In this issue—

Alvernia Values halfway around the globe

Blessings Exhibit caps 50th anniversary

Values & Vision results from thoughtful process
President’s Message

What a year it has been. We celebrated our 50th anniversary and honored the “legacy of leadership” by lay women and men and our foundresses, the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters. We welcomed the largest, most selective, and most diverse group of new students in our history. There was exciting progress in implementing our strategic and campus facilities plans. We were one of only approximately 100 schools in the nation to be recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for excellence in community engagement. And, oh yes, we became a university.

It may be impossible to match last year for excitement, but over the next few years we have the opportunity to build on this strong foundation. To support our shared effort to accomplish the goals of our Strategic Plan, Alvernia has launched our first comprehensive fundraising effort, Values & Vision: The Alvernia 50th Anniversary Campaign.

Values & Vision. Alumni of all ages speak with passion about the way Alvernia shaped their lives—personal and professional. Franciscan values guided their educational journey at Alvernia. The ideal of “knowledge joined with love” was embodied in the humble, loving, yet challenging, presence of the good Sisters. Preparation for professional success in one’s chosen field was infused with the values of a Catholic, liberal arts education. Faculty and staff embraced students of all backgrounds, making Alvernia a place of opportunity and a source of inspiration for deserving students. Our graduates do well and do good.

Values & Vision. We have ambitious goals, clear priorities and a vision to be a “Distinctive Franciscan University.” As we look ahead, we stand on the shoulders of those before us—faculty and staff, alumni and trustees, loyal friends and supporters, and especially Sr. Zygmunta and those first Sisters who believed in the small college on the hill known as Mt. Alvernia.

This issue of Alvernia Magazine includes wonderful stories of personal transformation worthy of our heritage. You will read about an extraordinary student, empowered by her Alvernia education and her battle with drug addiction to help addicted teenage boys in her native country. You will be warmed by the testimonies of people deeply moved by the historic Blessings exhibit. And you will hear from an alumna who credits Alvernia with bringing her closer to God.

You will also learn more about Values & Vision. Thanks to the stellar leadership of our campaign chairs, Theresa and Bob McCormack and Kathy and Carl Herbein, Alvernia’s campaign has had considerable early success despite these difficult economic times. We have been blessed with generous support from longtime friends, such as Ray and Carole Neag and Jerry and Carolyn Holleran, as well as from many others whose names are not as familiar.

With $17.5 million of our $27 million goal raised in its initial leadership phase, Values & Vision is now entering its “public” phase. Alumni and friends will be invited to join together with their gifts to make a fine young university even better. Most important, it is a time to help ensure that Alvernia continues to be a place of opportunity and inspiration for deserving students.

Enjoy this chronicle of our 50th anniversary year and join me in anticipating Alvernia’s bright future. We need your presence, your prayers, and your support. I am honored to share this journey with you.

Peace and all good,

Thomas F. Flynn
President
As a continuing celebration of our golden anniversary, a tiny icon of St. Francis like the one shown here has been hidden somewhere in the pages of the Alvernia Magazine. Can you find it? Email your name and contact information, along with where you found St. Francis, to magazine@alvernia.edu for a drawing entry to receive a special 50th anniversary gift!
Campus News

McGowan Scholar is exemplary candidate

The Alvernia University business department has selected Justine Fronheiser of Barto, Pennsylvania as the 2009 William G. McGowan Scholar. Fronheiser, an accounting major, receives a full scholarship for her senior year at Alvernia.

Superior business performance and community service are rarely discussed in the same conversation—unless, of course, you’re talking about Alvernia. So a scholarship that recognizes students for both seems to be tailor-made for Alvernia University.

Named for the late William G. McGowan, founder of MCI Communications, the McGowan Scholars Program is one of several charitable projects administered by the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund—established by McGowan in 1992 “to realize and enlarge the magnificent human potential which William McGowan foresaw.”

The program was established to provide selected colleges and universities with scholarship funds to support outstanding business students. Historically, recipients have been leaders who excel in the classroom as well as in the community. McGowan scholars demonstrate exemplary character and superior entrepreneurial potential, much like McGowan himself.

“Life between the pages

The 2009 Literary Festival at Alvernia University kicked off on October 12 in Crusader Café with the National Slam Poetry team of Panama Soweto and Ken Arkind. The festival continues with three full weeks of events, from the annual intercollege poetry contest to an Alvernia tribute to Edgar Allen Poe. Visit www.alvernia.edu for more information.
The Alvernia Fall Lecture Series kicked off on September 23, 2009 with the first Founders Day Lecture, a special event hosted by the Holleran Center for Community Engagement and the Center for Ethics and Leadership at Alvernia. Sister Mary Elizabeth Ingham, CSJ, presented “Mindful of Our Dignity: Insights from the Franciscan Tradition,” to Alvernia community members.

An award-winning philosophy professor at Loyola Marymount University, Ingham explained how the Franciscan understanding of the uniqueness of each person can aid in addressing many of today’s difficult ethical issues.

Leaders in the Berks judicial system, the Hon. Judges Linda Ludgate ’77 and Scott Lash of the Berks County Court of Common Pleas, and Howard Lightman, Esquire, president of the Berks County Bar Association, presented a panel discussion on October 6 titled, “Judicial Ethics & Leadership: A Conversation with Berks County Judges.” Berks County President Judge Jeffrey Schmehl served as moderator.

On October 13, author and historian Jon Kukla discussed his latest book, Mr. Jefferson’s Women. The book is a pioneering study of Thomas Jefferson's relationships with women in his personal life and in American society and politics.

Mark your calendar for a panel discussion with top nursing leaders from the local community as they present: “Exemplary Nursing Care in Our Community” on December 3, 2009. All Alvernia University Lecture Series events are free and open to the public. Visit www.alvernia.edu or call 610-790-1925 for more information.
Annual Edible Book Festival held

The Second Annual Edible Book Festival, held in the Franco Library on April Fool’s Day, invited Alvernia community members to eat their words. Literally. More than 20 entries depicted book titles in creative ways, from an oozing red heart for *How to Kill a Vampire*, to a melting ice cream sandwich man for *The Iceman Cometh*.

The event was planned by Sharon Neal, Kristin Brumbach, and the staff of the Franco Library (especially the Edible Books Committee: Carol Bracken, Su Kane, John Nelka, Jennifer Parker, and Bobbie Rohrbach). Judges included President Tom Flynn, Helen Flynn, Patty Doughman (catering), and Reading Eagle reporter Rebecca Vandermeulen, who chose their top three favorites. First place went to *Animal ‘Cracker’ Farm*, by Deb, Leah, Phoebe, and Asa Weitkamp; second place was awarded to *Huckleberry Finn*, by Carrie Fitzpatrick; and Bobbie Rohrbach took third place for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*.

Take Your Dog to Work Day at Alvernia

About 40 Alvernia community members participated in Take Your Dog to Work Day, raising $400 for the Animal Rescue League.
From Rome to Milmont, Alvernia Montessori stays true to philosophy

Alvernia Montessori School, once housed in Alvernia University’s Francis Hall, has, in essence, come home. The preschool, located in West Reading for several years, marked its 40th anniversary by moving into the recently vacated St. Anthony’s school building in Milmont, Pa., just two blocks from Alvernia’s Upland Center.

The new location is also much closer to the convents of the Bernardine Sisters, who have operated Alvernia Montessori since its inception. Sister Ann Marie Coll, director for the past 20 years, says the school will stay true to its philosophy of “self-directed learning, guided by teachers.” She believes the new location will be advantageous because the School will have better access to University resources and because “it opens up opportunities for Alvernia education students to student teach and for students in other academic disciplines to intern with us. There are many positive reasons that this move is good for our program.”

As part of the 40th anniversary celebration, alumni of the school will be invited to tour the new facility and to visit with their former teachers in early December.

The School’s philosophy was originally developed by Maria Montessori (1870-1952), an Italian doctor, educator, philosopher, and Catholic who devoted her life to educating the children of Rome’s ghettos. She became famous for visionary methods focusing on quality rather than quantity. The educational movement she founded was adopted by many public and private schools across the country and around the world.

Today, Maria Montessori’s vision is thriving at the Alvernia Montessori School, which expanded this fall to accommodate 56 preschool and kindergarten students. Operated by the Bernardine Sisters, the School has been administratively managed by Alvernia University since 1997.

When working with the children, Sisters Philip Ann Yurkonis, Le Roy Prymak, and Michael Ann Rugalla incorporate stories, Montessori materials, diverse cultural items, and traditional tools to promote learning and critical thinking. They teach the children to plan their time and to take responsibility for their work. Through a variety of lessons and activities, given for the most part to individuals or small groups, the Sisters help children gain independence, respect for others, competence, and confidence in life choices.

Angel and Scott Helm, a Berks County couple who sent all three of their children to Alvernia Montessori, say their experience was nothing short of wonderful.

“The ‘firm but loving’ approach of the Sisters and educators produces results,” explained Angel. “All of the Alvernia children come out of this little gem of a school so well-prepared for elementary school with a solid foundation that provides an advantage that serves them well in the future.”

The School can only succeed in its mission, however, if children enjoy the experience. The Helms are enthusiastic about this point as well: “This School is so special…our children just loved it there!”

Gavin DeGraw headlines Spring Fling

Singer-songwriter Gavin DeGraw appeared at Alvernia University on April 25 as the main act for this year’s Spring Fling. DeGraw’s hit album, Chariot, yielded three hit singles: “I Don’t Want To Be,” “Follow Through,” and the title-track. His new album, FREE, debuted a week before the concert at Alvernia.

Popular artists honeyhoney and Eric Hutchinson took the stage as DeGraw’s opening acts.
Trustee emeritus status was conferred upon two former members of the Board of Trustees, Jerry Holleran and Carole Neag, “whose generous contributions of talent and resources stand as a stirring reminder of the many local community leaders who have believed and invested in Alvernia,” expressed President Tom Flynn.

In addition, two honorary doctoral degrees of humane letters were awarded to two outstanding academic leaders: Dr. Richard Ekman (president, Council of Independent Colleges) and Sister Mary Pacelli Staskiel. Dr. Flynn said Sr. Pacelli’s hopes for new graduates with the crowd, “As you start new chapters in your life’s journey, Sr. Pacelli wants all of you to reflect carefully on the path you intend to take, to think carefully about the best way to get there, and to be sure to consider alternative paths. ‘When you get to be my age,’ she said recently, ‘and you look back over your life, you realize you could have made this choice or that. I want young people to know that your life comes down to the choices you make.’”

Sr. Pacelli received her hood on stage during a standing ovation from students, alumni, members of the Bernardine Sisters, faculty, trustees, and parents.

Class of 2009 honors models of leadership and service

Alvernia’s 50th anniversary celebration concluded as the class of 2009 walked across the Reading Eagle Theatre stage at the Sovereign Center on Saturday, May 16, but not before four individuals were honored as models of the Alvernia community.

A full crowd cheers on the class of 2009 in the Sovereign Center’s Reading Eagle Theatre.
Attended by about 250 local business and community leaders, university trustees, faculty, alumni, and administrators, this year’s President’s Dinner was held on October 15 in Alvernia’s Physical Education Center. After dinner, Dr. Flynn took a moment to acknowledge and celebrate alumni, parents, friends, trustees, businesses, and foundations through whose generosity the University has prospered. He then presented the Franciscan and the Pro Urbe Awards.

The Franciscan Award, which honors individuals who selflessly give their time, talents, and resources to serve Alvernia, the community, and their profession, was presented to Paul R. Roedel, former chairman and president of Carpenter Technology.

Roedel has been a tireless leader in advocating for women and education through the Reading and Berks County region—an interest strongly shared by Alvernia University. His support of related University endeavors has been exemplary.

Roedel has served on a long list of non-profit and social service boards in the Greater Reading area, including the Berks Business and Education Coalition and the Wyomissing Foundation. For 12 years, he served on the Gettysburg College Board of Trustees and oversaw the “Commission of the Future,” a group that laid the groundwork for the College’s $100 million campaign. Roedel also received the 2008 Berks Encore Award as well as the Berks County Thun Award for his civic service and enduring sense of commitment to the community.

This year’s Pro Urbe Award, honoring a business or organization that performs significant community service and contributes to a higher standard of living in Berks County and the surrounding communities, was presented to two exemplary organizations: Berks Women in Crisis and Mary’s Shelter/Mary’s Home. Reaching out to help make transformational change for women in need has always been a major priority for Alvernia. Both of this year’s award recipients live that mission everyday.

For more than 33 years, Berks Women in Crisis has worked to eliminate domestic and sexual violence in Berks County while offering a wide range of support services to victims. Mary’s Shelter/Mary’s Home assists young, pregnant, and homeless women so their children will be born to healthy, well-informed mothers. Counselors offer prenatal care and work with residents to develop attainable goals, focusing specifically on achieving independent living skills.
Our Franciscan learning community

—he adage “the more things change, the more they stay the same” permeates the passion and promise of Alvernia University as we enter into a new academic year. Changes abound and yet our foundation…our identity as a Franciscan university remains central to who we are and what we do. Inspired by the heritage of our foundresses the Bernardine Franciscans, we continue their journey through the revelation of the Franciscan values in the implementation of our programs, projects and policies. Our progress as an institution is guided by the traditions and values, which are the legacy entrusted to us by the Bernardine Sisters. That being said, the Alvernia of today needs to reflect on and embrace the Franciscan values as they are lived in today’s world. As Joan Chittister (1999) states, “Tradition is not a rigid adherence to the behaviors of the past. Tradition is the loving adherence to the values of the past.”

“Changes abound and yet our foundation…our identity as a Franciscan university remains central to who we are and what we do.”

Our mission states that: “Guided by Franciscan values and the ideal of ‘knowledge joined with love,’ rooted in the Catholic and liberal arts traditions, Alvernia is a rigorous, caring, and inclusive learning community committed to academic excellence and to being and fostering broadly educated, reflective professionals and engaged citizens, and ethical leaders with moral courage.”

Our challenge as an institution as we embark on the new academic year is to give flesh to those Franciscan values so clearly articulated in our mission and heritage statements within the context of a 21st century university. It is a challenge that as a community we accept with energy and enthusiasm. There is a hunger within the University community to better understand and live our Franciscan identity so that we can better fulfill the mission handed down to us over 50 years ago. In the words of contemporary psychology, “Being gives shape to doing.” When we know who we are…we will know what to do! Mission flows from identity. The more conscious and the better articulated the identity of an institution, the clearer the mission of that institution.

During the spring semester the faculty and staff began a process through which study and reflection on our identity will strengthen our understanding and enliven the spirit of St. Francis in all we do. As Dr. Flynn stated in a letter to the community, “Learning (and living) the Franciscan way is more a journey and process of discernment than a series of tasks to be completed. I can think of no better way for us to celebrate our 50th anniversary and enhance our educational mission than to study and reflect on the nature of our Franciscan identity and, then, act on that commitment.”

The “Franciscan Learning Community,”

—Sister Margaret Dougherty, RSM

“The Alvernia of today needs to reflect on and embrace the Franciscan values as they are lived in today’s world.”

members of the faculty and staff, have joined together to study and reflect on our Franciscan heritage and values and then to lead the entire community in a process that will integrate our heritage and values into the life of Alvernia. This yearlong journey into the theological, philosophical, and pedagogical tenets of a Franciscan education is both a privilege and a challenge. It is a journey that we do not take alone. We will stand on the shoulders of the women who dreamed Alvernia into being. We also take each of you whose belief in the vision and values of Alvernia University makes our dreams for the future possible. Pray with us as we continue the Franciscan story.
Turkish street kids get help from one of their own—a recovering addict who is bringing Alvernia Values & Vision to the poverty stricken area of Gaziantep, Turkey. Together, they are changing the way a country thinks about addiction and rehabilitation, and even changing the way they see their own futures.

Alvernia Values hit the streets of Turkey

Esra Cavusoglu ’09 — changing a lifetime of pain for Turkish boys.
Drug addiction and alcohol abuse are not restricted to adults, nor are they unique to people in the United States. They claim victims all over the world—young and old, rich and poor, male and female.

And they almost claimed Esra Cavusoglu ‘09—until the Caron Foundation, Alvernia University, and Esra’s own courage intervened.

After several failed attempts to achieve sobriety, Esra, a restaurant owner and member of one of Turkey’s most prominent families, came to the U.S. and checked herself into the Caron Treatment Center, a not-for-profit, internationally recognized treatment facility in Wernersville, Pa. A strategic partner of Alvernia, the Caron Foundation provided not only the solution for Esra’s addiction, but also the impetus for what would become Esra’s life’s work.

Though in her mid-thirties, Esra, a self-described “late starter,” decided to enroll in Alvernia University’s behavioral health studies program, not realizing she would soon leverage her personal battle with addiction and her education to save a very special population in Turkey: drug-addicted teenage boys upon whom society had given up.

These “street boys,” as they are sometimes called, live in abandoned buildings and ancient ruins in Gaziantep, a city in southern Turkey, just north of Syria. They have no money, no jobs, and oftentimes no families or homes. The desperate conditions under which they live cause many of them to turn to drugs and alcohol.

“The poverty in Gaziantep and similar places in this area of the world causes problems in households,” Esra said. “Kids see running away as a solution to their traumatic family lives and end up on the streets taking illegal actions to make a living and using drugs and alcohol to ease their pain.”

Who better to find a solution for these boys than Esra, who is living proof that rehabilitation is possible, and who is connected to a powerful, socially conscious family with the resources to assist her?
Esra decided to give up the restaurant business and begin arguably one of the most important journeys of her life. With the help of an uncle, who donated a building, and with unprecedented support from government officials, non-government entities, and local municipalities, Esra accomplished something she never thought she was capable of: she established and opened the Oya Bahadir Yuksel Rehabilitation Center, a residential treatment center for boys ages 13-20.

Esra worked closely with Dr. David Powell, president of the International Center for Health Concerns, Inc., whom she met during an internship at the Caron center. Powell conducts substance abuse and treatment training programs in over 80 countries worldwide and holds degrees from Princeton, Harvard, and Yale Universities.

Together, Esra and Dr. Powell developed a unique, culturally appropriate, incentives-based treatment program for the boys. Fifty staff members offer a full range of services for both the boys and their families. They include medical/nursing care, counseling, psychological and psychiatric services, physical therapy, job skills training, recreation, and much more. The program draws heavily from the principles of Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous.

As Vice President of Operations at the Center, Esra oversees the entire project, interacts with international addiction experts, communicates with the advisory board she helped assemble, creates budgets, and serves as the link between center workers, doctors, and public officials.

“Alvernia taught me how to use my voice to fight for change,” Esra said, explaining how addiction is viewed as a moral issue rather than a disease in her country. “Alvernia also armed me with the scientific information I needed to convince people in Turkey that rehabilitation is possible.”

Though science, business acumen from her restaurant days, and a confident approach are important tools as her vision evolves, Esra—sober for more than three years—can hardly talk about her own recovery or the transformation she sees in the boys without being close to tears. “The reason I talk about something so personal,” said Esra, “is that I am proud of my sobriety. I don’t want to be ‘the

(continued on page 12)
Ever ambitious and looking for ways to expand and improve on what she has already accomplished, Esra sees the Center as a place of opportunity. She believes it can be a model for treatment centers elsewhere in the Middle East and around the globe.

“Mahmut, what’s going on?” Esra asked. “Miss Esra,” the boy replied, “I used to look to the mirror and spit on my face and hate myself. Now, I am looking to the mirror and I am loving myself.”

“It gives me chills to remember this experience,” Esra explained. “Mahmut is close to two years sober. He now knows how to read and write. He is seeing criminal charges against him dropped. He has a regular job and is living in an apartment with other sober boys. This is what I want to achieve. We are helping these boys become productive members of society.”

(continued from page 11)
“Without Alvernia, my small amount of knowledge and my personal battle with addiction wouldn’t have been enough to allow me to accomplish so much.”

Esra Cavusoglu ’09

“I’ve started to realize the importance of not only providing a facility to address the needs of this specific population but also to be a facilitator for education about addiction,” she said. “I believe the facility has an important role as a training site for future addiction professionals, which remains a relatively new and undeveloped career in Turkey.”

And what does the future hold? After she graduates this December, Esra plans to earn a master’s degree in clinical psychology and to one day establish a foundation—with her name on it—focusing on addiction awareness.

“I always wanted to do something important, the way so many of my family members have,” said Esra.

“Now I have found what I was meant to do—though I never would have dreamed I would be doing this when I first arrived in Reading for treatment.”

Esra says her three years of sobriety have been the happiest of her life. “Even though every day I face challenges and walk through fear, the peace inside of me is so big. Something changed in my life so greatly that I am full of joy and happiness as I pursue what I want to reach. I never miss my old ways.”

“Without Alvernia,” she added, “my small amount of knowledge and my personal battle with addiction wouldn’t have been enough to allow me to accomplish so much. Alvernia brought both knowledge and self esteem to me.”

The chapel in Francis Hall holds a special place in Esra’s heart, she said. “I am a Muslim, but I always thought of the chapel as God’s house and went there many times to pray. I always rely on a higher power to guide me, and I know how important the spiritual component is when dealing with addiction. Alvernia will be an important part of my life for as long as I live.”

For further information on the Oya Bahadir Yuksel Rehabilitation Center, contact Esra Cavusoglu at esra.cavusoglu@yahoo.com or David Powell at djpowell2@yahoo.com.

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Comprehensive campaign results from thoughtful process

Especially in these challenging economic times, fundraising is no easy task. A necessity for all colleges and universities, private philanthropy in all its forms can mean the difference between the status quo and progress, between adequate and excellent. So it is with Values & Vision: The Alvernia 50th Anniversary Campaign.

The stars were aligned for such a campaign to take place. Alvernia was planning its 50th anniversary and the move toward university status was happening much more quickly than anticipated. The previous years had seen great progress. Alvernia had big ideas and ambitions and a successful formula for higher education—exceptional academics joined with Franciscan values—resulting in successful alumni who represent those values in all they do.

Alvernia’s strategic and master planning processes gave the University a strong sense of vision and direction for the future. Values & Vision seemed a natural name for a comprehensive campaign that would begin to help meet the needs identified in the strategic and master plans, and also enable Alvernia to be a “Distinctive Franciscan University.”

Values & Vision is the forum wherein individuals and organizations can express their belief in the future of Alvernia. Many already have. Here are a few examples, some of which have been mentioned in previous issues of Alvernia Magazine. 

Ray and Carole Neag, longtime friends of the University (Carole is an emeritus trustee), so strongly believe in building the academic profile of the University that they committed $1 million to fund the first endowed professorships at Alvernia. These professorships will help attract and retain first-rate scholars among the faculty ranks—the heart of the academic enterprise.

A Message from the Campaign Chairs

Alvernia has incredible potential.

As our graduates go out into the world, and as our mission to serve expands, the possibilities for this truly wonderful institution expand as well. While this campaign requires funding from many sources, we especially urge our fellow alumni to tangibly express the love you feel for your alma mater. Now is an exciting time for Alvernia; help it define what a distinctive Franciscan institution can be.

Please be generous. Your gifts to Values & Vision will make a tremendous difference in many, many lives.

Theresa ’83 & Bob ’82 McCormack  |  Kathy ’95 & Carl Herbein

Our Mission

Guided by Franciscan values and the ideal of “knowledge joined with love,“ and rooted in the Catholic and liberal arts traditions, Alvernia is a rigorous, caring, and inclusive learning community committed to academic excellence and to being and fostering broadly educated, reflective professionals and engaged citizens, and ethical leaders with moral courage.

Jerry and Carolyn Holleran, both of whom are emeritus Holleran and great friends of the University, committed $3 million to fund the Holleran Center for Community Engagement. Alvernia’s commitment to service in and around our community is a part of the fabric of the institution. This generous gift will help Alvernia expand its program and serve more members of the community.

Not all gifts are of this magnitude. People with more modest means can also make very meaningful investments.
An alumna and teacher in the Reading Public Schools makes an annual contribution of $1,000 to fund a book scholarship so that students from Reading High have the resources, supplies, and materials they need to enjoy an Alvernia education.

Rev. Glenn and Carol Miller have made a $10,000 commitment to fund a stained glass window in the library; the window was commissioned as part of the 50th anniversary celebration. Glenn and Carol have been part of the Alvernia family for many years; Glenn recently completed an eight-year term on the Board of Trustees.

There are opportunities to participate at many levels in support of a wide variety of projects and programs. This campaign, more than any other in Alvernia’s history, invites alumni, parents, friends, businesses and foundations to partner with Alvernia to create a bright future based on a dramatic and exciting vision.

Values & Vision, however, is about much more than raising money. It is another step in the coming of age of Alvernia. Alumni giving will increase dramatically as a result of the campaign. Bridges will be built to new constituents through targeted efforts. In short, Values & Vision will reposition Alvernia on the philanthropic landscape.

To be sure, not everyone will be able to participate in all the ways described above. For young alumni who may be in their first job, a modest multi-year commitment to the Alvernia Fund may well be the extent of their participation. For others who are retired and on a fixed income, a bequest may represent the total commitment to the campaign. Because it is supported by donors from many backgrounds, a transformative campaign succeeds when modest gifts are combined with more substantial gifts.

The leadership giving phase has yielded outstanding results. The Values & Vision campaign is now in its public phase, during which many alumni and friends will receive invitations to participate. Please welcome a representative of Alvernia into your home and heart for a discussion of how you can best support the institution that has grown so dramatically over its 50 years of existence into a recognized leader in higher education in this region.

For more information about the Values & Vision campaign, please visit www.valuesandvision.org.
A Blessing to One Another reveals lessons of tolerance and acceptance

The Franciscan values of tolerance, collegiality, and “knowledge joined with love” are at the heart of the Alvernia University mission. And one event, held as part of Alvernia University’s 50th anniversary celebration, demonstrated those values so clearly and so profoundly that nearly 4,000 people came to campus to see it.

The event was A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People, an international traveling exhibit that chronicles the Pope’s pivotal role in closing the 2,000-year-old chasm of pain between the Catholics and Jews. This first-of-its-kind multimedia exhibit features photos, video footage, documents, and artifacts.

The extensive exhibit, housed in the beautiful Bonaventure Room of Alvernia’s Franco Library from April 21 to July 31, showcased the extraordinary contributions of Pope John Paul II to relations between the Catholic and Jewish faiths. The beloved John Paul II, who passed away in 2005 after serving as pontiff of the Catholic Church for nearly 27 years, was the first pope ever to enter a synagogue, officially visit and recognize the State of Israel, and formally engage in an act of repentance for the Catholic Church’s historical treatment of Jews.

Ginny Hand, director of the Holleran Center for Community Engagement and largely responsible for organizing the exhibit and its corresponding events, said visitors were overwhelmed by the perfect setting. “Some of the visitors who took time to view all 2000 square feet thought it had been custom designed for its room,” she said. “Every person who visited was deeply touched by what they saw and experienced.”

“Every person who visited was deeply touched by what they saw and experienced.”
Ginny Hand
Director of the Holleran Center for Community Engagement

More than a static display of artifacts, the multimedia exhibit documents the life of Karol Wojtyla, the Catholic boy who would become the future Pope. His life was impacted by his childhood friend, a Jewish boy named Jerzey Kluger. The exhibit demonstrates how the boys and their families survived in war-torn Poland during the Holocaust.

Students and community members walked away from the exhibit with newfound insight into the power of interfaith dialogue. “Many guests said they learned a valuable lesson about how the foundations for leadership and friendship can be formed during young adulthood,” said Hand.

Still more visitors were struck by the poignancy and solemnity of artifacts from Nazi Europe (on loan from the Auschwitz Museum in Poland), from film and personal mementos from the late Pope’s travels to the Holy Land and other nations, and by items on loan from the Vatican Museum such as Pope John Paul II’s skull cap, papal stole, and cane.

Over the three-month period, Alvernia held two major interfaith services and other special events designed to educate visitors about the Holocaust and to promote interreligious dialogue. The exhibit opened with a Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony during which Alvernians and leaders from the local interfaith community participated in a solemn candle lighting ceremony to remember the millions of victims of the Shoah—a Hebrew word for the Holocaust.

Several students were moved to tears when they watched Paper Clips, a documentary film about middle school students who, upon learning about the Holocaust, vowed to honor every lost soul by collecting one paper clip for each individual exterminated by the Nazis. The film was followed by a faculty...
To me, the exhibit is about bridging communication between all religions. It becomes clear that it is important to teach tolerance and acceptance in the home.”

Jackye Barrer
Volunteer tour guide

The final event, held July 30, would serve as a fitting farewell for the historic exhibit. On that thunderous, rain-drenched summer afternoon, more than 150 people from Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, and other faiths filled a tent to hear readings from Pope John Paul II’s Assisi Decalogue for Peace, included in a letter to “all the heads of state and government of the world.” In his letter, the Pope expresses his hope “that the spirit and commitment of Assisi will lead all people of goodwill to seek truth, justice, freedom and love, so that every human person may enjoy his inalienable rights and every people, peace.”

More than anything else, the Blessings exhibit reinforced the concept that “hatred destroys, and love lifts up”—a meaningful connection to the Franciscan values of collegiality and peacemaking and a powerful demonstration of the Alvernia University mission.

“Although A Blessing to One Another has now moved on,” said Hand, “the blessings from this experience will be held in our hearts forever.”

Since its opening in Cincinnati in 2005, the Blessing exhibit has traveled to several destinations from California to Florida to Washington, D.C. Following its stay at Alvernia, the exhibit moved to the Jewish Museum in Houston.
Leadership Berks comes to Alvernia

Leadership Berks is one of over 3,400 organizations of its kind in the nation working to secure the next generation of community leaders. It has completed over 100 field projects benefiting not-for-profit organizations in Greater Reading and Berks County and has graduated over 650 new community leaders since 1985. Many continue to serve and improve Greater Reading and beyond.

Because leadership is a major interest of the University, a partnership with Leadership Berks gives Alvernia another avenue to address the topic with the community. Likewise, the agreement will enhance the ability of Leadership Berks to respond to community and business needs while enhancing its role in keeping talent local.

Similarities between the groups’ missions made pairing Leadership Berks with Alvernia University a smooth process.

“Leadership Berks will continue to offer the same quality programming that has been its strength for almost 25 years,” said Toni Eckert, executive director of Leadership Berks. “We will continue our annual tradition of engaging key leaders, field experts, and elected officials through experiential learning and fieldwork projects.”

“This development is yet another significant milestone for Alvernia during our 50th anniversary year,” said President Tom Flynn. “It follows the awarding of university status last September, and it is an example of the reasons we were selected by the prestigious Carnegie Foundation as one of 119 colleges and universities in the country to receive a major award for community leadership, community partnerships, and community service.”

At its annual graduation ceremony in June, Leadership Berks presented the 2009 Art of Leadership Award to Carpenter Technology Corporation—one of Alvernia’s educational partners—and the Distinguished Alumni Award to Brittany Tranquillo, membership services director for the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

“The program benefited me in so many ways,” said Tranquillo. “It helped me hone my leadership skills and taught me how to work in a team setting and how to set realistic personal and professional goals. But most importantly, the program sparked an interest and passion I never knew existed within me. Through service to the community, familiarizing myself with current affairs, and volunteering in a leadership capacity with local nonprofits, I was better equipped to accept new challenges at work.”

“We expect great things from our graduates and challenge them to do well and to do good. Today, we look forward to the same results with the students of Leadership Berks at Alvernia University,” said Flynn.
Alvernia President Tom Flynn honored by Diocese of Allentown

At its second annual Catholic Charities Gala, held February 22, the Diocese of Allentown honored two university presidents: Dr. Thomas Flynn of Alvernia University and the Very Reverend Bernard F. O’Connor, OSFS, of DeSales University. The two were honored by Bishop Cullen and Catholic Charities for their commitment to educating students in human services fields through course curriculum and community outreach programs.

“Those of us fortunate to work at Alvernia share a vocation motivated by a profound sense of service, rooted in a commitment to education,” said Dr. Flynn. “Fostering our students’ growth—intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual—and supporting our students’ quest for professions that are callings is serious work worthy of a career and a life.”

Fifty-one students at Alvernia were majoring in social work as of Fall 2008. Hundreds of others are preparing to work in helping professions.

Kevin Georgetti
Alvernia alumnus Kevin Georgetti ’85 lives in Nutley, New Jersey. He is the general counsel for Broadway National Bank in New York.

As an Alvernia student, Georgetti served as president of the History Club, and graduated summa cum laude. He completed an internship with the IRS.

After earning his juris doctor degree from New York Law School, Georgetti passed bar exams in both New Jersey and New York in 1988. He is a member of the American Bar Association and the New York Bar Association.

Georgetti has experience in many different facets of law, including defense litigation, taxes, real estate, foreclosure, bankruptcy, loan transactions in excess of ten million dollars, and commercial leases.

With Broadway National Bank, Georgetti manages all legal matters including contracts, banking regulations, property law, and environmental law. He oversees any work done by outside council and even contributes to new product market strategies and policy-making.

Georgetti served on the Alvernia Alumni Association Board of Directors from 1991 to 1998, chairing the Board from 1996 to 1998. He has volunteered for several years with the American Diabetes Association and is a member of the New York Road Runners Club.

Donald Schalk
New to the Alvernia University Board of Trustees in 2009, Donald Schalk is president and chief operating officer of C.H. Briggs Company.

Prior to joining C.H. Briggs, Schalk served as president and general manager of Energy United Propane LLC, a regional energy company in North Carolina. Before joining that firm, he was president and chief executive officer of Richland Partners LLC, dba Leffler Energy, a $100 million petroleum distribution company, which was formed through a management buyout of Columbia Petroleum.

Schalk has held several executive positions at Agway, Inc., in Syracuse, New York, including vice president of its $300 million retail network and director of marketing for consumer products. Under his stewardship, the organization consistently improved earnings and lowered costs.

After graduating from LeMoyne College with a bachelor of arts degree in history, Schalk was inducted into its Athletic Hall of Fame for baseball. Later, he earned a master of business administration degree from Syracuse University. He has served on the Board of Governors at LeMoyne College, and has taught as an adjunct professor in the masters program at Alvernia University.

Schalk and his wife, Mary, are the parents of five sons.
Alvernia student Emily Berret was featured in the Reading Eagle on January 15 after hearing she would be receiving one of 240,000 tickets to a roped off area of the Capitol for Obama’s inauguration. Berret and five other Alvernia students visited Washington to participate in a ten-day Presidential Inauguration Seminar Series.

A Reading Eagle column on January 17 featured alumnus Rev. Roger M. Ulrich ’00 as the new pastor of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ in Topton. As an Alvernia business student in the late 90s, Ulrich found his calling after taking an elective theology course with Kevin Godfrey (arts and sciences). Godfrey was invited to speak to Ulrich’s congregation during the opening service this year.

After a standing-room-only press conference held in the Franco Library Bonaventure Room on February 5, Alvernia was featured in area radio, television, and newspapers for its 2008 Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification award. A full-page article in the February 19 edition of the A.D. Times (the newspaper of the Allentown Diocese) included photos of President Tom Flynn, Alicia Sprow (graduate assistant and doctoral candidate), Shirley Williams (provost), and the press conference. The University was one of only 119 institutions nationwide to receive the honor.

Alvernia’s celebration of Black History Month was featured in the Reading Eagle on February 6. Alvernia senior Al Sesay, one of more than 200 people who attended the play “Auction Block to Hip Hop,” about a music producer whose female artists conform to demeaning racial stereotypes, was quoted in the article saying the play had a good message. The event was organized by all five higher education institutions in Berks County and held in Alvernia’s physical education center.

Alvernia’s annual financial aid FAFSA and Fun event appeared in the Area Highlights section of the Reading Eagle on February 17. The event helped students and parents fill out important government financial aid forms.

LaSalle University’s Collegian (February 19) reported Joseph Cicala’s move to Alvernia University. Cicala, Alvernia’s new vice president of university life and student learning experiences, was quoted as saying: “There was just something about the way the [Alvernia] community portrayed itself on its website that attracted me to it. It has the spirit of growth, of energy, that reflects its relative youth as an institution.”

“Alvernia volunteers gain teaching experience; students get help with test skills” was the lead to a Reading Eagle article on February 24. Alvernia students Megan Shelmire and Danielle Shobe were pictured working with students from Amanda Stout Elementary School. “I really enjoy it,” said Alvernia student Sarah Cayless. “I definitely feel more comfortable in the classroom as well as with the planning side of it.”

Charles Sacavage (history) was the subject of a Pottsville Republican feature article on February 24 for his anticipated March 7 portrayal of John Wilkes Booth in a special performance of “Murder at Ford’s Theatre” at the Sovereign Majestic Theatre. Sacavage has been playing the role in re-enactments and classroom lectures since 1974.

“Alvernia named to President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll” was the title of a March 5 A.D. Times article. The award, given by the Corporation for National and Community Service, is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.
A *Pottsville Republican* article on March 8 detailed career choices at the (Alvernia partner) McCann School of Business. *Jaclyn Smith*, 17, was quoted saying, “One thing that made me pick McCann was that you can go on and get your bachelor’s degree at Alvernia.”

*Jodi Radosh* (communication) was quoted in an *Eastern Pennsylvania Business Journal* article about *Reading Eagle*’s upgraded printing press. “There is no doubt the print newspaper industry is at a crossroads, and to move forward, things will have to change,” said Radosh.

A March 17 news story on *WFMZ Channel 69* featured *Jodi Radosh* (communication), who is test marketing a free online textbook as an alternative to a traditional printed textbook. Juniors *Lisa James* and *Brett Berghardt* were interviewed for the story.

In a March 18 *Reading Eagle* article about how the recession is forcing more families to seek financial aid, Alvernia University was discussed favorably. Because Alvernia has a smaller endowment and doesn’t rely on it as the main source of student aid, the article said Alvernia is in a better position than universities with larger endowments. Alvernia has added $1.5 million to its financial aid budget for next year.

Alvernia alumnus *Ross Hopple ’99* was featured in a March 24 *Lebanon Daily News* article titled, “Teacher makes an impact.” Hopple will receive a Teacher Impact Award for his work with Jonestown Elementary School.

“Help immigrants become citizens, speaker says in talk at Alvernia University” was the title of a *Reading Eagle* article on March 30. *Gilberto Cardenas*, Director of the Institute of Latino Studies, Notre Dame, spoke to a crowd of more than 100 students and staff at Alvernia.

*Gerald Vigna* (theology) was the first subject of a five-part *Reading Eagle* series, “The Decline of Civility: Where we are and how we got there.” Vigna told his story about cell phone use in public to kick-off the popular series.

Holocaust Remembrance Day was featured on *WFMZ Channel 69 News* on April 21. The ceremony served as an opening event for the highly anticipated Blessing Exhibit at Alvernia. According to *President Tom Flynn*, “Our Franciscan mission is rooted in Francis of Assisi and the town of Assisi, so reaching out to build shared understandings among people of different backgrounds is fundamental to who we are at Alvernia.”

The Pope John Paul II Blessing Exhibit at Alvernia University was featured prominently in the April 30 edition of the *A.D. Times*. *Ginny Hand* (HCCE), *Sister Madonna Harvath* (Trustee), *President Tom Flynn*, Board Chair *Kathy Herbein ’95* and *Joanna Pressimone* (campus ministry) were pictured with the article, taking part in opening day events.

*Sister Pacelli* (communication) was described as “short in stature, but a giant in the field of higher education” in a *Reading Eagle* interview article on May 11.

*Rabbi Alan Weitzman* (Seniors College) was pictured in the *Reading Eagle* with *President Tom Flynn* as they presented the Rabbi Alan Weitzman Community Service Award to *Steve Elmarzouky* at an overflow event in the Bernardine Conference Center. A volunteer teacher for the Seniors College, Elmarzouky is founder and president of the Islamic Center of Reading, a police chaplain for the Reading Police Department, a volunteer clergyman for the Berks County Prison, and owner of three area restaurants.

*Robert Lee Balthaser ’91* has been named the new Vice President of Development for the National Mall Trust, in Washington, D.C. The National Mall is the nation’s premier national park, suffering from over 30 years of neglect and dwindling resources. Balthaser is charged with raising $500 million to make the National Mall the most beautiful park in the world.

Three Alvernia Professors: *Sister Pacelli* (English), *Sue Guay* (communication), and *Spencer Stober* (biology) were highlighted in an August 2009 Berks County Living article entitled, “Beloved Professors at Alvernia University Focus on Students.”

Comments by Alvernia alumnus, *Michael Heimbach ’88* were featured in *USA Today*, August 18, 2009. The article “Feds try to detect lone offenders” was about the challenging task of finding terrorists who might plan and attack US citizens on their own. Heimbach is the head of the FBI’s counter-terrorism effort.

*Hugh Murray* (criminal justice) was the subject of a *Daily Local News* article on August 22. Murray has been appointed by Gov. Ed Rendell to serve as one of 20 members of the state Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission. “Police work is a stressful job and if we can afford the officers of the state some positive training to deal with those situations, it’s a win-win for everyone,” he said.
Team Awards

Men's Cross Country
Coach's Award – Dave Muncer, junior

Women's Cross Country
MVP – Bridget Burger, junior
Coach's Award – Diana Christman, freshman

Field Hockey
MVP – Janelle Lynch, junior
Coach's Award – Samantha Landis, freshman

Men's Soccer
MVP – Richard Kessler, senior
Chris Schlager Heart & Soul Award – Chad Quinter, senior

Women's Soccer
MVP – Felicia Sippel, sophomore
Offensive MVP – Amy Mesce, freshman

Women's Tennis
Coach's Award – Samantha Bader, senior

Volleyball
MVP – Gabrielle Albinanies, freshman
Coach's Award – Lauren Crimi, senior

Men's Basketball
MVP – Nick Rivera, junior
Coach's Award – Tim Walters, senior

Women's Basketball
'Joseph M. Calabria' Co-MVP – Kelli McIntyre, sophomore
'Joseph M. Calabria' Co-MVP – Alex Velazquez, sophomore
'Samuel J. Calabria' Coach's Award – Rachel Koerner, senior

Ice Hockey
MVP – Christian Baron, freshman
Outstanding Defensive Player – Eric Ryan, sophomore

Dance
Coach's Award – Clarissa Wilkenson, senior

Baseball
MVP – Steve Bealer, junior
MVPitcher – Shane Zellers, junior

Golf
MVP – Derek Stewart, senior
Coach's Award – Justin Arnt, freshman

Men's Lacrosse
MVP – Tim Marcinek, senior
Coach's Award – Billy Bernheisel, senior

Women's Lacrosse
MVP – Felicia Sippel, sophomore
Coach's Award – Jamie Murtha, sophomore

Men's Tennis
MVP – David Schaeffer, senior
Coach's Award – Morgan Davidheiser, sophomore

Softball
MVP – Michelle Jensen, sophomore
Coach's Award – Janelle Lynch, junior

Lauren Crimi was a four-year member of both the volleyball and softball teams. On the volleyball court she played in 85 matches while splitting her time between setter and libero. She finished her career second all-time with 190 aces and third all-time with 863 assists. She led the team in 2008 with 28 service aces and 211 digs. In softball, Crimi played center field and finished her career with an impressive .292 batting average, including a .346 average in the 2009 season. She had 89 career hits, including 23 doubles, ten triples, and four homeruns. As a senior, Crimi was team captain for both volleyball and softball.

Chad Quinter played 76 games as a four-year starter on the men’s soccer team. He anchored the Crusader defense that allowed an average of 1.8 goals in 2007 and 1.58 goals this past season. He was the only Alvernia soccer player to be named to the All-Conference team in the last four years (receiving First-Team All-Conference honors his sophomore and junior years and Second-Team All-Conference honors his freshman and senior years). Quinter was also named the team MVP his sophomore and junior years and earned the Chris Schlager Heart and Soul Award his senior year. He was named to the All-Conference Academic Team all four years.

Scholar-Athlete Awards
Scholar-Athlete Awards recognize the outstanding academic achievement of four-year varsity letter winners. The awards are given to the senior student-athletes who have the highest cumulative GPA.

Erik Harlan, men’s soccer—3.84 GPA in social studies secondary education.
Kristen Rutledge, women’s lacrosse and women’s soccer—3.75 GPA in elementary education.

Senior Sportmanship Awards
Rachel Koerner, women’s basketball
Rob Guth, men’s soccer
During the summer, excited community members watched the construction of Alvernia’s first lighted, synthetic track and multi-turf field in anticipation of new competition and additional University nightlife this fall.

The new eight-lane, all-weather track is located directly behind the Physical Education Center and is similar to the tracks at Lehigh University and Dickinson College. The track surrounds a lighted multi-turf field, and will be home to the new indoor and outdoor men’s and women’s track and field teams. These teams join five other turf sports: men’s and women’s soccer and field hockey in the fall and men’s and women’s lacrosse in the spring.

The new track and field teams will be led by Alvernia associate athletic director and former field hockey coach Laura Gingrich, who says the new teams will begin to compete in late October. Gingrich, a high school record-holder in javelin and a former district and state-level high school track and field standout, holds degrees from West Chester University and Kent State, where she specialized in cardiovascular fitness.

As Alvernia’s head field hockey coach, Gingrich was instrumental in building the program from a non-contender into a perennial playoff power garnering a pair of Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) titles and three NCAA appearances. Gingrich was named the PAC Coach of the Year in 2006 with a 10-1 conference record. She looks forward to bringing the same level of professionalism and expertise to her new role as head coach for track and field.

Fielding a team might be a problem for some first-year programs, Gingrich said, but interest for track and field is strong at Alvernia. More than 15 freshmen and 35 upperclassmen are expected to try out for the indoor track team in late October.

The biggest challenge Gingrich foresees will be finding assistant coaches to help out in the specialty areas such as throwing events and pole vault.

Alvernia will join fellow Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) schools (Lebanon Valley, Bloomsburg, Misericordia, Albright, Delaware Valley, DeSales, Messiah, and Widener) in conference track and field competition.

Getting off on the right foot

Alvernia’s baseball team celebrated its first (and last) Freedom Conference Championship this spring on the new Angelica Ball Park. After only one year in the Freedom Conference, the Crusaders have moved to the Commonwealth Conference (the other subdivision of the MASCAC).

Congratulations to Coach Yogi Lutz and his gang.
ARTS & LANGUAGES

David S. Schaeffer (music) has been honored by the Pennsylvania District Seven Music Educators Association with the Citation of Excellence for 2009 for excellence in music teaching. Recipients are recognized for high quality programs that reach students through an excellent approach.

Roxana Delbene (Spanish) co-delivered an interdisciplinary speech on medical care and language related to infectious disease this spring. The talk, “Challenges in caring for patients in the United States, Ethiopia, and Uruguay,” was sponsored by the Department of Arts and Languages, the Nursing Department, and Multicultural Initiatives at Alvernia. In June, Delbene presented “Patients’ narratives of chronic illnesses and the notion of biographical disruption” at the Seventh Interdisciplinary Conference on “Communication, Medicine & Ethics” at the Health Communication Research Centre at Cardiff University in Wales.

Heidi Reuter (art) participated in several art shows last spring, including the Immaculata art show in May. In addition, she was chosen to teach at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts during the summer and fall, and she appeared in the May issue of Berks County Living Magazine modeling spring fashions.

Carol Schwanger (music) hosted a folk music workshop featuring the Simple Gifts Duo at the Yuengling Mansion in Pottsville in February. In addition, she performed with the Reading Pops Orchestra with the New York Voices at the Miller Center in March.

Artwork by Frances Ross (art) was displayed at Alvernia’s 50th Anniversary Gala on May 2.

Jennifer Michalik (soprano, Artist-in-Residence) sang in the Carnegie Hall Festival Chorus under renowned conductor Helmuth Rilling on February 14 in New York City. The number of Alvernia students taking voice and piano lessons has risen dramatically, due to the addition of Michalik (to full-time) and Randel Wolfe as an adjunct.

A special teacher and friend...

With great sadness, Alvernia shares the news that Phyllis Hay, a faculty member in the social work department at the University for more than 15 years, died on Sunday, June 21, 2009. Dr. Hay was loved and respected by her students and colleagues. Her commitment to Alvernia went far beyond classroom responsibilities, and she will be remembered for her selfless devotion to the University, her love for higher education, and her joy at being a colleague and member of our community.

Alvernia community members share their sentiments...

“Dr. Hay was the first person I met on campus. Her warm smile and kind words helped me feel more secure in my decision to attend Alvernia.”
—Latoya Sharpe ’04

“Phyllis was an iron butterfly. She looked delicate and never raised her voice, but she had an inner strength that permeated everything she did.”
—Polly Mathys, Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems

“The number of students that Dr. Hay helped is immeasurable. She would go the extra yard for every student she came in contact with whether they needed social, academic, or financial help.”
—Mike Miller, Head Coach of Men’s Basketball/Assistant Athletic Director

“Phyllis Hay was an intelligent, dedicated, and thoughtful woman. Her passion for social work was evident in the relationships she formed with her students. They meant so much to her, and she was always there for them. She was also a role model to faculty.”
—Jodi Radosh, Associate Professor of Communication

Rest in Peace Dr. Hay.
BUSINESS

Scott Ballantyne received this year’s Lindback Foundation award (for a full-time tenured faculty member with at least 10 years of full-time teaching experience at Alvernia). Ballantyne was also honored by the Association of Business Schools and Programs with the 2009 Teaching Excellence Award for region two, which covers Pa., Del., Md., Va., W.Va., and D.C.

Beth Berret earned the highly competitive National Society for Human Resource Management Foundation, Faculty Advisor of the Year Award for 2009. The award recognizes the outstanding service and leadership provided to student chapters.

Bryan Dreibelbis participated in a February 25 taping of the CNBC special, “Who’s Protecting Our Money?” with accounting major Rob Ganter. The show, taped at the CNBC television studio in New Jersey, featured Jim Cramer, Erin Burnett, and FDIC Chair Sheila Bair. The program aired several times on CNBC. Dreibelbis also participated in the annual Accounting and Auditing Conference last spring, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Institute of Management Accountants.

COMMUNICATION

Carrie Fitzpatrick presented a paper titled “Sometimes Going Green Means Going Digital: Improving Sustainability of Small Campuses via Distance Education” at the “International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability” in Mauritius, January 5, 2009.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Ed Hartung has been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Criminal Justice.

EDUCATION

Kelly Cockrum was responsible for working with the Amanda Stout Elementary School and Alvernia students to set up a new after school program this past year. According to Cockrum, the idea was to give aspiring teachers experience in front of a classroom while providing the elementary students a chance to do things they might not have time for in a regular school day.

HUMANITIES

Bongrae Seok (philosophy) presented “Cognitive Science and Confucian Reciprocity,” at the Association for Asian Studies Conference in Chicago in March. He also presented “The Value and Beauty of Open Space: Is Space Empty Nothingness?” at the Geo-aesthetics Conference sponsored by the International Association for the Study of Environment, Space and Place at Towson University in March, “Virtue and Emotion: Moral Psychology of Early Confucian Philosophy” at the Neo-Confucian Studies Seminar at Columbia University in February, and “Is shame a virtue? Moral psychology of shame and virtue” at the Felician Ethics Conference in Rutherford, N.J. in April.

ATHLETICS

Bill Stiles was named the new director of Athletics & Recreation effective July 1, 2009. Stiles was director of Athletics & Recreation at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, where he successfully transitioned the institution into the NCAA’s Division II and added 10 varsity sports. He also oversaw all campus recreation programming including 15 intramural sports and clubs.

Linda Martin, former administrative assistant in Alvernia athletics, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree after more than 20 years of study. She joined a full house at the commencement ceremony at Sovereign Center’s Reading Eagle Theatre in May.
Faculty and Staff

**DONNA YARRI** (theology) presented “The American Dream in *The Sopranos*” and, with **SPENCER STOBER** (biology), co-presented “Biology and Theology in Dialogue: Social Justice Issues in Genetic Science” at the regional American Academy of Religion meeting in Baltimore on March 26. Yarri also attended the national Association for Practical and Professional Ethics from March 5-7, 2009 in Cincinnati, where she moderated a session on “Ethics and Animals,” and served as a judge for the national Student Ethics Bowl.

**MARCLUCHT** (philosophy) and **DONNA YARRI** have received a book contract for their co-edited volume titled *Kafka’s Creatures*, which explores the use of animals in Kafka’s writings.

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

**GAIL METZGER** was this year’s recipient of the Sister Mary Donatilla Faculty Award (for a full-time faculty member who has given long service to the University in teaching, advising, service, and support).

**KAREN ANN CAMERON** published an editor-invited commentary titled “Using Evidence-based Practice in Context” in the January 2009 issue of the *International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation*. Additionally, Cameron was awarded an American Occupational Therapy Association/American Occupational Therapy Foundation Leadership Fellowship for 2009 and was named to the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators for the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. She completed training in February in Crystal City, Va.

**LIBRARY**

Two library staff members graduated this spring with Bachelor of Arts degrees. **SUSAN KANE** and **CAROL BRACKEN** both plan to pursue Master in library science degrees.

Library director **SHARON NEAL** and staff member **KRISTIN BRUMBACH** appeared on BCTV’s “Inside Berks Libraries” program on April 17 to discuss the Dr. Frank A. Franco Library Learning Center. The program began with a video of Franco Library. Sharon and Kristin discussed the academic library’s mission, resources and services, and special collections. In addition, special events were spotlighted, including Game Night, the Edible Book Festival, the library’s participation in the University’s 50th anniversary, and the historical exhibit, *A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People*.

**SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS**

**SPENCER STOBER** (biology) attended the National Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Conference from March 5-7, 2009 in Cincinnati, where he moderated a session on “Working Together Toward Radical Action on Climate Change” and served as a judge for the national Student Ethics Bowl. Stober also presented a paper titled, “Mother Nature and Her Discontents: Gaia as a Metaphor for Environmental Sustainability” at the International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability, in Mauritius, January 5. The paper was accepted for spring 2009 publication in the *International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability*, published by Common Ground, Australia.

**JOHN ROCHOWICZ** (mathematics) published a paper, titled, “A Distance Learning Experience in a Quantitative Methods MBA Course,” in the July 2008 issue of *The International Journal of Instructional Technology and Distance Learning*, and reviewed the CLEP Examination on the Survey of Mathematics course for the College Entrance Examination Board.

**ADMINISTRATION & STAFF**

**MARY SACAVAGE** (Schuykill Center) took part in the Republican Heralds third annual Economic Roundtable in February. During the discussion,
Sacavage talked about what nontraditional students look for when getting a degree and good opportunities that exist in nursing, education, and criminal justice (all of which are degrees offered through the Alvernia University Schuylkill Center).

Carey Manzolillo (marketing & communications) judged the District IV American Business Women’s Association newsletter competition at their annual conference on April 18, 2009. Twenty-eight newsletters were submitted from the district’s 14 different states.

Security Guards Incorporated, Alvernia’s public safety contractor, named Joe Thomas (public safety) Manager of the Year in recognition of his outstanding work on campus.

Patty Doughman (Aladdin food service) qualified for and competed in the Boston Marathon on Monday, April 20, along with 24,999 other racers. In just under four hours, she was the 15,503rd racer to cross the line.

Led by Ginny Hand (HCCE), Alvernia University Carnegie Community Engagement Classification Team members Jodi Radosh (HCCE), Evelina Panayotova (institutional research), Beki Stein (registrar), Betsy Stiles (president’s office), and Shirley Williams (provost) compiled and submitted a successful 2009 Carnegie application. This year, only 119 national applicants were successfully classified as community-engaged institutions; 68 are public institutions and 51 are private.

Pietro Distravolo has been an Alvernia language professor for more than 30 years.

Congratulations and thank you to these Alvernia employees for their years of dedicated service to the University:

35 Years
- Patricia Stremba
- Pietro Distravolo

30 Years
- 20 years
- Thomas Porrazzo
- Frances Ross

15 Years
- Tim Blessing
- Elizabeth Gardner
- Ann Leidy
- Carol Roach
- Ana Ruiz
- Patrick Shannon
- Elizabeth Stiles
- Alan Weitzman

10 Years
- Megan Adukaitis
- Matthew Boarder
- Carol Bracken
- Jada Campbell
- William Harst
- John Luvisi
- Sr. Rosemary Stets, OSF
- Janice Stock

5 Years
- Shannon Barahona
- Jennifer Biggerstaff
- Mary Alice Bortz
- Anna Ferraro
- Susan Guay
- Edward Hartung
- Tracy Hine
- Daonian Liu
- Kevin Ludwig
- Kevin Meany
- Steven Mundell
- Margaret Ouchis
- Thomas Quinter
- Gale Riegel
- Bongrae Seok
- Nathan Thomas
- Ralph Thompson
- William Thorne
- Tufan Tiglioglu
- Kevin Tulley
- Lisa Venkler
- Mary Ellen Wells
- Constance Zeigler

Carl E. LeVan Award presented to Alvernia University

The Carl E. LeVan Award is presented to a non-profit organization that has shown outstanding dedication to the United Way of Berks County. It is given in memory of Carl E. LeVan and his 35 years of dedicated service to the Red Cross. Other non-profits nominated were the City of Reading, Hamburg Area School District, Muhlenberg School District, and Schuylkill Valley School District.
Colleen (Hoffman) Woodard ’68 was named the Alvernia University Ellen Frei Gruber Award Recipient

1970s

Mary (Frink) Shade ’75 is enrolled in an online master’s degree program in nursing education at Walden University and working as an RN in the Beginnings Maternity Center of the Reading Hospital and Medical Center. After meeting at Alvernia, Mary and her husband Milt raised two boys and now have two granddaughters, Lilah (7), and Sierra (4). They still live in Berks County with both of their families close by.

Ronald D. Uczynski, Jr. ’75 retired from the Central Berks Regional Police Department after 33 years of service. He has taken a position with the Berks County Sheriff’s Department.

Joseph Pampanin ’76 (retired) volunteers with the Lansford AMVETS in Summit Hill, the American Legion, the Summit Hill Volunteer Fire Company, St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, and the Pennsylvania State Department Association.

Maureen (O’Neil) Nowatorski ’77 is the director of community resources at PARC (Tampa Bay, Florida), a non-profit organization specializing in finding jobs for disabled individuals. In her role as a certified business technical assistance consultant, Maureen helps people with disabilities start their own businesses.

Kendall Schwoyer ’79 returned to Reading, Pa., to assume a new position as director of commercial planning and reporting with Carpenter Technology and has recently assumed the role of Reading controller. His last assignment with Carpenter was in Hartsville, South Carolina.

Dominic Murgido ’79 is an advocate for safe driving, providing a voice and awareness to legislators for education and safe driving enforcement and practices. He is the founder of sudSSpirit, a bereavement support group for survivors of the sudden unexpected death of a spouse, and a contributing writer to a bereavement newsletter called “Hopeline,” located in Syracuse, N.Y. Dominic is a proud member of the Alvernia Alumni Council and has volunteered for the Hawk Mountain Council’s Learning for Life program for 20 years.

1980s

Dr. Scott Ballantyne ’86, business professor at Alvernia University, has been named a regional recipient of the 2009

Please join us for an upcoming alumni event in your area:

Northern New Jersey
Oct. 27, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Famished Frog, Morristown, NJ

Tampa Bay Area, Florida
Nov. 1, 2:00 p.m.
The home of Cheryl Callahan
1104 Bayshore Blvd. South
Safety Harbor, FL

Reading, Pennsylvania
Nov. 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Novemberfest, Third & Spruce Café

Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Nov. 10, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Annie Bailey’s Restaurant

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Nov. 17, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Manayunk Brewery

Each event will be a great chance to reconnect and network with old friends, Alvernia faculty and staff. Contact Heather Reigel, 610-796-5038, to reserve your spot, or for more information.
Association of Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Teaching Excellence Award. Each year, ACBSP recognizes individuals who demonstrate teaching excellence in the classroom.

Michael J. Konnick ’87 and Jennifer D. Moyer were married October 27, 2008 during a sunset ceremony in Orlando, Florida.

After ten years as a practicing chiropractor in Northern Ireland, Thomas Pronek ’89 has returned to Pennsylvania with his wife (Elaine) and two children (Lee and Tori). He can be found at Elite Family Chiropractic, Selinsgrove.

Benton Levengood ’89 was recently promoted to drawing production manager at High Steel Structures, Inc., where he organizes and directs detailing operations.

Scott Keller ’89 was recently named senior vice president at National Penn Bank, Boyertown. In his new position, he will manage banking software systems and banking system conversions.

1990s

Lori (McIntosh) DiGuardi ’90 earned a “CC” (Competent Communicator) certification from Toastmasters International.

Nicholas F. Hiriak ’91 is the finance director of Upper Merion Township in King of Prussia, Pa.

Rev. Jennifer Glass ’93 is the staff pastor at Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church in Mountville, Lancaster County.

Sal Franco ’93 graduated from the 2009 Leadership Berks class. He was placed on the board of directors for the Family Guidance Center and served as a member of the Berks Economic Partnership, Penn Corridor Field Project Team.

Margaret A. Snow ’94 and Tyler J. Moyer were married July 19, 2008 and honeymooned in Maui, Hawaii. The couple resides in Spring Township.

Tod Slabik ’94, a realtor with RE/MAX of Reading, Spring Township, received the RE/MAX Hall of Fame Award, which honors agents who have sold more than $35 million in real estate during their careers with the company.

Amy Fick ’94 graduated from the 2009 Leadership Berks class. Amy served as a member of the Berks Economic Partnership, Penn Corridor Field Project Team and was chair of the Flowering Cherry Tree Project with RiverPlace on the Schuylkill.

Master Sgt. Stephanie (Harrington) Hollos ’95 has retired from the Air Force after 24 years of service. She served as an inspector general administrative assistant with the 911th Airlift Wing at the Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station.

Doreen (Spayd) Hoo’s ’96 was named executive director of the assisted living building at Villa at Morlatton.

Molly R. (Grayek) Brobst ’96 and Kevin Brobst welcomed a baby girl on February 8, 2009. Mari Rebecca joins big brother Brendon.

Amy McDonald ’97 and Tom Tripple welcomed a baby girl into the world on April 6, 2009. Ave Reese Tripple was 7 pounds, 6 ounces, and 19.5 inches long.

Allison J. (Hurst) Shollenberger ’97 married Christopher Shollenberger on April 4, 2009 in Las Vegas.

Michael Babula ’97 was named vice president of sales and marketing at Clarion Laminates, Shippensburg. In his new position, Michael will be responsible for North American sales, marketing, and customer service.

Michelle (Werst) Sowers ’97 graduated from the 2009 Leadership Berks class. She served on the South Mountain YMCA Brand Awareness Field Project Team and was placed on the fundraising committee with Berks Women in Crisis.

Julia (Salaneck) Britt ’98 is the assistant principal at Prince Edward County Middle School in Virginia.

Robert A. Fischer ’98 was named senior vice president and commercial banking officer at VIST Financial, Spring Township.

Are you over 70?

Make a difference at Alvernia!

Take advantage of the economic stimulus bill and brighten a student’s future TAX FREE through your IRA before December 31, 2009.

Contact Zane Gizzi 610-796-8340 for information.
Erin T. McCurry '99 was promoted to project administrator for the Merrimack Campus. She will be part of the daily projects team as well as special projects team.

Rashna Ichaporia '99, M'01 was named assistant branch manager at Affinity Bank of Pennsylvania, Spring Township. In her new position, Rashna will be responsible for assisting in the supervision of branch operations.

Joe Zona '99 and Trish (Herber) Zona '99 recently welcomed a baby boy (Chase Dallas) into their family.

2000s

Duane C. Renninger '01 is engaged to marry Tammy E. Russell. Duane is employed by Penske Truck Leasing, Green Hills.

Troy Schlappich '01 and Elizabeth (Gyawinski) Schlappich '01 are proud to announce the birth of twins: Callista Jordan and Kaleb Owen. The babies arrived on October 13, 2008.

Brian Keeney '01 has accepted a position as controller at Riverfront Federal Credit Union.

Dwayne Walker '01, M'08 was recently promoted to the position of director of undergraduate admissions at Alvernia University.

Athena V. Dedes '01 is engaged to marry Michael K. Johns.

Robert W. Wilson '01 and his wife Jessica welcomed a son, Aidan Hugh, into the world on May 19, 2009.

Kimberly R. (Elswick) Mentzer '02 has been named payroll manager in Fulton Financial Corporation’s human resources department.

Timothy Melcher '02 and his girlfriend Susan Levan have acquired a flower and gift shop, called “Petals on Penn,” located in Sinking Spring.

Daniel M. Nagle '02 and Elizabeth Zlogar were married May 31, 2008.

Jessica A. Westley '02 and Shane S. Kohl were married October 4.

Dawn M. (Fraser) Wanner '02 and her husband J.R. are happy to announce the birth of their second son, Aaron Ronald, born April 22, 2009. He was 8 pounds, 13 ounces, and 22 inches long.

Lauren Phillips '03 is engaged to marry Christopher L. Korejwo. The couple plans to marry in the summer of 2010.

Stephanie Lynn '03 is engaged to marry Jason Gilmer.

Lisa Rytel '03 is engaged to marry Mark Kehl. Lisa is employed by Pfizer, New York.

William Stickler '03 is engaged to marry Nicole DeLancey. He is employed by Anvville Township.

Tami Davies-Coleman '03, M'05 recently joined Keller Williams Realty Elite, Spring Township.

Roberta Jewell '03 has joined Keller Williams Realty Group in Exeter Township as a real estate agent.

Laura J. Morgan '04 and Bernard E. Nowotarski were married June 28.

Ryan Trupe '04 was named head boys basketball coach at Garden Spot.

Kelly N. Youtz '05 married Jeffrey Wendler on July 5, 2008. Kelly is employed by the Reading School District.

Matthew Hayes '05 married Ashley Bear on December 20, 2009 at Mt. Holly United Methodist Church. Matthew is an insurance claims and in-house catastrophic adjuster for Aegis Security.

Drew P. Leck '05 is engaged to marry Jennifer Evans.

Stephanie Auchter '05, M'07 is engaged to marry Jared Sharp.

Karen L. (Frey) Heaney '05 graduated on May 23, 2009 from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University with a Doctor of Optometry degree.

Julie Angstadt M'05 of the Encompass Insurance Risk Management Center, Reading, was named “Company Partner of the Year” by the Cook, Hall, and Hyde Agency of New York and New Jersey. Julie was recognized for the positive role she played in the agency’s growth and success.

Jeffrey M. Kiesel '05 and Jennifer Smith were married on May 5, 2009.

Michael LaTorre '06 married Natalie Catrambone on July 26, 2008. Michael is currently a graduate student at Grand Canyon University.

Pam Wagar '06 was featured as the Person of the Week by the Reading Eagle on January 27, 2009. Wagar is a full-time volunteer with Phoebe Berks Health Care Center and Village Commons. She has recently been accepted into the Penn State College of Medicine.

Priscilla Hole '06 and her fiancé, Christopher Mummmolo, welcomed their second child on February 13, 2009. Tyler Daniel weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Lindsey A. Celmer '06 is engaged to marry John H. Miller.

Jennifer Kissinger '06 is engaged to marry Kenneth Starkey.
Rory J.G. Bender ’07 and Kristen L. Fisher were married on September 13, 2008 in Stroudsburg, Pa.

Lindsay (Trottier) Berger ’07 has been promoted to head softball coach at Alvernia University.

Kara L. Hopkins ’07, M’08 and Brian E. Emes were married July 12, 2008.

David Emkey ’07 is engaged to marry Alison Borosky.

Philip DiMatteo ’08 has been hired as the director of information technology for the Ephrata Area School District.

Stan Jasper ’08 is the youth activities coordinator for the Berks County Chapter of Big Brothers, Big Sisters. In January 2009, Stan returned to Alvernia to recruit student-athletes to join the Big Brothers, Big Sisters club and become positive role models for area children.

Valisha Allwein ’08 is engaged to marry Dustin Kimm in Fall 2009. She is a security fraud analyst for Commerce Bank, Harrisburg.

The University of Maryland, announced that Kevin Daly ’08 has joined the Retriever Baseball team coaching staff. Kevin will serve as the second assistant coach.

Mehmet Arslan M’08 is engaged to marry Natalie Huff.

Stacie L. Frame ’08 is engaged to marry Justin T. Weidner.

Nathan A. Pletscher ’08 is engaged to marry Ashley E. Hawkins.

Shirley Anne (Speicher) Hoyer ’74 passed away on April 24, 2009 at the age of 62. Shirley was an elementary school teacher for the Tulpehocken Area School District for 38 years.

Joseph F. Delpero ’77 passed away February 15, 2009 at the age of 77. Joseph served as chief of police for 24 years in the borough of Lansford.

Nancy J. Ganter ’82 passed away on February 22, 2009.

John W. “Jack” Hapeman ’88 passed away February 15, 2009 at the age of 66. He was the husband of Cynthia M. (Musler) Hapeman. He was employed as a family counselor for the Youth Advocate Program, Reading.

Patricia (Marshall) Hancock ’94 passed away on March 9, 2009. She is survived by her husband Robert and three sons: Nicholas, Samuel, and Donovan.

Jason J. Brennan ’02, M’08 passed away suddenly on April 8, 2009 at Shamokin Area Community Hospital. Jason was planning on attending law school in the fall.

Jose R. Santiago ’02 died on April 9, 2009. Jose was a guidance counselor at Reading High School, an assistant principal at Southern Middle School, and an intervention specialist for the Reading middle schools.

Sarah E. (Hudleston) Nerino ’03 passed away on Sunday, March 22 at Penn Hospice at Rittenhouse in Philadelphia, after a two-year battle with ovarian cancer. Sarah was the wife of Alvernia Professor Mike Nerino.

Barry Emerson Sturges ’06 died July 6, 2009 at the age 58. He was employed by ADDAPT Inc. as a clinical supervisor.

Dorothy Gudz ’73 passed away on April 8, 2009 at the age of 60 after a prolonged illness. Dorothy spent more than 20 years serving in the ministry of education as a Bernardine Franciscan Sister, and most recently served as a lay administrator/principal of Sacred Heart School in Royersford, Pa.

Now you can follow Alvernia Alumni on Twitter! Find us at: twitter.com/Alvernia_Alumni.

Are you LinkedIn? Need a little Face time? Join our Alvernia alumni groups on LinkedIn and Facebook. Just another way to stay connected to your alma mater.

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There’s one moment in time Theresa McCormack ’83, one of the chairs of the Values & Vision campaign, will always remember: the first day she set foot on campus.

“I was walking from Francis Hall to Veronica Hall—it was a vast open space at the time—and I stopped at the halfway point,” Theresa remembered. “It was there, in the silence and a stillness that echoed through the place, that I truly felt the presence of God. I knew I had found my home.”

In that moment, Theresa knew Alvernia was where she was meant to be. Though the moment occurred some 30 years ago, recalling it can still bring Theresa to tears.

“Allvernia was transformational for me from that moment on,” she said. “The Bernardine Sisters, many of whom I am close friends with to this day, knew how to mold you into the best version of yourself. They knew which branches to prune to help you grow.”

All of her professors, “lay or ministry, man or woman,” Theresa said, had a special kind of integrity that Theresa calls the “marrow” of Alvernia. The college itself always attracted people with the kind of values that would make them excellent teachers as well as mentors and role models. “Because of them, Alvernia nourished my mind, body, and soul.”

Theresa majored in psychology with a minor in social work. She said understanding the value of service to others was an integral part of her education. She volunteered for the local food bank, took calls for a suicide hotline, and helped wherever she was needed.

“Service was just part of what you did,” Theresa reflected. “Today she volunteers for the Geisinger PrayerNet and Sacred Heart Parish Caring Community in Lewisburg.

After graduation, Theresa was a social worker. She also worked for the Children’s Home of Reading and the Teen Parent Program (Reading School District) and also spent time as a tennis coach and a gym teacher. She married her husband Bob ’82—a member of the Alvernia Board of Trustees—in 1984, and nine months later her daughter, the first of three children, was born. Theresa later left the workforce to raise her children, one of whom is now a student at Alvernia, but she never lost her connection to the place that played such an important role in her life.

“Of course, I never could have envisioned that all these years later I’d be a part of this campaign,” Theresa explained while reflecting on the fact that she is inherently an introvert who couldn’t imagine herself as playing a leading role in an endeavor such as Values & Vision. “Everything I do involves prayer, but when I was asked to serve as a campaign co-chair, I immediately said ‘yes.’ I pray daily for the campaign.”

Why is the campaign so important to Theresa? “Because I want other people to gain the values this institution offers,” she said. “You will get a wonderful well-rounded education, but the Franciscan values part of the Alvernia education are what sets us apart. As Alvernia grows, I am confident the values will be there. The Holleran Center for Community Engagement and the Center for Ethics and Leadership will guarantee that.”

Theresa cites the Francis Hall renovation as well as the growth of Alvernia and its new university status as important milestones along Alvernia’s journey. “Everyone connects with Francis Hall in one way or another.”

“God will lead Alvernia to where it needs to be,” Theresa said, “but we can never rest on our laurels.” Her hope is that God will lead other alumni and friends to support the campaign and help advance what Theresa believes to be an important institution for Reading, for Pennsylvania, for the country…and for the people whose lives it touches.

Acknowledging that every Alvernia student or alumnus has his or her own distinctive connection to Alvernia, Theresa knows hers is very special.

“It’s a spiritual connection,” she admitted. “Every single time I set foot on campus, I feel the way I did on that very first day. The grounds are sacred; it’s a holy place to me.”
Alvernia’s 2009 “History Lives” Creativity Camp visited Signers Hall in the Philadelphia Constitution Center. Before the visit, each camper researched a signer. These campers are pictured with the one and only: Ben Franklin.
Calendar of Events

October
  2  FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS
  5  Annual Alvernia University Golf Outing
  6  Executive Leadership Conversation with Berks Judges
  12-30  Literary Festival at Alvernia
  16-18  Homecoming and Family Weekend
  17  Undergraduate Open House
  17  Class of 1969 Reunion
  17  Alumni Awards Reception
  18  Athletic Hall of Fame Awards Program
  30  Undergraduate Information Session

November
  12  New Schuylkill Center Grand Opening
  14  Undergraduate, Graduate, and Continuing Education Open House
  17  Graduate and Continuing Education Open House
  18  Non-Profit CEO Roundtable
  20  Undergraduate Information Session
  26  THANKSGIVING

December
  1  Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
  2  Graduate and Continuing Education Open House
  3  “Exemplary Nursing Care in our Community” Lecture
  4  Christmas on Campus
  13  Winter Commencement
  13  Alvernia University Christmas Party