



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Throughout March, students continued to serve the local community through individual and club sponsored events, opportunities found on [Get Connected](#), and service-learning projects. In April, we look forward to hosting the annual [Earth Day of Service](#) on Saturday April 23rd, 2022. The Holleran Center will partner with **Rock Hollow Environmental Learning Center**, **Berks County Parks Department**, **City of Reading's Earth Day Celebration**, and the **Great American Clean-Up**. Hundreds of Alvernia students, faculty, staff and alumni will locally engage in this day of service as we take small steps towards a brighter, cleaner, and more sustainable future for all. Congratulations to Holleran Center's Executive Director and Vice President for Community Engagement, **Dr. Rudy Ruth**, as he retires from Alvernia this month after four years of service with the university. Dr. Ruth's vision and leadership in the unit will be missed but we are excited for him to embark on this next journey!

SUSTAINABILITY

The **EcoHouse** partnered with **Alvernia's Student Outdoor Adventure Club (OAK)** on a spring break trip to Oregon where one of our former Bog Turtlers and Alvernia alumni, **Vinny Pinto**, is working at **Tabula Rasa Farms**. Vinny is the Farm & Hospitality Lead for the parent organization called **The Ground**. He organized the service project on Tabula Rasa Farms that involved planting five separate 100-foot hedge rows of fruit trees and bushes in the new 1-acre produce garden. The group also enjoyed outdoor adventuring at **Silver Falls State Park** on the **Trail of Ten Falls and God's Thumb Trail** along the Oregon coast. **Alex Kabrich** (OAK Interim President), **Grace Silva** (OAK Treasurer), and **Katelyn Dreibelbis** (OAK member) worked with the advisors, **Alicia Sprow and Mikailleigh Baker** ('17), to plan the trip. Two other alumni joined us for a portion of the trip – **Alex Roche** ('15) and **Jocelyn MacAleese** ('18) – who were a huge help during the service project.



OAK adventuring in Oregon during spring break.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT



Julissa Salvado & Berks County residents.

Julissa Salvado Rubi, a senior Health Care Science major, and **Cristina Rodriguez**, a sophomore Psychology major, are interns at **Habitat for Humanity of Berks**

County this spring. Both students participate in the Office of Career Development's **Greater Reading Non-Profit Internship Program**. The Program aims to advance Alvernia's dual commitment to student professional development and service by providing compensation to students who complete internships at non-profit organizations in the greater Reading area. Julissa supports families through the homeowner application process providing them with guidance, knowledge, and hope for affordable housing. Cristina's project has her assessing blighted properties in the 9th and Douglas Street areas in the City of Reading and identifying potential rehab projects for the organization. Both students are gaining valuable career-ready, transferable skills and learning about the diverse nature of the non-profit sector.

READING YOUTH INITIATIVE

The RYI Program has been very busy over the last month. The program welcomed **Sherif Eligogari** (Rocky) from the **Food Trust** to afterschool programming. Rocky came to Millmont and Tyson Schoener this month and taught students about their pulse and why taking it's important, gave them a pedometer to count their steps, and played some fun movement games with them to promote a healthy lifestyle. Throughout the month of April, Alvernia students will have the opportunity to participate in a Self-Care/Mental Health Professional Development presented by the **Active Minds** club.

RCSP has assisted nearly 300 students this month and has seen 568 so far this academic year – the highest we have ever had! We had two Occupational Therapy students, **Anne Balter** and **Marissa James**, come speak to the students about the importance of mindfulness and self-care in a busy high school world and part of their presentation included choosing an activity of coloring or making a beaded bracelet. The students loved it!



Junior OT students, Anne Balter & Marissa James