



Community Service & Engagement

The Holleran Center and the O'Pake Institute were proud to support **The Camel Project** in the **2021 Street Art Festival: Chalk Up Kindness & Creativity Family Fun Day** on Saturday, 6/5. Children and families from throughout the county gathered for a day of creativity, food, and fun! Many vendors, including **Bog Turtle Creek Farm**, set up "play stations" to interact with the children. The Camel Project is an initiative to stop bullying by assisting communities—including schools, organizations, and individuals—to change the culture of violent and unacceptable behaviors that result in trauma and abuse.



The Foster Grandparent Program will be hosting the first in-person event on Alvernia's campus since the onset of Covid. The Foster Grandparent volunteers will have the opportunity to see each other for the first time in more than a year and to be recognized for the continuous service to the community. Volunteers who have served in the program for 10 or more years will be recognized with honorary plaques. We will also hand out masks and information to help volunteers get prepared for the start of the school year.

Next year, we plan to have all volunteers back into the schools working with the students. We also hope to build our recruitment efforts and onboard more Foster Grandparents to serve in the schools within the next academic year.

Career Development

The Office of Career Development welcomes **Marley Kropp**, as Assistant Director of Career Development. Marley graduated in May 2021 with her M.Ed in Higher Education from Penn State University where she served as a Career Counseling Intern and Graduate Assistant in the Schreyer Honors College.



The Greater Reading Non-Profit Internship Program continues to provide support to students interning with local agencies. **Darwin Salazar** a senior criminal justice major will intern at Berks Agricultural Resource Center, and **Maria Gonzalez** a senior political science major started a summer internship at **Berks Connections/ Pretrial Services**.

Reading Youth Initiative

The Reading Youth Initiative's summer program is underway in partnership with **Tyson-Schoener** and **Millmont Elementary School's** Summer Camp Programs. These programs aim to provide supplemental experiential learning opportunities to nearly 100 elementary students over the summer. These activities include the popular **Books for Bikes** summer literacy program, weekly STEM education - in partnership with the **Reading Science Center**, weekly Arts and Culture activities, as well as educational trips to **Nolde Forest**, the **Neag Planetarium**, and **Berks Nature**. The program runs in-person at each school four days a week through the end of July.

All six incoming Reading Collegiate Scholars attended Alvernia's **Connection Day** orientation to meet other incoming freshmen, faculty, staff and the RCSP Program Manager. Scholars had the opportunity to review their class schedule, ask questions and make new connections. They are eager to start as Alvernia freshmen in the fall!



Sustainability



Bog Turtle Creek Farm is excited to welcome two wonderful Alvernia Occupational Therapy (OT) students to the farm this summer – **Kristen Straube** and **Abby Leonard**! They are part of a pilot project focusing on an emerging practice fieldwork placement in an agricultural setting. **Emerging practice** is a model whereby OT services are offered in settings where therapy services are not currently provided but where there is potential for such services to emerge. Kristen and Abby work alongside our Bog Turtlers under the supervision of **Dr. Alicia Sprow** to gain an understanding of sustainability and the agricultural field. Under the direction of their OT supervisor, **Dr. Maryann Brennan**, they work with mothers and their children at a local nonprofit called **Hannah's Hope**. Because agriculture has been shown to provide healing effects on those who farm and garden, Kristen and Abby will be bringing the mothers and their children to the farm on a weekly basis. Lessons will be taught using the new teaching garden that the Bog Turtlers and OT students built within the farm. Spending time in this type of outdoor setting will provide benefits to both the mothers' and children's physical and mental wellbeing. This emerging practice meets an important outcome of the OT fieldwork placement process that provides OT students with "experience with various groups across the life span, persons with various psychosocial and physical performance challenges, and various service delivery methods" (AOTA, 2013). We look forward to sharing more about this pilot project as the summer progresses.