a college criminal justice program. In the first year, a large group of male students, mostly police officers who came to be known as “Pacelli’s boys,” joined the forward-thinking program, virtually making the college co-ed overnight.

Today the curriculum is designed to provide students with expert instruction on the most current trends, policies and practices in the field. It is not a “one size fits all” major, but one that encourages each individual to build a personal program for the future, with the assistance of a faculty advisor.

Last year, with support of a grant, the program received new classroom and lab space, complete with a state-of-the-art interrogation room and lie detector equipment that gives students exposure to situations that they would face in the real world.

By Leah Della Croce

Partners in CRIME

Two Alvernia faculty members have turned their passion for criminal justice into outstanding academic careers and a unique partnership outside of the classroom.

At Alvernia, FBI agents and criminal psychologists go hand-in-hand, or at least these two do. Criminal psychologist Dr. Peggy Bowen-Hartung, PhD., and 27-year veteran of the FBI Professor Edgar J. Hartung, JD, are part of one of Pennsylvania’s oldest and finest university criminal justice departments. The pair tied the knot on Alvernia’s main campus in December 2009, and now make up an impressive duo, working to continue the tradition of excellence in a revolutionary criminal justice (CJ) program started by the late Sister Pacelli in 1974.

The couple’s combination of real-world experience, impressive qualifications, and outstanding teaching skills give CJ students a clear picture of future careers in the field and provides them with training that prepares them to excel in the field after graduation.

Ten years before Alvernia’s innovative CJ program was started, Edgar J. Hartung was a college student at the University of Rio Grande in Ohio, pursuing a degree in secondary education. His dreams of becoming a teacher, however, would be put on hold by the Vietnam War.

In Vietnam, Hartung served as an Air Force pilot, flying over Southeast Asia for five years. He survived more than 85 aerial combat missions and later received several service medals for his bravery and dedication to his country.

After the war, aviation remained a passion for Hartung. He became a certified flight instructor, member of the Federal Aviation Administration, and a corporate pilot, logging over 7,000 hours of flight time. “Flying is an enjoyable and relaxing experience for me,” explained Hartung.

While working as a sales representative for the Smith & Wesson firearms company, an acquaintance told Hartung that he should join the FBI—and what began as a mere suggestion became a life-changing decision.

He applied for an agent position and was accepted to the FBI training academy in Virginia, devoting the next 28 years of his life to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as both an agent and as an instructor in firearms, defense tactics, surveillance, and other areas. During his career in the FBI, Hartung participated in undercover investigations of civil rights matters, such as investigating the Ku Klux Klan, as well as leading an investigation of a Texas correctional institution (resulting in a groundbreaking reform case—Ruiz vs. Estelle). Hartung also exposed corruption in the San Jacinto County Sheriff’s office—a mission that gained widespread media attention and was commemorated in both a novel by Steve Sellers and a television documentary.

Following his remarkable career with the FBI, Professor Hartung led the Cleveland Heights (Ohio) police department for several years while earning a law degree, and eventually returned to his original educational career path. He accepted a teaching position at Alvernia in 2003.

In the last seven years, Hartung has devoted a significant amount of time to developing Alvernia’s criminal justice curriculum into one of the best programs of its kind. He also serves on various committees, boards, and councils on campus, as well as teaching several courses at the university’s Reading Police Academy.

As a very young woman, Peggy Bowen-Hartung, Ph.D., CTS, recognized the importance of education. She left her home on an Osage Indian reservation in Oklahoma to attend Stanford University. She later moved to Texas, earning her doctorate in educational psychology from Texas A&M, where she also became a teacher.

After a 1967 law was passed in Texas requiring police officers to undergo psychological evaluations, Dr. Bowen-Hartung realized the close connection between psychology and criminal justice. She became a law enforcement instructor at Texas A&M and was the first woman in the state of Texas to be...
Criminal psychologist and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Peggy Bowen-Hartung, Ph.D., sits with husband and colleague—Edgar J. Hartung, JD, associate professor of criminal justice and a 27-year veteran of the FBI. The two are part of one of Pennsylvania’s oldest and finest university criminal justice departments.
Profiles in Courage

Blind Ambition

For one May graduate, nothing would stand in the way of earning a degree — not even the total loss of his vision.

Luis Fontanez Jr. ’10, appeared like many talented Alvernia graduates who walked down the aisle decked in cap and gown this spring. Athletic and quick witted, he was an ambitious honors student who majored in psychology with a minor in history. Having transferred to Alvernia as a junior following several years at Reading Area Community College, Fontanez held two internships, became involved in a host of college clubs, and served as the student assistant coach for the women’s basketball team. The international psychology society Psi Chi even invited him to join their ranks.

All great accomplishments, but they pale in comparison to perhaps his most remarkable achievement: overcoming the complete loss of his sight just a few years ago.

When very young, Fontanez lost his vision in his left eye from congenital glaucoma. Surgery and medication preserved his vision in his right eye until Fontanez, then a 17-year-old high school junior at Reading High, was struck by a ball in his right eye. The blow detached the retina, and the six surgeries between the accident in March 2001 and his last surgery in November 2002 could not save his sight. In January 2003, one month after his 19th birthday, he received a white-tipped cane, and his new journey began.

“Before I lost my vision,” says Fontanez, “I was a mediocre student just doing what I needed to do to get by. All that changed when I finally came to grips and accepted my blindness, not as a limitation, but as a tool to draw strength and courage from.

“You can’t wallow in a dark pool of self-pity. Instead, you have to take advantage of the resources available and work to make a valuable contribution to society. That was the choice I made. not to be stagnant, but to become a productive and financially stable person,” he said.

To get through classes, preparation was key, according to Fontanez. “I had to plan and work ahead as much as I could. not days before—but months ahead,” Fontanez says. “From the minute I got a course syllabus, I started figuring out how to get all that work done on time.” Advance planning is just one of the ways Fontanez accomplished his academic goals. He also used tools, such as a specially equipped computer that audibly reads information displayed on the screen. “I have a multitude of toys and gadgets that helped me do reading, research, and writing that every student needs to do. It’s all part of the adaptive process that happened when I lost my vision.”

With his undergraduate degree in hand, Fontanez intends to find a job and to pursue the course work necessary to become a school counselor. “I first thought I wanted to be a history teacher, but I realized a high school teacher only sees students for the length of a class period. I want to really connect and help lives. So that’s when I decided I wanted to become a school counselor.”

Women’s Basketball Head Coach Kevin Calabria believes Fontanez will be a fine one. Coach Calabria and Fontanez first met at the gym, when Fontanez was touring the campus as a prospective student. “He is a most engaging young man,” says Calabria, “and we have become great friends. He is very collegial, incredibly optimistic, and has this great sense of humor. I love being around him and am inspired by him.”

Fontanez was a regular in the weight room, and whenever possible ate meals with the players, too. “I liked to find out how each person on the team was doing and help keep everyone’s spirits up,” he said. Staying positive, as Fontanez affirms in his every action, makes
"I’ve been able to push down the barriers and accomplish many goals"

Luis Fontanez

All the difference in the face of challenges.

For Fontanez, coming to Alvernia offered a multitude of challenges. "This campus is huge, especially compared to Reading Area Community College. If you can’t see, you really have to work to learn the campus so well that you can navigate it on your own. And I wanted to be an independent college student." Not only did he need to embed a detailed campus map in his mind, but he also had to figure out how he would manage his course load.

"The work here at Alvernia is far more intense than I ever encountered. And at RACC, you only need three courses, not four, to be considered full-time." So how has Fontanez achieved so much?

"With a lot of help from a lot of people at Alvernia. Thanks to them and a lot of others, I’ve been able to push down the barriers and accomplish many goals." He cites Coach Calabria, Professor Elizabeth Matteo, Professor Anna Ruiz and Professor Tim Blessing as standouts. "Plus, I really focused on organization and time management, because I had to allow time for the extra steps. When I finished a paper, for example, I would not be done. I had to go to the computer lab to get it properly formatted."

"Fontanez is extremely capable," notes history and political science Professor Blessing. "He’s been a great asset to my classroom and to this campus with its Franciscan values and the ideal of ‘knowledge joined with love.’ Frankly, just to get through all the reading required in history courses is formidable for any student. Luis does it all and very well."

Alvernia, Fontanez says, has been a two-way learning experience. "I’ve learned from Alvernia, and Alvernia has learned from me." Psychology and counseling Professor Elizabeth Matteo agrees. "Having never taught a student with a visual impairment, Luis and I had to work closely to ensure that he had the proper accommodations to be successful. It’s one of those clear examples in teaching when learning is reciprocal. Luis forced me to rethink how much I rely on visual aids when I teach. Not only did he raise the bar for me in terms of my teaching, he served as a strong role model for other students in the class."

While Fontanez anticipated the academic rigors and challenges of his independent life at Alvernia, he says he was "shocked" by the university’s culture and attitude.

"People are here because they want to be. I’m interacting with all these young people who really want to learn and achieve great things, and I’m here with faculty who really want to inspire us and hold us to high standards. That’s so different from my previous experience with public education."

"At Alvernia," says Fontanez, "everyone wants to be here.”

—Marianne Clay

Alvernia University Magazine 39
Anthony Recker majored neither in chemistry nor education at Alvernia, but he learned plenty about both in four years as the Crusaders’ starting catcher.

The chemistry lessons weren’t about how protons and neutrons can form atoms, but more about player chemistry and how teammates can come together to form the winningest team in a school’s history.

“My entire senior year was pretty amazing,” said Recker, an ’05 graduate with a degree in sports management. “Freshman year we had a good squad. We didn’t quite have the chemistry during my sophomore and junior years, but then senior year it came back together again.”

Now with the Oakland A’s organization, Recker is currently with the team’s triple-A affiliate in Sacramento, Calif.

That 2005 Alvernia squad achieved a remarkable 41 wins and a trip to the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional Final, where Recker smashed a pair of home runs in his second-to-last game and the Crusaders pushed regional champ Rowan to the limit.

Recker-the-educator used that six-game regional as a chance to teach the ’05 underclassmen about enjoying what they had.

“I tried to tell the young guys that they probably wouldn’t get another chance,” Recker recalled. “I was lucky to have success like that twice, but it might not happen for everyone. I encouraged them to really take advantage of it.”

The 26-year-old Recker continues to enjoy success from hard work and still talks about team chemistry and educating the younger players.

He launched his first home run in a big league spring game on March 6 off Milwaukee Brewers’ reliever Tim Dillard, and in a postgame interview with scout.com he
“Right now I just have to keep relaying that it is happening for him again.  
“We’ve all come up together and we’ve all played together — and we definitely have that camaraderie,” he said. “That is something that you can’t really teach. It’s something that you earn by playing together.”

Recker’s main student — and the rest of the Oakland catching core — is the team’s fourth-round draft pick from last June, 18-year-old Max Stassi.

“We are trying to give him some tips and he’s really sucking that stuff up,” said Recker. “Having him here is really helping us because he keeps us focused by asking us questions.”

Soaking up what Recker had to say in ‘05 was another talent-laden teenager, then freshman — Zach Lutz — who moved on to be a fifth-round draft pick of the New York Mets in 2007, and who this year started the season at third base in double-A Binghamton.

“My freshman year was probably my favorite memory [at Alvernia],” said Lutz. “The team bonding that was here was like nothing I ever experienced before.”

Recker and Lutz will always be linked by their college choice. After things didn’t work out his first semester at the University of Delaware, Recker followed the footsteps of his mother’s cousin, Marco Spinosa, a member of the 1991 team that was just inducted into the Alvernia University Hall of Fame.

“I heard Alvernia was a pretty good school for baseball despite the fact that it was Division III,” said Recker. “I just wanted to play baseball because I thought I had a chance to play professionally.”

Lutz considered many bigger-named schools before choosing Alvernia, briefly entertaining ideas of playing at either Notre Dame or the University of South Carolina. Ultimately, he knew that he wanted to play for his father Yogi, who has coached the Alvernia team since 1987.

“Playing for my dad – you can’t ask for more than that,” said the younger Lutz, still thinking if he could do it I could, too.”

Recker, watching him, I was still hearing a similar message.

“A bunch of scouts said I needed to put on a lot of weight,” Lutz said. He began to work out with that in mind, visiting the gym before the sun was up, and working in the batting cages until it went back down again.

“Coming into my freshman year I put on about 40 pounds,” he said. “Baseball was basically the only thing I wanted to do in life. Then playing here with Recker, watching him, I was thinking if he could do it I could, too.”

Their professional success makes Alvernia University one of only two Division III schools (Wisconsin-Oshkosh is the other) to have at least two former players play professional double-A or higher baseball.

“Right now I just have to keep working hard and I might have a chance. He didn’t say ‘you’re gonna be the next big thing,’ but he put it in my head that I had a shot.”

Lutz wasn’t quite the 6-2, 230-pound specimen that Recker was coming out of high school, but still heard a similar message.

“Yogi has been a lifelong Mets fan, so to see his son drafted by them was double-A or higher baseball. Having him here is really that stuff up,” said Recker.
Sports

Sophomore to soldier
Alvernia guard balances basketball & academics with Army duties

When most college basketball players sit down to assess avenues for improvement after their sophomore season, the list typically includes a new exercise routine, maybe a slight change in diet, or shooting 500 jumpers a day.

Alvernia University junior Kelli McIntyre chose the Army.

McIntyre officially enlisted in January 2009 — halfway through her sophomore year — on the same night she scored team-high 23 points in a four-point win over rival Muhlenberg College.

McIntyre credits conversations with her brother-in-law for helping her make the final decision. She also admits to it being the biggest and scariest decision of her life.

“I made the decision to join the Army for a few reasons,” admitted McIntyre. “I feel as though if I joined the Army it would help me get a job once I graduate, it would help me grow as a person, and it would help me pay for school.”

McIntyre, who has lived in Orwigsburg her whole life, says her father encouraged her to get into basketball at a young age, along with her sister Erin (a 2005 Alvernia graduate who scored 1,165 points over her four-year career, finishing sixth of the career scoring list).

“Dad was hard core into basketball,” recalled the younger McIntyre. “I started when I was five years old. He would take us out to play basketball all the time.”

McIntyre graduated from Blue Mountain High School in 2006, a year after Erin graduated from Alvernia, and decided to attend Shippensburg University, though she was recruited heavily by Alvernia head coach Kevin Calabria. When Shippensburg made it clear that she would redshirt her first season, she left and followed her sister to Alvernia, even wearing the same number.

She quickly made a name for herself at Alvernia, scoring a team-high 19 points in her first collegiate game. Most of her best scoring efforts have come in the team’s biggest games. She scored 23 points in an 83-80 road win over former rival Gwynedd-Mercy, snapping a 43-game conference win streak for the Griffins.

Choosing to enlist in the Army was a difficult decision for the family-oriented McIntyre. “I was afraid about being away from my family and friends for five months and not getting to talk to them at all except through letters and the occasional phone call,” said McIntyre. But she reported to Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, for boot camp and advanced individual training (AIT) last May, and returned just more than five months later in October.

Morning wake-up calls were at 4:30 a.m. (a popular bedtime for many college students) and lights were out at 8:30 p.m. Every other day, McIntyre would be up for

Continued on page 50

Lutz picks up 600th win
With an unassuming sweep of Albright College on April 5, baseball head coach Yogi Lutz earned his 600th and 601st victories; Lutz currently ranks 19th in victories among active Division III coaches and is 23rd in win percentage.

Lutz began his storied career at Alvernia in 1989 and posted just two losing seasons over his 22 years at the helm. He has coached his team to a Freedom Conference title, seven Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) titles and a District 19 Championship.

His team has reached the NCAA Division III Mid-Atlantic Regionals four times, and in 2002 his team reached the Division III Mid-Atlantic Regional championship for the first time in school history.

Lutz has been named KAC Coach of the Year, nAIA District 19 Coach of the Year (twice), PAC Coach of the Year (three times), and has earned the Louisville Slugger Coaches Award (twice). Under Lutz’s tutelage, seven players have gone on to play professionally, while four players were named Conference Player of the Year.

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1960s
The Reading Eagle named Valetta Painter Eshbach '68 a "Person of the Week" in September. She was honored for volunteering at Mary's Shelter, Reading since 1999. Valetta also volunteers as a babysitter with Mary's Home, Kenhorst, while mothers attend classes, appointments, and job training. She also helps with special projects and mailings.

Barbara (Riegle) Kunder '69 and her husband George have been married for 38 years and are still living in Reading. They have six children and seven grandchildren.

Bernadette (Stephan) Fennimore '69 recently moved back to Easton. This is her 35th year of teaching, including more than 25 years of teaching English at her current post in Pennridge School District, Perkasie.

Irene (Copes) Albright '69 currently lives in Sugar Land, Texas. Irene produces field operations manuals and manufacturing procedures for a tech-writing company.

Joanne (Spudis) Haag '69 lives in Loveland, Ohio. Joanne is the owner and President of H.P. Thompson Utility Thermal Eq. Co.

Alum Callahan hits entrepreneurial 'home run'

By Amy White

Alvernia alumna Cheryl Callahan '79 has succeeded where many before her have failed. By sheer hard work and determination, she has built a thriving professional sports-oriented business from the ground up. But then that would not surprise those who know her well, because she's accustomed to overcoming odds and being driven to succeed.

Callahan began attending Alvernia University in 1977, at the age of 30 and with two junior-high-age children at home. She wanted to earn a bachelor's degree in biology, and she wanted to do it in just two years. With her nose to the grindstone, she completed her coursework and graduated right on plan 24 months later. She went on to land jobs at several laboratories before starting her own phlebotomy service and eventually founding the business in 1992 that would send her into the big leagues: Profiles Encourage. The company provides medical services for Major League Baseball organizations and their affiliated minor league teams during spring training and throughout the season.

"I saw what I could do at Alvernia," Callahan said. "If I could do that, in that amount of time, I could pretty much do anything. They (the university) allowed me to see that if I worked hard enough, I could get it done. That applies to everything in life. There's always a way to do it if you have the right people surrounding and supporting you."

Callahan's company provides services that include blood work, electrocardiograms, immunizations, vitals checks, and tuberculosis screenings that are part of team physicals. The business has crews working in Arizona — where spring training takes place — and in Florida, where the company is based. Crews also travel to the Dominican Republic several times a year.

Her firm began by working successfully with the Philadelphia Phillies, and the business has grown every year since. It now serves nearly half of the 30 Major League Baseball teams and affiliates, including the Phillies, Toronto Blue Jays, Pittsburgh Pirates, and reigning world-champs — the New York Yankees.

"We take a lot of work off of the clubs' medical staffs," Callahan said. "I anticipate what their needs are going to be and get that done. That's rewarding to me personally, and, as far as business, I don't solicit it; it all comes through word of mouth, and that is very rewarding."

Callahan has fond memories of her time at Alvernia, where she was part of a small, close-knit group of biology majors, adult students, nursing, and science students. She recalls the camaraderie of the students (particularly the adult students) and the support of the faculty and staff, whom she continues to think of as a family.

"That closeness between the teaching nuns and the students was a really nice benefit," Callahan said. "You could talk to them almost any time of day. They were very open to talking and they wanted us to do well." Callahan is thankful to her Alma Mater and its ability to serve students such as her, she said.

"Alvernia fills a lot of needs for a lot of people and I thank God it's there," she said.

Callahan advises today's Alvernia students to be true to themselves and to study what interests them, as she did with biology.

"Get the background at Alvernia andlet it evolve," she said. "Your network builds and builds and let it evolve," she said. "Your network builds and builds and you're confident because you've already studied what you really like and already have the opportunity to do that. It all falls into place. It is amazing what happens..."

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The company is a sales representative firm for mechanical engineered products that are sold to the industrial and power industry. Joanne has worked there for 34 years and travels all over the country for business. She also took a trip around the world in 2008 with her family.

**Karen (Stephan) Goodhart ’69** works for the Media Tree Group in Parsippany, N.J. The company supplies promotions through distributors across the country. Karen currently resides in the Poconos.

**Mary Ann (Schafer) D’Alonzo ’69** lives in Reading and is volunteering her time with the Heritage Project at Alvernia University.

**Mary Kay Murphy ’69** currently lives in Reading. Even though she is retired she is called on to substitute teach or act as a proctor for testing students.

**Nancy M. Nicklas’69** currently resides in Springfield, Va. She has worked for the U.S. Department of Labor for almost 32 years.

**Suzanne (Portrica) McGuane ’69** and her husband moved from the Boston area to Hilton Head, S.C. Her children are spread across the country and she enjoys visiting them.

**Theodora (Milczanowski) DeAngelis ’69** currently resides in Las Vegas.

**Virginia “Ginny” (Moll) Chudgar ’69** recently had a photography exhibit at the Lancaster Public Library and also had a nationally juried show at the Goggle Works in Reading.

**Edward J. Kosmerl, Jr. ’76** has retired from the City of Reading Police Department.

**Donald Stewart ’76** will be starting a new job as program manager with the U.S. Department of Justice Electronic Crime Technology Center of Excellence in Phillipsburg, N.J.

**Alexandra J. (Sutherland) Criscil ’78** has worked for almost 10 years as a Reading Aid in the Mechanicsburg District. She has three daughters: Sarah (20) a sophomore at Susquehanna University, Anna (19) a freshman at Kutztown University, and Emma (17) a junior at Mechanicsburg Area High School.

**Kim Emes ’79** has been reappointed as Membership Chairman for the Pennsylvania Association of Licensed Investigators for the sixth year and is a charter member of The United States Association of Professional Investigators. Kim and his wife Millie Paisley-Emes ’81 are owners of KRE Security/Investigations, Inc. in Hamburg. Millie was granted a Private Detective license by the Court of Common Pleas in August 2009, and continues to teach for the BCIU Head Start Program where she has been for the past 30 years. Their children Jarrod Emes ’07 and Bethany Emes-Thren are Security Supervisors/Investigators for KRE.

**Stuart Johnston ’81** was named the Chief Information Technology Officer for the Kentucky Education Cabinet.

**Roberta Metzler ’84** passed away on March 14, 2010, at the age of 60.

**Diane Renninger ’88** opened her own CPA firm, Renninger & Associates LLC in Reading.

**Jacqueline A. (Weise) Schneider ’88** was recently married to David Robbins. Jacqueline teaches English at Walter Johnson High School in Maryland.

**Linda Lysakowski ’88**
Linda (Scheib) Lysakowski ’88 and Michael A. Sand co-wrote The Essential Nonprofit Fundraising Handbook. Using the book, Linda and Michael believe they can teach any organization, no matter what its size, to develop a viable and realistic fundraising plan.

Michael J. Heimbach ’88 retired as FBI deputy director for anti-terrorism to become the senior director for global security at ESPN. Mike will be in charge of security at ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Conn., along with offices in Los Angeles and Charlotte, N.C. Other locations will include ESPN Brasil, ESPN Argentina, the World Cup, the ESPYS, and remote events like the Super Bowl, Pro Bowl, and the top BCS bowl.

Susan M. Puwalski ’88, M’00 married David J. Marsh on October 24, 2009, in St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church, Millmont during a double-ring Mass celebrated by the Rev. Larry Hess.

Hugh J. Gallagher, Jr. ’89 passed away on December 29, 2009, after a courageous battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Joyce and two daughters, Tracy and Karen.

Lisa M. DeLong ’89 moved back to Pennsylvania from Florida after graduating from the Florida Coastal School of Law. Lisa graduated in May and is waiting for results from the Pennsylvania Bar exam. She is currently teaching freshman composition and speech at Alvernia.

1990s

Robert L. Balthaser ’91 was named the new vice president of development for the Trust for the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Loren J. Berckey ’92 was named director of operations at Junior Achievement of Greater Reading and Lehigh Valley. He will be responsible for managing special events and fundraisers and managing support services to create and maintain a productive and efficient work environment. He will also be responsible for analyzing and arranging staff workload priorities and overseeing and maintaining the organization’s Web and social-media efforts.

Molly Kay Gruber (above) was born to Kendra (Ehret) Gruber ’00 on July 9, 2009.

Christopher deGruchy ’93, M’05 has acquired an aluminum foundry in Birdsboro. The company’s name is Cast Rite Metal Co., a 40-year-old company that produces aluminum castings from sand molds (aluminum sand castings) for a wide variety of industries.

Jodi Bukowski ’95 and her husband Chris Way welcomed a daughter, Caris Elizabeth Way, on October 29, 2009.

Jennifer (Holzapfel) Filipe ’97 welcomed identical twins Erica Danielle and Emma Marie into her family on April 30, 2008.

2000s

Kendra K. (Ehret) Gruber ’00 and her husband Steven had their first daughter, Molly Kay, on July 9, 2009.

Erin McCurry ’99 is engaged to Rodney Reider.

Ross Hopple ’99 was named the assistant principal at Donegal Springs Elementary School.

Jodi Bukowski ’95 and her husband Chris Way welcomed a daughter, Caris Elizabeth Way, on October 29, 2009.

Susan Campling ’95 has been named director of Pine Grove’s Gentle Path program.

Jodi Bukowski ’95 and her husband Chris Way welcomed a daughter, Caris Elizabeth Way, on October 29, 2009.

Lisa A. Pascuzzo ’95 was recently appointed Mayor of the Borough of Cressona in Schuylkill County. She is currently working on her Master of Business Administration degree at the Alvernia Schuylkill Center located at the Cressona Mall.

Amanda (Davis) McClune ’96 will be the new owner of The Purple Turtle in Lititz. The Purple Turtle is a women’s and children’s new and consigned quality clothing and accessory store.

Amy (Hiester) Matthias ’97, M’08 is the Marketing Communications Specialist for Stevens & Lee in Reading.

Jennifer (Holzapfel) Filipe ’97 welcomed identical twins Erica Danielle and Emma Marie into her family on April 30, 2008.

Charles Smith ’98 and Melissa J. Truhan were married November 21, 2009, aboard the Pacific Fury Sailboat in the Gulf of Mexico in Key West, Fla. The couple had a double-ring ceremony at sunset.

Julia (Schultz) Dickinson ’98 and her husband welcomed Wyatt Liam into their family on September 23, 2009. Wyatt joins his big sister Hannah.

April L. (Wynkoop) Kummerer ’99 is a police officer in the City of Allentown. She has been working for the city since July 2001 and was awarded the “Top Gun” award by the Lehigh Valley DUI Task Force for having the most DUI arrests in her department in 2007.

Erin McCurry ’99 was recently promoted to Project Administrator in manufacturing at BAE Systems, where she incorporates Lean Enterprises into project plans and finds better and more efficient ways to complete them. Erin was also recently accepted into the Global MBA program at Southern New Hampshire University.


Michele L. Haas ’99 is engaged to Rodney Reider.

Dr. Charles F. Barbera M’01 traveled with several doctors to open the first modern trauma unit in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa.

Jason Prugar ’01 is Vice President of the Lancaster Area Film Festival.
Alumni Class Notes

Dana (Bachman) Stank ’02 was promoted to Supervisor of the tax department at Reinsel Kuntz Lesher, LLP.

Robert M. Kovacs ’02 and his wife Sandy completed an eco-tour of Costa Rica. His picture (on page 44) was taken in Monteverde, Costa Rica, in a cloud forest.

Beth M. Renfro ’03 of the Berks Arts Council received the Pennsylvania Festivals and Event Executive Certification from the International Festivals and Events Association.

David F. Brennan ’03, M’05 is engaged to marry Melissa Cress. A June 5, 2010, wedding is planned at the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church, Elysburg.

James R. Lilla ’03 had a son, Austin Thomas, on July 12, 2009. James has been a New York City police officer for five years and is currently an undercover/plainclothes officer in Manhattan.

Lauren B. Phillips ’03 has been promoted to Recruitment Coordinator at Universal Health Services, Inc., in King of Prussia.

Lindsay Seyfert ’03 recently left the Reading School District to become a fifth grade teacher in the School District of Lancaster.

Mary F. Helms ’03 was married on August 9, 2008, to Adrian Quinn from Tyrone, Ireland. The couple had their first daughter, Jane Frances, on August 12, 2009. Mary’s mother (and Jane’s grandmother) is Sharon (Cerra) Helms ’97.

Melinda D. (Frye) Stuart-Tilley ’03 was hired as the editorial supervisor for the Florida House of Representatives, where she manages a staff of editors who proofread all House publications. Melinda and her husband Alan welcomed their second daughter, Josephine Eloise, in March 2009. The happy baby joins her proud big sister, Charlotte Maryanne, who was born in August 2005.

Stephanie M. Lynn ’03 and Jason A. Gilmer were married on July 11, 2009, at the Willow Valley Chapel in Lancaster.

Lisa M. (Coccia) Martin ’03 works for West Creek Hills Elementary School in the East Pennsboro Area School District. She and husband Joshua Martin ’03 live in Mechanicsburg, with their daughter Emma Rose.

Mindi Asselin ’04 joined Keller Williams Realty Group Realtors. She received her real estate license in 2006 after a 10-year career in the health care industry.

Both twin daughters of Deborah Brown ’04 are first-year students at Lincoln University. Deborah also has a grandson, Jeremiah.

Dr. Kelley C. Crozier M ’04 is the medical director at the newly opened Reading Hospital for Post-Acute Rehabilitation in Spring Township.

Jennifer Rauscher ’04 is currently attending Bloomsburg University for her masters degree in education for deaf/hard of hearing. She will graduate in June 2010.

Jonathan Johnson ’04, M’06 is attending his third year of law school at Widener University in Harrisburg. He expects to graduate in May 2011.

Katrina Sipics ’04 is engaged to Jeffrey Ziegler. A 2011 wedding is planned.

Michael P. LaFata ’04 and Ann E. Biechler were married on May 30, 2009, at historic St. Peter the Apostle Church in Reading. The couple resides in Reading.

Megan Stamm ’04 has been working the past three years as a CPS Investigator for Sexual and Physical Abuse for Children and Youth Services of Lebanon County.

Onelia (Alvarado) Timmons ’04 gave birth to a son, Warren Rafael Timmons, on July 17, 2009.

Chad Webb ’05 is engaged to marry Katie Griffith ’05, (above) is a United States Border Patrol Agent for the San Diego Sector Horse Patrol.

Save the Date
Homecoming and Family Weekend — October 8-10, 2010

Special events will include a comedian, live music, home athletic contests, and activities for kids. Celebrate Sister Pacelli’s life, Saturday at 4 p.m. Check your mailbox for a complete list of events in early fall, or visit www.alumni.alvernia.edu for the latest news and event offerings.

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Stephanie Hachey. A July 2010 wedding is planned. Crystal Weiss '05 and Christian L. Kulpcavage were united in marriage on October 3, 2009, at Calvary United Church of Christ, Reading. The couple had a reception at the Reading Country Club followed by a wedding trip to St. Lucia.

Sara Schroyer '05 and Michael Paulson were married on May 2, 2009, at Mother Cabrini Church, Shamokin. The couple honeymooned at Dunn's River, Jamaica.

Susan J. (Martz) Kingsley '05 is currently a K-12 gifted teacher in the Pequea Valley School District.

Becky Peal '05, M'07 married Justin Morrow '00 on October 17, 2009. Veronica A. Schmidt '05 is the Assistant Payroll Manager at Pfizer in Great Valley.

Adrienne Guinther '06 is engaged to marry Oliver Horrigan.

Beth '05, M'07 married John H. Miller on May 22, 2009, at Foxchase Golf Club in Lancaster County.

Risa Frappolli '06 married Scott Schuler on November 7, 2009, in Florence, N.J.

Stephanie Durante '06 currently works for Ebso Industries doing accounting work in one of its publishing divisions.

Tiffany Grove '06, M'09 is engaged to Timothy Stein.

Zachary Schneider '06, M'08 began working at Neumann University in August as the coordinator of intramural club sports.

Laura Wilson '06 is engaged to Phillip Valz.

Lori A. Wunderler '06 is engaged to Matthew Lezinsky. An August 2010 wedding is planned.

Matt Nied '07 is engaged to Cait Johnson.

Becky Peal '05, M'07 (above) married Justin Morrow '00 in October. Becky is the assistant director for housing and residential learning at Albright College.

Jamie M. (LaDolce) Laury '05 and her husband Jason welcomed a baby boy, Jake Patrick, into the world on September 22, 2009. Jamie is currently employed at a Pharmaceutical Company, Sanofi Pasteur, Inc.

JoAnn Bechtel '05 was featured in the Reading Eagle for her essay in the Gifts of Christmas contest. JoAnn wrote an essay about a stuffed Santa given to her by her mother 59 years ago.

Katharine Griffith '05 began her career as a United States Federal Agent in 2007, assigned to the mounted unit as a United States Border Patrol Agent. She is currently residing in San Diego, Calif.

Patricia O'Gurek '05 graduated from West Chester University with a master's degree in secondary school counseling in August 2005.

Jonathan Clouser '08 is a health and physical education teacher at the Millmont ASE School.

Jessica L. (Frisbie) Karrer '07 is engaged to Robert Heckman, Jr. A May 2011 wedding is planned.

Kelly Peat '07 is an Elementary Learning Support Teacher at South Western School District in Hanover.

Kimberly Zenyuch '07 and Jared Maxwell were married in August 2009. Kirsten Goeb '07 was Maid of Honor and bridesmaids included Sonia Topiarz '07 and Karen Hutton '07.

Madeline A. Perez '07 has been employed by Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas as a Conference Officer of the Domestic Relations Section since August 2008.

Nicole Van Horn '07 and Jeremy Fry were married on August 15, 2009, in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico.

Victoria A. Clauser '07 is engaged to marry Christopher Bond.
Jonathan Clouser '08 is a health and physical education teacher at the Millmont ASE School, in the Reading School District.

Alicia M. Nolt '08 is engaged to marry Brian G. Seaman.

Cathleen M. Moran '08 is engaged to marry Edward Andrescavage III.

Heather A. Gaul '08 is engaged to marry Jonathan M. Deem.

Lynsey Treadwell '08 is a middle school special education teacher in the Freehold School District in Freehold, N.J.

Mehmet Arslan '08 and Natalie R. Huff were married on July 8, 2009. The ceremony was held on the beach in North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Samantha Sabonis '08 is a nationally certified EMT for the state of Connecticut and is also taking independent classes in sign language.

Shannon Higgins '08 is the new kindergarten teacher at Chesterbrook Academy, Collegeville. This past spring, Shannon joined the athletic staff of Norristown High School as the softball program's junior varsity head coach.

The Allentown Morning Call reported that Shannon Smith '08 of Girardville has been hired by the Schuylkill Chamber as the new member services director. She most recently worked as a sales representative for PSI Container, McCaddo. Previously, she worked for American Staffing Solutions Inc., Hazleton and Synergy Systems Group Inc., Pottsville.

Michael G. Billman '08 is engaged to Ashley L. Hoffman.

Aaron Rimby '09 is a social service associate at the Berkshire Center, where he enjoys working with the elderly population.

Aimee Gilmore '09 joined Fromm Electric's accounting team, where she will be supporting the Reading accounting team with various functions including accounts receivable, account maintenance, cash applications, cash reconciliation, credit and rebills, and various other accounting projects.

Amanda Ralston '09 and Chase Kochkodin were married Aug. 15, 2009, at Thomas Paine Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Collegeville.

Kimberly A. Krajmas '09 and Jason Renninger, Sr. were married Aug. 15, 2009, at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, Minersville, on November 27, 2009. The couple had a reception at the Pottsville Zone followed by a wedding trip to Hershey.

Lisa Anderson '09 is attending Marywood's master’s degree program and plans to graduate in 2010.

Lillian (Heisse Nardello) Plasencia '09 is employed at Family Care Counseling Center and is working on her master's degree in social work at Kutztown University.

Perla V. (Plasencia) Gentry '09 is currently employed as a jail officer with the Middle Peninsula Regional Jail in Saluda, Va.

Ashley Dixon '09 is engaged to marry Justin Motuk. A Spring 2010 wedding is planned.

Derrick Hogue '09 is currently working at the Elwyn Institute as a Behavior Health Worker and is working with children to improve their educational skills.

Malia Underhill '09 is engaged to marry Glenn Bowen III.

Megan Perigo '09 is working at Camp Dreamcatcher in Kennett Square. The camp is a place for children who have been infected or are affected by AIDS.

Nicole Broughton '09 is currently employed as a jail officer with the Middle Peninsula Regional Jail in Saluda, Va.

Rebecca S. (Ruhf) Ralston '09 is currently a registered representative for Wachovia Securities.

Samantha Bader '09 is attending the University of Denver with hopes of earning her master’s degree in social work in 2010.

Sonia (Nhan) Rodriguez '09 recently had a baby.

Tina (Murray) Huntsinger '09 is currently working with the elderly population at Spruce Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Yumiko (Hida) Hoshitsuki '09 currently works with elderly residents through the Berks Visiting Nurses Association. She is also attending a master’s degree program at Marywood.

Ashley Romanot '09 is engaged to Mark Palubinsky.
RACISM AT 25,000 FEET | Continued from page 34

I believe we proved that the color of our skin had nothing to do with what was in our hearts.

Eugene Richardson

Tuskegee Airman Eugene Richardson posed with students during his recent visit to Alvernia.

PARTNERS IN CRIME | Continued from page 36

named to a special weapons unit.

Bowen-Hartung has served as a licensed psychologist in the states of Oklahoma and Texas, as well as a certified trauma specialist. In fact, her unique background has made her a valuable asset to the American Red Cross, which has called on the mental health specialist to treat first responders — worldwide — after hurricanes, typhoons, and other natural disasters. Bowen-Hartung was at ground zero after September 11, 2001, and has been to all 50 states and Canada, as well as every country in South America, Asia, and Europe.

In 2004, Bowen-Hartung accepted a position at Alvernia, where she has been one of the university’s most active faculty members. In addition to teaching a variety of courses dealing with psychology and criminal justice at both Alvernia and the Reading Police Academy, she is involved in the undergraduate Honors Program, as well as various committees and councils on campus.

Locally, Bowen-Hartung is involved in both the Anti-Gang Initiative and the Public Safety Advisory Committee for the City of Reading. She serves on the National Institute of Health Review Board, as well as being actively involved in various criminal justice and psychology associations across the nation.

Even when they are not teaching, the couple is always on the go. Both actively participate in a multitude of professional and academic conferences, workshops, and other affiliations — on state and national levels. Both regularly contribute to academic publications in their respective fields and are currently considering the possibility of penning accounts of their own incredible careers.

Leah Della Croce is a first-year Alvernia student majoring in communications.

Tuskegee Airman Eugene Richardson posed with students during his recent visit to Alvernia.

“Outstanding combat record inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces.”

Although many bomber pilots were not aware that the “Red-tail” fighters were black, Captain Davis was proud of the regular requests his squadron received. He even painted “by request” on the side of his aircraft as a nod to the bombers who asked for his crew to escort them.

In all, 450 black men flew in combat against the Germans and Italians in World War II, receiving an impressive 850 medals. Despite their role as “bomber escorts,” they shot down 111 airplanes and sank one destroyer (caught on film by the fighter plane’s trigger camera). No other squadron managed to sink a destroyer.

Eugene Richardson finished his flight training in March 1945, just two months before the war ended in Europe. “I’m not sorry that I didn’t see combat,” he said. “I didn’t want to kill anybody or get killed. I just wanted to fly.”

Of the 38 pilots in his class, 23 — including Richardson — graduated as fighter pilots and 15 finished as B-25 bomber pilots. “Hitler heard I was coming over,” said Richardson. “He surrendered.”

“Combat or not, flying can be dangerous. “One of the scariest things that happened to me involved losing oil pressure just after takeoff,” Richardson said. Though he was able to land the P-47 safely, the experience made him fear for his life. “Fighter planes aren’t designed to glide. They just drop straight out of the sky without a working engine,” he explained. Though Richardson lived to tell his story, 66 Tuskegee Airmen were not so lucky, and died in battle during World War II.

Even though they performed remarkably in Europe, black pilots faced continued discrimination upon returning home. “When the pilots got off the gangplank, there were signs saying ‘blacks this way and whites that way,’” Richardson said. “It was the same as when they had left.”

But the airmen’s performance did not go unnoticed. Only a few years later, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 (in 1948), ending segregation in the military and leading to other landmark legislation such as the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In 2007, Tuskegee airmen were awarded the congressional gold medal, inscribed with the words: “Outstanding combat record inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces.”

“I believe we proved that the color of our skin had nothing to do with what was in our hearts,” Richardson said. “We had the ‘Double-V’ campaign, victory abroad against the Nazis and Fascists and victory at home against racism,” said Richardson.

Carey Mantzolillo ’06, M’07, is managing editor of Alvernia Magazine.
SOPHOMORE TO SOLDIER | Continued from page 42

90 minutes in the middle of the night for fireguard duties, which included bay checks and some cleaning responsibilities.

Her mother and grandparents — who routinely make the 80-mile round trip for every home basketball game — flew to Missouri twice to attend both her basic training and AIT graduations, an effort McIntyre lists as one of her chief highlights.

After returning to Alvernia, McIntyre talked to friends about the changes the Army has brought to her, comparing taking basketball shots to learning to shoot a gun, and the differences between driving her Toyota Corolla and the Army's Humvee.

She hopes that her leadership abilities on the court will translate well into an opportunity to be a squad leader. "Being a squad leader and a basketball leader is kind of the same thing," said McIntyre. "You are in charge of a group of people and everything is put on your shoulders. If you mess up as a squad leader the drill sergeants yell at you, and if you mess up on the court coach gets on your case about it. I like being put in a leadership position. It makes me feel like people trust me."

McIntyre proved herself as a leader in each of her first two seasons. She was a clear choice to captain the team upon return this season, and even before her time in the Army she was known as one of the most competitive people on campus.

"People said I couldn't do this," said McIntyre referring to getting through Army training. "But I wanted to prove them wrong. I knew I could do this."

Her head coach is one of those impressed by what McIntyre has been able to accomplish. "Honestly Kelli is probably the last one on the team I would have thought would go into the Army," said Calabria. "I'm so proud of her. She definitely came back stronger, and I swear she's an inch taller."

Jon King '04 is Alvernia's director of sports information.

IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN | Continued from page 31

breaking one, she said. If all else is equal between two products, a person might choose the environmentally friendly one. But for other products, cost and effectiveness will define the choice, she said.

In any campaign to change behaviors for the good of the environment, it is common for a person to believe that his individual actions won't make a difference.

"This is an example of the 'common dilemma,'" Carlson said. When people share a common resource, they need to act for the general good, such as only using a small amount of the resource. They might think it won't hurt too much if only they take a little extra, so they may act in their own interest. "That may be true, but if everyone acts in that way, then there is rapid depletion of the common resource," Carlson said.

Giving people a better sense of how much energy they use or how much is saved when they recycle could have an impact on programs.

"Once they see that their individual actions do matter," Carlson said, "then that will help behavior to change."

Mary Ellen Alu is a freelance writer living in the Lehigh Valley. Her work has appeared in The Morning Call and college alumni magazines in the region.

MAJOR LEAGUE TALENT

Continued from page 41

working,” said Recker of his prospects to make it to the majors. “I’ve been doing all the right things getting promoted. I’m ready. I’m physically and mentally where I need to be and I just need an opportunity now — whether it’s with the A’s or with somebody else.”

Lutz maintains a similar level of optimism despite sitting on the depth chart behind David Wright, a cornerstone on the New York roster. “There are only a few days out of the year — I could count them on one hand — that Zach does not do any type of training,” said Vickie. “He is determined to achieve his goal and prides himself on his determination and dedication.”

Lutz suffered a major foot injury during his first professional game. “That pushed him even harder to come back stronger and make an impact that the Mets organization would notice through his work ethic,” said Vickie. During his injury rehab, Lutz returned to Alvernia to complete his degree in business management, and he is most appreciative of the support of the business faculty and campus community for their help and understanding.

Now that he’s back in the game, Lutz has been steadily moving up the ranks. His parents are pleased with his current assignment with the Binghamton, N.Y. Mets, where he is playing double-A ball. Binghamton competes against the local Reading Phillies.

“Everyone always says to me ‘you got David Wright in front of you,’ but I don’t really worry about that,” said Lutz. “I’ve been working out at first, at second, and in the outfield. Basically if you can hit, they’ll find a place on the field for you. If you go out there and work hard, anything can happen.”
On February 16, 2010, Alvernia University learned that Sister M. Pacelli, former administrator and professor since 1960, died following a brief illness. Her passing was sudden, and we now realize we have lost a remarkable member of our academic community.

During her almost 50-year tenure, Sr. Pacelli held several administrative positions at Alvernia, including Dean of Students and Academic Dean. She joined the faculty two years after the college was founded, and when she retired, she was named Dean and Professor Emerita and honored with a Doctorate of Humane Letters at the 50th anniversary commencement ceremony in May 2009. Even after her retirement, Sr. Pacelli continued to teach a number of very popular and creative classes each semester, and as the college historian, Sister Pacelli authored two books. Her history of Alvernia, Threads: A Tapestry of Alvernia College (2002), includes the story of the Franciscan movement and the founding of the Bernardine Franciscan sisters in the U.S. Her second book, Designed to Serve: The Place and Persons of Francis Hall (2008), is a history of the oldest building at the university from its beginnings as an orphanage to the present day.

But it was as an educator that Sr. Pacelli truly excelled, and she was both traditional and innovative. Her classical training in theater and English literature was the foundation on which she developed a broad array of teaching and academic interests — from film and media to the innovative programs she began for students of law enforcement and addiction studies. In the classroom, Sr. Pacelli was able to challenge the academically gifted and still hold the attention of those inclined to be less engaged. No one missed her notice, and everyone was given ample opportunity to succeed. She welcomed questions and the give and take of Socratic learning, and she never failed to win respect as a fair and open-minded educator.

Perhaps Sr. Pacelli’s unique strength was her early secular education; she attended public schools until her entrance into religious life as a Bernardine Franciscan Sister. Sr. Pacelli enjoyed reading contemporary authors as well as mystics of Christian literature, from Harry Potter to Teresa of Avila. Her ability to recognize a blend of secular and spiritual themes in the literature and culture of our day gave her uncommon insights and made everyone feel welcome in the discussion.

In the summer of 2009, Sr. Pacelli participated in a much-anticipated congregational retreat at Alvernia on St. Bonaventure’s spiritual masterpiece, Journey of the Soul into God. This prayerful experience was her last community retreat with the congregation, and it was a fitting finale for her life. As we contemplate her passing, I know Alvernia will miss her wisdom, her warmth, and her scholarly academic contributions. But I believe she is now with God, whom she loved totally and served with her entire life. I would not want anything less for her, my sister and friend.
When singer Taylor Swift celebrated her birthday recently, she had gift-giving on her mind, and Alvernia. The Wyomissing, Pa., native is no stranger to Alvernia, having attended the Montessori School here and having delivered an early performance at the Physical Education Center.

Read the full story on page 7