



COMMUNITY & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



*Karen Giordono
Study Abroad & Seniors College
Coordinator*

The Holleran Center welcomes Karen Giordono, the new Study Abroad and Seniors College Coordinator! Karen will work closely with students, faculty, and staff to support and enhance our international offerings. “I am so excited to join Alvernia’s Holleran Center as the new Study Abroad-Seniors College Coordinator. I coordinated faculty led trips for Millersville University from 2010-2016. More recently I have worked for Manheim Township School District in Lancaster County as a K-4 Learning Support Paraeducator. I am

passionate about travel and I have been fortunate enough to explore 13 countries collecting currency, learning snippets of languages, and sampling unique cuisine. I look forward to sending Alvernia’s students on their own adventures around the globe.”

The Holleran Center also looks forward to partnering with organizations throughout the spring semester to continue meeting community needs. Our students are looking forward to volunteering at **Berks Art’s** [Boscov’s Berks Jazz Fest](#), **The Camel Project’s** [Berks Street Art Festival](#), **Reading Pride Celebration’s** [LGBTQ+ Pride Festival](#), and many more!

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

In February, the Office of Career Development focused on gathering feedback from students and faculty about points for collaboration. Some highlights: surveying 56 **Healthcare Science students** about their experiences with internships, starting conversations with **Social Sciences** faculty about connecting students with internships, and presenting multiple times for professional development seminars for **Science and Math** students. The Office also collaborated with the **Alumni Council Career Development Committee** to schedule one-on-one virtual mock interviews between alumni and students. Five interviews occurred in February, and more are scheduled throughout March. We look forward to upcoming career events and programs this Spring that were generated in response to student feedback.

READING YOUTH INITIATIVE

RYI’s Spring semester started on February 7 and is off to a great start with a total of 74 students enrolled between **Millmont** and **Tyson Schoener Elementary Schools**. **Reading High School** has seen over 200 students with 854 interactions just in the month of February!



Tutor, Paul, with translating assistance from RHS junior, Angelina.

Reading Science Center continues its partnership with RYI, which is an absolute favorite of the RSD students as they engage in various STEM activities. This month they learned about their heart, red and white blood cells, how to take their pulse and the purpose of platelets which involved using (and tasting) candy.

SUSTAINABILITY

Through a \$15,500 grant that the **EcoHouse** was awarded by the **PA Fish & Boat Commission**, the Sustainability team is collaborating with the **OAK** student leadership officers consisting of **Alex Kabrich**, **Grace Silva**, and **Liz Danovich** to offer a series of experiential learning opportunities for our Alvernia students and area high school students. Participants will learn about the watershed by directly experiencing it through an introduction to kayaking workshop. The **EcoHouse** is partnering with **Courtney Bieber**, the Reading Collegiate Scholars and Student Development Manager, to connect this program with **Reading High School** students. The **OAK** student leadership team and **Dr. Alicia Sprow**, certified Level I kayak instructor, will offer this workshop multiple times during the spring, summer, and fall to connect students to the watershed and encourage stewardship of this vital resource. The grant is funding the purchase of a 12-kayak trailer and 10 kayaks, life vests, and paddles that will be housed at the EcoHouse.



Kayaks purchased through PA Fish & Boat Commission grant.