A UNIVERSITY is BORN

In this issue—

Your degree means more at Alvernia University

Athletics Hall of Fame Inaugural class

Designed to please Sr. Pacelli’s new book
President’s Message

It is a strange irony that during a time when the country is in serious crisis—with a grave economic downturn and the Iraq War—Alvernia has been celebrating historic accomplishments. The last issue of the Alvernia Magazine recognized our 50th anniversary. This issue highlights the singular accomplishment of this historic year: achievement of university status and national recognition by the prestigious Carnegie Foundation, placing Alvernia among an elite group of institutions considered leaders in community engagement.

During a quiet moment last September 25, right before our dramatic University Day announcement, I was inspired to see such an enormous turnout of students sharing the same excitement about Alvernia’s growth and development that I hear constantly from alums of all ages. And I looked with pride at the large contingent of faculty gathered alongside a well-dressed statue of St. Francis, our patron (pictured on the back cover). It was such a resplendent day we wanted in this issue to share a flavor of the campus-wide excitement with everyone.

Since University Day, the most frequently asked question by students and reporters alike has been what will be different about Alvernia now that we are a university. The feature story beginning on page 8 explains some of the expectations of the State Department of Education. But the short answer is that, as confirmed by the external evaluation team, Alvernia already embodied many of the best qualities of small universities and now has the potential to realize fully our vision to be a “distinctive Franciscan university.”

Many universities, both famous and less so, feature professors well known for their research who work primarily with graduate students who, in turn, teach many of the undergraduate classes. Alvernia has faculty in many fields who are respected scholars; our faculty also includes individuals who apply their practical professional experience in the classroom. Yet all our classes are taught by faculty. Our commitment to close faculty-student interaction within a student-centered learning environment, rooted in the Catholic and liberal arts traditions, will not change. Nor will our faculty's commitment to their students’ personal growth.

Alvernia is proud of our mission-driven commitment to be a place of opportunity where students of diverse backgrounds (and all ages) blossom as professional and civic leaders. We will hold steadfastly to the ideal of providing a high-quality, widely accessible, and affordable private education. With costs noticeably lower than those of most private colleges and universities in our region, Alvernia will continue to be a fine value and a great return on investment.

So why become a university? Certainly, it validates the transformational growth and expansion of the past decade. It highlights the range of our undergraduate programs seldom found at smaller institutions and our commitment to graduate, even doctoral, education for working professionals. But it also is a challenge to enhance the quality of the Alvernia experience. And it provides an opportunity to become a special kind of university—one guided by Franciscan values and the ideal of “knowledge joined with love” and a place where students and staff, faculty and trustees, and our proud alums make a difference in their communities.

Becoming a university should make us proud but hardly complacent. We have raised the bar for ourselves. Our expectations are higher as they should be. So, too, should be our results.

Peace and all good,

Thomas F. Flynn
President
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Meet the inaugural class
of Alvernia’s Hall of Fame

Can you find St. Francis??

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 (by May 1, 2009),
along with where you found St. Francis to
magazine@alvernia.edu for a drawing entry
to receive a special 50th anniversary gift!

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A Blessing to One Another:
Pope John Paul II & The Jewish People

Alvernia University invites people of all faiths to experience the historic exhibit “A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II & the Jewish People,” which opens on April 21, 2009, and runs through July 31, 2009, in the Franco Library and Learning Center on Alvernia’s main campus.

A landmark exhibit featuring photos, video footage, documents and artifacts recording the groundbreaking contributions of Pope John Paul II will be showcased in the interactive Blessing exhibit this spring. Visitors can follow in John Paul II’s footsteps, from his childhood to his role as head of the world’s largest church, where he advanced relations between the Catholic and Jewish faiths. The exhibit is divided into four major sections, reflecting the four periods of Pope John Paul II’s life. Among his personal effects featured in the exhibit are his baptismal certificate, the biretta he wore when he was named cardinal, a cane he used during his March 2000 visit to Israel, and his white papal zucchetto.

Nearly six months before his death on April 2, 2005, Pope John Paul II gave the exhibit his blessing. He died just weeks before “A Blessing to One Another” debuted at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

This international exhibit is sponsored by the Holleran Center for Community Engagement at Alvernia University.

Private group and school tours are by appointment from 8-12 a.m. For more information please visit the exhibit’s website at www.alvernia.edu/blessingexhibit or call 610-790-2880.

Exhibition Hours:

April 21, 2009-July 31, 2009

Monday-Sunday 12-4 p.m.
Thursdays 12-8 p.m.

Annual Blessing of the Animals

The conversation turns to barks and chirps each year during St. Francis month at the Sacred Heart Grotto. This popular event celebrating the life of St. Francis as the patron saint of animals was held October 7 and attracted dozens of pets and owners.
Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Russo highlights annual Literary Festival

As part of the countywide Reading Reads program, the annual Literary Festival at Alvernia seems to be growing by leaps and bounds each year. This year’s festival brought packed crowds to Alvernia, for more than 20 events during the month of October. Lectures from world-renowned and regional writers, in addition to workshops, seminars, and entertainment, filled the lineup.

Highlights of this year’s festival included an evening with Richard Russo, Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times bestselling author of Empire Falls, Bridge of Sighs, Straight Man, Nobody’s Fool, and more. Russo was honored as Alvernia’s 50th Anniversary celebrity speaker, in a commemoration of literature. Russo wrote his first book, Mohawk, between classes, while he was a college professor in Illinois and Maryland. Since then, several of his novels have become movies or teleplays. And three of these, Empire Falls, Nobody’s Fool, and Twilight, starred Paul Newman.

Pennsylvania artist Bruce Becker discussed his deeply moving book Kindness and Compassion, an insider tale of the inspiring aftermath of the tragic Nickel Mines Amish schoolhouse shootings. Becker, who sold his first drawings at the age of 11, was creating a painting of an Amish schoolhouse bell when he received a phone call telling him that Amish Schoolhouse children were being held at gunpoint, less than 30 minutes from his studio. When he turned on his television, the first image he saw was a bell, hanging on the front of the schoolhouse. One week later, prints of his painting were offered to anyone who contributed funds to the affected Amish families. People across the world joined Becker’s cause, including all the Amish families and children involved, the Amish school teacher, state troopers, EMTs, coroners, and even the gunman’s family. Prints of the painting are now hanging all over the country, including the White House.

Food Network host and cookbook author, George Stella, brought “Kids in the Kitchen” to Alvernia. Stella has presented cooking demonstrations alongside celebrities, such as Paul Prudhomme and Julia Child, and has been featured in several magazines and newspapers. He appears regularly on television networks, such as FOX, CNN, and CBS, has a weekly show (Low Carb and Lovin’ It) on the Food Network, and is also a bestselling author.

Sister M. Pacelli Staskiel, professor emerita at Alvernia University, unveiled her new book Designed to Serve: The Place and Persons of Francis Hall 2008 during the festival. Men and women who were residents in the orphanage or local students attending the elementary or high school in the building share their memories in Pacelli’s book. (See page 15 for related story.)

Don’t miss next year’s jam-packed celebration during the month of October. All Literary Festival events hosted by Alvernia will be free and open to the public.
University announces largest fundraising campaign in history

Values & Vision: The Alvernia 50th Anniversary Campaign has raised more than $14.1 million in one year of campaigning.

Alvernia University announced a $27 million campaign to position the private Franciscan university as the emergent institution in the surrounding area and to extend its reach throughout the middle-Atlantic region. Values & Vision: The Alvernia 50th Anniversary Campaign has raised more than half its goal in one year of campaigning.

There are three significant financial components to this comprehensive campaign. Of the $27 million total, $14.2 million will be raised for capital and program enhancements, including new and expanded teaching and learning spaces, student scholarships, and faculty endowments; $2.8 million in annual fund gifts will support operating initiatives, overall educational quality and student services; and $10 million in deferred gifts from planned giving and bequests will provide much needed investment in the future of Alvernia.

The campaign addressed specific needs identified in new strategic and campus master plans, the cornerstones of an institutional vision to position Alvernia as a distinctive Franciscan university.

“The early success of this campaign,” explained President Thomas F. Flynn, “affirms that Alvernia has earned the community's respect and support as a multi-dimensional institution that graduates men and women of character, who make a difference in their professions and in their communities.”

Values & Vision: The Alvernia 50th Anniversary Campaign has been led by a campaign team of over 100 volunteers, co-chaired by Theresa '83 and Robert McCormack '82 and Kathleen '95 and Carl Herbein, with honorary co-chairs Jerry and Carolyn Holleran and Ray and Carole Neag.

Besides the early leadership gift to the Values & Vision Campaign from Jerry and Carolyn Holleran, who committed $3 million to the Holleran Center for Community Engagement, two other donors have made seven-figure commitments, including Ray and Carole Neag, who gave $1 million for Alvernia University's first endowed professorships (pictured here with President Tom Flynn).

Capital and program gifts will help Alvernia University transform and improve facilities on the Reading campus, expand outreach to students throughout the region, and invest significantly in the quality of programs and faculty essential for a first-rate university education.

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South Campus construction

Alvernia University continues to expand with South Campus construction to be completed for the 2009-2010 school year.

The new construction will add more on-campus housing, a track, and many new amenities.

Current construction includes two residence halls, a parking lot, and a new turf field. The dormitories are both approximately 27,000 square feet and will include close to 150 beds, with apartment sizes to complement many different living arrangements, from one-person efficiencies to five-person apartments.

Included in these fully furnished apartments are upscale furniture, a dining/living room, a bathroom, and a full kitchen with a stove, sink, and microwave. Each hall will hold gas fireplaces located in the main lounges, and business centers with computers and printers. The residence halls will also contain a laundry room and elevators, in addition to wireless Internet, cable, and phone connections.

A new roadway for South Campus will lead to a new secure gated parking area (complete with 250 spaces) for students living in the residence halls.

There is no age requirement to reside in the new apartments. Room selection is based on class level, with seniors having the most priority.
Alvernia University earns coveted Carnegie Classification

Alvernia University has been awarded the 2008 Community Engagement Classification designation by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

This national recognition places Alvernia among an elite group in higher education and shoulder to shoulder with schools like Duke, Penn, Georgetown, and Purdue. In fact, only 119 colleges and universities received this designation nationwide—68 public and 50 other private institutions—and only nine in Pennsylvania in 2008.

The designation was earned for demonstrating an extraordinary congruence among mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement at Alvernia University.

The examples shared with evaluators were numerous and wide ranging: from our South Reading Youth Initiative serving inner-city middle-school students to the non-profit CEO roundtables; from the Angelica Park Project to community food drives and outreach efforts for animal shelters; from a pandemic flu website to informational videos for physicians; from free workshops on resumes at the Berks Community Action Program to free career planning services for local industrial firms’ workers; from the events of the Literary Festival to the lecture series on Ethics and Leadership, all these programs resulted from faculty, staff, and students working in and with the community from week to week, semester to semester, year to year.

“This coveted classification validates that we are living and teaching our mission—preparing our students to be engaged citizens in the local and global communities,” said Alvernia University President Thomas F. Flynn. “It is also a testament to Alvernia’s lifelong commitment to service, informed by our foundresses, the Bernardine Sisters, whose values and vision instilled in our institutional culture this tradition of community engagement.”

Though the designation was awarded for institution-wide efforts, it also recognizes the establishment of the Holleran Center for Community Engagement in 2006, whose work includes the following: increasing the University’s effectiveness in creating community-based learning experiences for students; making the community an essential part of the University curriculum; and effecting and improving the quality of life in local and regional communities.

Ethics, Leadership & Community 2008-09 lecture series

Kicked off with “The Power of Political Ads,” by Alvernia University professors Jodi Radosh and Victoria Williams on October 15, this year’s lecture series covers topics of national importance: the challenges of health care leadership, the American Presidency, ethics in journalism, and the value of interfaith dialogue. All events are held in the Bernardine Franciscan Conference Center adjacent to campus, and are free and open to the public.

In December, health care CEOs Scott Wolfe, Reading Hospital and Medical Center, revealed some of the frameworks for decision-making they use as CEOs at Greater Reading’s award-winning hospitals.

Visit Alvernia.edu/lectureseries for complete details about all spring lectures. A wine and cheese reception follows all afternoon events. The 2008-09 lecture series in Ethics, Leadership, & Community is sponsored by the Center for Ethics and Leadership and the Holleran Center for Community Engagement. For more information, please contact the Holleran Center at 610-790-1925.

SPRING EVENTS:

“Truth-Seeking, Fair Reporting: Ethics in Journalism”
A Panel Discussion of Journalists
The Annual Batdorf Lecture in Ethics
Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

“Six Weeks in Washington: The New Administration”
The Alvernia University Faculty Series
Dr. Tim Blessing and Dr. Takele Mojire
Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

“Faces Seen, Hearts Unknown: The Human Landscape of Mexican Migration”
The Annual Hesburgh Lecture, co-sponsored with Notre Dame Club of Reading
Dr. Gilberto Cárdenas, director of the Institute of Latino Studies, Notre Dame
Thursday, March 26, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

“Sharing His Blessings: The Christian-Jewish Dialogue, a Vision of Shalom”
Rabbi Howard Hirsch and Bishop Richard Hanifen
Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
Thank you again so much for putting together the Bernardine Buddies for Founders Day. Every student who participated that I talked to had such an amazing experience. I know I did. I absolutely fell in love with my buddy Sister Carmencita. She was amazing to talk to, had wonderful stories, and was a lot of fun to just be with. She told me of how she graduated from Mount Alvernia High School in 1946, and how the whole campus used to be a big farm with pigs and horses. She had such interesting stories about her classes and Alvernia, and I absolutely loved being with her. Not just her but the other sisters as well. They were all so happy, with the biggest smiles, and it made me feel wonderful inside. All the Bernardine Sisters are some of the most beautiful people I have ever met in my life. They all kept thanking me for inviting them, but I kept telling them that we were so blessed with their presence, and we wouldn’t have wanted to have Founders Day without them here.

A new friend that I met through this even said that she would bring me with her and the OT club when they go back to visit, so that I could play things like bingo with them! Being a part of something so wonderful really makes me feel good about not only myself, but also the career that I will be going into. Sitting enjoying shows with them and even helping them with such small tasks like getting out of the car or getting lunch makes me feel like I am doing the right thing with my life, and I would not have it any other way.

So, Mrs. G., I just wanted to tell you how wonderful of an experience I had this weekend. And thank you (and everyone else who helped) so very much for giving this amazing opportunity to not only the nuns, but students as well. This will surely be something I never forget, as well as something I would love to do again.

Amanda Walter
Alvernia nursing sophomore

Memo from: Amanda Walter (student)
To: Deborah Greenawald, RN, MSN

Thank you again so much for putting together the Bernardine Buddies for Founders Day. Every student who participated that I talked to had such an amazing experience. I know I did. I absolutely fell in love with my buddy Sister Carmencita. She was amazing to talk to, had wonderful stories, and was a lot of fun to just be with. She told me of how she graduated from Mount Alvernia High School in 1946, and how the whole campus used to be a big farm with pigs and horses. She had such interesting stories about her classes and Alvernia, and I absolutely loved being with her. Not just her but the other sisters as well. They were all so happy, with the biggest smiles, and it made me feel wonderful inside. All the Bernardine Sisters are some of the most beautiful people I have ever met in my life. They all kept thanking me for inviting them, but I kept telling them that we were so blessed with their presence, and we wouldn’t have wanted to have Founders Day without them here.

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So, Mrs. G., I just wanted to tell you how wonderful of an experience I had this weekend. And thank you (and everyone else who helped) so very much for giving this amazing opportunity to not only the nuns, but students as well. This will surely be something I never forget, as well as something I would love to do again. And believe me, I will use every resource I can to get back to the Villa and visit my buddy, and new friend, Sr. Carmencita.

Thank You Again,
Amanda Walter
A look at the NEW—

ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY

Reading’s FIRST University!
September 25, 2008:
A University is born

Excited alumni attending University Day said they believe the new university status will increase the value of their degree in the eyes of employers and graduate schools.

It’s official—

Announced on September 25 during a brief ceremony on the new Campus Commons amidst hundreds of students, faculty, and staff, Alvernia College has been granted university status from the Pennsylvania State Department of Education. Hereafter, it will officially be known as Alvernia University.

Flashbulbs blinked throughout the crowd as President Thomas F. Flynn made the announcement; and the crowd rose in cheering waves as Kathy Herbein ’95 (chair of the board of trustees), Dr. Karen Cameron (president of the faculty council), Sister Madonna Marie Harvath (general minister of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters), and Margot Allen (president of the Student Government Association) took turns speaking to the assembly of more than 1,500 faculty, staff, students, and community members, as a large university banner showcasing the new logo was unfurled. Excited alumni attending University Day said they believe the new university status will increase the value of their degree in the eyes of employers and graduate schools.

“In the state of Pennsylvania, becoming a university entails a great deal more than just a name change,” explained Flynn. “The announcement caps two years of work and preparation by many faculty members and administrators, directed by Provost Shirley Williams, after the pursuit of university status emerged as a centerpiece of the University’s new strategic plan.” But the change in status also reflects a higher level of academics and prestige the University has accomplished over its lifetime.

In the last issue of Alvernia Magazine, Alvernia’s rich history was celebrated in a look back at the last 50 years, from the early roots of Francis Hall, when it served as an all-in-one building of classroom space, library, dining hall, gym, auditorium, and science laboratories—to the sprawling campus it is today.
Recent transformation is evident in outstanding new facilities, such as the O’Pake Science Center (opened in 2006), the renovation of the Upland Center (completed in 2007), and the renovation and the expansion of the Student Center (in 2008). Students returning to Alvernia this past fall were greeted by the new, green Campus Commons area in the center of main campus. “It’s beautiful!” exclaimed a student overlooking the Commons from the Student Center patio on the first day of classes. “It’s so inviting; and the bookstore looks like a real bookstore now, too.”

From one completed success—to the next new project—Alvernia’s transformation is continuous. Construction is already underway for the new South Campus, including two village apartment buildings (with secure, gated parking areas) and a highly anticipated multi-turf field surrounded by a regulation-sized track.

Obtaining university status was about more than improvements to the physical plant. Explosive enrollment was the underlying factor. “University status reflects what we have already become due to the extraordinary growth and progress of recent years,” said Flynn, citing a total enrollment of almost 3,000 students, from undergraduates to graduates to Ph.D. candidates. “It also positions us for growth and improvement in our future, inspired and guided by the Franciscan educational ideal of ‘knowledge joined with love.’”

The first graduate of Alvernia to chair the Board of Trustees, Kathy Herbein 95, agreed and cited the institutional transformation occurring at Alvernia as a major reason for pursuing change. “In view of the expansion of our academic program, particularly the explosive growth in graduate studies in the last eight years, the addition of satellite centers in Philadelphia and Pottsville and an increasing number of offsite locations,” Herbein said, “university status was a logical next step.”

Like Herbein, more Alvernia alumni sit on the Board of Trustees than ever before, and 100 percent of board members financially support the Alvernia Values & Vision Campaign—a philanthropic engine expected to provide $27 million to bolster the aggressive strategic plan for the institution’s continued growth (see page 4).

As some of the first steps of the strategic plan, the Holleran Center for Community Engagement (HCCE) and the Center for Ethics and Leadership were launched. Both provide a multitude of opportunities for community and personal growth through volunteer opportunities, training, education, and a renowned series of dynamic speakers.

A new online MBA program, launching this spring (see page 19), has the potential to widen Alvernia’s footprint to a much farther-reaching area through the mastery of electronic sophistication.

And for the last 10 years, area senior citizens have been taking full advantage of the innovative Alvernia Seniors College, from classes on the presidential election, to crime, to money management, to religious turmoil.

Founded in 1958 by the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters as an undergraduate college preparing Sisters to teach, Alvernia celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008 with special events and the beginning of new traditions—including (continued on page 10)
A University is born

The New Alvernia University

A NEW FACULTY

They are mentors and advisors. They push the limits of students’ understanding. They have invaluable gifts to impart to students—confidence, inquisitiveness, ambition, professional and alumni connections, depth of knowledge, breadth of knowledge, a new world view—each in his or her own way.

The faculty are the beating heart and incarnate soul of a university; they define and shape the student experience, especially at Alvernia, where faculty teach all the classes. In a recent column appearing in the student newspaper, President Thomas F. Flynn said, “Alvernia faculty share a passion for teaching and for each student’s professional growth and development.”

For the 2008-09 academic year, Alvernia University added 12 new full-time faculty members, many of them with terminal degrees in their fields or impressive academic and professional credentials. In the next two issues of Alvernia Magazine, we’ll be introducing readers to the newest members of the academic community.

Moving forward, Alvernia’s planned strategic goals related to academic quality align nicely with the more prestigious university status.

(continued from page 9)

the unveiling of the new Athletic Hall of Fame (see page 14). And as reflected in its vision to be a distinctive Franciscan university, Alvernia remains rooted in its Catholic and liberal arts origins.

During many of these celebrations, alumni and community members seemed to ask the same question: what is the difference between a college and a university?

There is no single, universally accepted definition for “college” or “university.” Within Pennsylvania, universities must have a broad range of offerings, especially in professional programs, and emphasize graduate as well as undergraduate education. Universities usually contribute greatly to the cultural and economic life of their local communities. Those located near cities often have extensive internship and other community-based learning opportunities. All of this was true at Alvernia before we applied for university status.

Over the last 10 years, Alvernia has undergone dramatic population changes, with a total enrollment increasing 134 percent across divisions (from 1,198 in 1997 to 2,800 in 2007). Before 1999, Alvernia had no graduate students enrolled in any program. Now the number of graduate and evening undergraduate students is roughly 1,400, matching the traditional undergraduate day program enrollment. Therefore, “university” more accurately describes the rich educational experience and complex mix of programs and students: undergraduate, evening undergraduate, graduate and Seniors College, pursuing associate, baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degrees and certifications, as well as life-long enrichment.

Moving forward, Alvernia’s planned strategic goals related to academic quality align nicely with the more prestigious university status.

Teams are working to improve quality by creating interdisciplinary signatures and targeting resources to strengthen particular programs, such as the creative and fine arts; to prepare students for lives in the global community by stressing an integrated learning experience; to improve the quality of the faculty through a systematic plan of recruitment, support, and evaluation; and to bolster student achievement by improving the entering student profile, as well as the demonstrated outcomes of an Alvernia education.

This commitment is strengthened by 12 new full-time faculty members who have joined the Alvernia ranks since September. Veteran faculty members write books, team up for lectures on timely topics, such as the presidential

Scott Davidson

A familiar face at Alvernia, Davidson has been an adjunct lecturer for the last eight years and served as director of Campus Ministry from 2000-2002 prior to his full-time appointment as an instructor in theology. He also has robust professional experience in computer information systems as a trainer and network administrator. He holds a Master of Arts in theology from Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C.
Alvernia will remain a student-centered, supportive institution where faculty members teach in intimate class sizes and students enjoy a personalized experience as part of their Alvernia education.

Values & Vision: The Alvernia 50th Anniversary Campaign has raised more than $14.1 million in one year of campaigning. “The early success of this campaign,” explained President Flynn, “affirms that Alvernia has earned the community’s respect and support as a multi-dimensional institution that graduates men and women of character, who make a difference in their professions and in their communities.”

Capital and program gifts will help Alvernia University transform and improve facilities on the Reading campus, expand outreach to students throughout the region, and invest area and to extend its reach throughout the Middle Atlantic region.

(continued on page 12)
Will Alvernia cost more now that it is a university?

No. The change in name would not require any increase in tuition outside of the moderate price increases that have characterized Alvernia in the past. Internally, department budgets would not be noticeably affected, as changes would be implemented in phases.

Did the website or e-mail addresses change?

No, they did not. Though it is being completely redesigned, the website address remains www.alvernia.edu, and the e-mail address will continue to use the same formula of firstname.lastname@alvernia.edu.

A University is born (continued from page 11)

significantly in the quality of programs and faculty essential for a first-rate university education.

One of the early leadership gifts came in June of 2008 from Jerry and Carolyn Holleran, who committed $3 million to Alvernia University in support of a signature program renamed the Holleran Center for Community Engagement. Two other donors have made seven figure commitments as well.

Perhaps the most significant thing about moving on from Alvernia College to Alvernia University is that it positions us for a future grounded in our mission. The values and vision of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters who founded Alvernia have been the bedrock upon which the remarkable progress of the institution has always been—and will continue to be—based. "It is critical that as a new university, we strive to achieve our vision of being a 'distinctive Franciscan University,'" Flynn concluded.

Jennifer Michalik

Since 1992, Michalik has been an adjunct instructor teaching musical arts and music education classes at Alvernia.

Her full-time appointment to assistant professor of music reflects a strategic goal to strengthen and broaden creative arts offerings at the University. She has earned awards in music performance throughout her career, including as a choral workshop participant at Carnegie Hall. Her professional background also includes music therapy and music and choir direction. She holds a Master of Music from Northwestern University.

Joseph Kremer

Dr. Kremer is an assistant professor of chemistry and the newest faculty face in the O’Pake Science Center. He has a range of skills in the hard sciences from analytical methods to synthetic and electronic skills. He has presented widely prior to and during his pursuit of a Ph.D. in chemistry, magna cum laude, from Colorado State University in 2006. Before coming to Alvernia University, Dr. Kremer was an assistant professor of chemistry at Southern Arkansas University. He also has practical, professional experience as a senior analytical chemist in the private sector.

Sister Paula Marie Nowak, OSF

Sister Nowak is not new to Alvernia, having served as a part-time instructor in mathematics since 2004, but her full-time appointment is. In addition to teaching math and algebra classes, she is also the director of Initial Formation for the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters. In keeping with her Franciscan heritage, beyond sheer understanding of the coursework, she works toward her students realizing that mathematics is evolving and that it has interrelationships with other disciplines. She has a Masters in mathematics education from Villanova University.

Takele Mojire

Dr. Mojire is an assistant professor of economics. He is an Ethiopian citizen who earned his undergraduate degree in Kenya and then came to the U.S. to pursue advanced degrees: a Master of Arts in peace and conflict studies from the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary and a Ph.D. in applied economics from Mississippi State University. He has research interests in macroeconomics and international economic development. He has 10 years of experience with NGOs in Ethiopia affiliated with the Christian Children’s Fund and soil and water conservation.

The New Alvernia University

(continued from page 11)

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Sister Nowak is not new to Alvernia, having served as a part-time instructor in mathematics since 2004, but her full-time appointment is. In addition to teaching math and algebra classes, she is also the director of Initial Formation for the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters. In keeping with her Franciscan heritage, beyond sheer understanding of the coursework, she works toward her students realizing that mathematics is evolving and that it has interrelationships with other disciplines. She has a Masters in mathematics education from Villanova University.
Designed to Serve brings Alvernia’s 50-year history to life while illuminating the ministry and commitment to holistic education of the Bernardine Sisters, the foundresses of the University. It is especially meaningful as an institutional publication because it was written by Sister Mary Pacelli Staskiel, one of Alvernia’s pioneering and visionary architects, with the detail of an historian, the sensibility of an artist, and the heart of a Bernardine Sister.

The book includes generous historical and architectural detail, including descriptions of the building’s famous tile floors; portraits of the principal artists responsible for the building’s distinctive design; and descriptions of uses of the building dating back from its founding as an orphanage in 1926 to its evolution to Alvernia College in 1958.

Designed to Serve could serve as a tribute to its mission-style architecture (much more common on the West Coast), to the various artists whose unique handwork is showcased on every floor, and to its previous “life” as an orphanage run by the Bernardine Sisters.

At first Sr. Pacelli simply intended to write about the construction of the building and its adaptation for use by the University, but she soon realized that narration would be only one part of the story. The other half would be stories of those who were sheltered by the building from 1926-1957, either as residents of the orphanage or as students attending the elementary or secondary school that was part of Francis Hall. She would have to devise means to collect since records were scarce in both the Alvernian and the Bernardine Franciscan Congregational archives.

Francis Hall stories were first solicited through the parish bulletins in Reading and other parts of Berks County. Soon she was receiving information from other parts of Pennsylvania, from Florida, and from Oregon. In addition, Sr. Pacelli searched the public record in reference to the orphanage.

None of this constituted a spate of information from which to write a 90-page book. Sr. Pacelli had to literally learn from the building itself. Therefore, she took the old adage, “If walls could talk,” as her analogy. Beginning with the list of craftsmen from a newspaper article, she began to search at the Berks Historical Society and contacted other persons acquainted with them through historical research of their own.

For numerous early readers of Designed to Serve, including Alvernia University President Thomas F. Flynn, the final chapter, “Voices of Francis Hall,” the representative memories of women and men who formerly lived at Francis Hall between 1926 and 1958, constitutes their favorite part of the book. “I think that chapter is so successful,” Sr. Pacelli said, “because it is not just talking about the building itself but also interweaving the human element into the story.”

Sr. Pacelli is delighted with the responses she has received about her book from trustees, former administrators, faculty and staff members, and relatives of those who lived at the orphanage. Many commented on the attractive appearance of the book. More than a few readers never realized Francis Hall’s connection to Reading’s own history.

Designed to Serve is currently available at the University bookstore and can also be purchased through the Bookstore’s online site.
According to the Pottstown Mercury, inducted basketball standout, Brian Bossler ’85, (who scored 2,278 points in his Alvernia career) has kept in touch with the University as an alumnus. “Those years at Alvernia were great,” said Bossler. “There are a lot of people who helped me individually, not only basketball-wise, but also academically. They’re just good, good people at that school, and I’m proud to be associated with them.”

Bossler stayed with basketball after his career at Alvernia, coaching 14 seasons at Daniel Boone and Exeter High Schools, compiling a 176-128 overall record. He guided the Daniel Boone team to the 1991 Berks County final against Reading High, which at the time was led by Donyell Marshall.

Six individual athletes joined two coaches and the 1997 men’s basketball team as inductees into the first class. Though he didn’t expect to be inducted, Jack McCloskey, coach of the NCAA Final Four 1997 men’s basketball team, was definitely on the selection team’s radar from the first meeting. “It’s quite an honor, something I did not expect,” he said. “There are so many other people who are deserving of this award, so it was a surprise.”

Inductees were judged by a panel of 11 Alvernia coaches and staff members, media representatives, and alumni members. To be considered for the Hall of Fame, athletes and teams must have completed their Alvernia careers at least 10 years prior to their selection, and must have made significant contributions to their sport. In fact, criteria selection bylaws state, “The records of the person(s) considered shall be so outstanding that there will be little question as to the qualifications necessary for induction.”

Women’s basketball star, Nicole (Brown) Schomp ’94, was a model candidate. This elementary education major scored 1,000 of her 1,886 career points in a single season, making the NAIA All-District First Team in each of her first three years. In her senior year, she was named the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PAC) Championship MVP, and team MVP.

As part of the 50th anniversary celebration, Alvernia University inducted its inaugural athletic Hall of Fame class to cap Family and Homecoming Weekend this past October.
Coach Jack McCloskey led the Alvernia men’s basketball team from 1991-2004 and currently holds a school record with 227 wins. He guided his teams to six 20-win seasons, which included the 26-6 record of the 1997 NCAA Final Four team. With two PAC championships and four NCAA appearances, McCloskey was named to the top 50 NCAA Division III coaches in career winning percentage (.671).

McCloskey talked about his dominating 1997 team, which was the only full team inducted during the ceremony at Alvernia. “It was our first year in the NCAA, and it was just a thrilling ride,” he recalled. “The players were so unselfish. They didn’t care who scored, as long as we won.”

Despite starting his 12-year career at Alvernia with only six players, McCloskey never posted a losing season. He still returns to the hardwood to coach basketball camps each summer.

As a two-sport athlete, Dawn Ermert ’94 has a long rap sheet of success. Some of her greater accolades include holding the women’s basketball scoring record (with 2,093 points) and being named NAIA Second Team All American in 1992. In 1993, she was named to the PAC first team in both women’s basketball and softball. She was the women’s basketball PAC Player of the Year in 1994, as well as Alvernia’s Outstanding Female Student-Athlete.

Another two-sport athlete, Nicole (Hampton) Williams ’97, was named to the PAC First Team in both field hockey and softball her senior year, as well being named team MVP by her field hockey teammates in 1995, and by her softball teammates in 1996.

Sam Harter ’92 completed his business management degree while playing baseball (excelling in both pitching and hitting) and golf at Alvernia. Harter was named NAIA baseball District 19 Player of the Year in 1990.

All-time leader in basketball points Seane Krinock played 127 games for the Crusaders and, in 1989, was named to the All PAC First Team, while receiving an honorable mention on the NAIA District 19 team.

As a golf coach for Alvernia more than 10 years, John Yocum had previously been named to the Berks Hall of Fame, and the Albright Hall of Fame. Yocum coached the men’s golf team from 1983-88, and again from 1991-2000. In addition, he was a NAIA District 19 Champion and a 1993 PAC Champion. Yocum is currently the head professional at Galen Hall and Reading Country Club.

Each Hall of Fame inductee was given a unique Neal Portnoy caricature portrait (used to recognize some of the world’s greatest athletes — from Larry Bird to Ted Williams). Smaller versions of the awards hang in the east hallway of the Physical Education Center.

Athletics Hall of Fame inducts first class
ever the past three years, the Alvernia community has been engaged in a dialogue about our future and the priorities and goals to be addressed as part of a university strategic plan that will shape and guide the life of this institution for the next decade. Part of that conversation has focused on our mission, identity, values, and heritage—a discussion that has included board members, administration, faculty, staff, and students. The conversations have been stimulating and fruitful and have generated a renewed interest in the heritage of Alvernia, along with a critical examination of the core documents that define our identity: who we are, how we are viewed by internal and external audiences, and ultimately, how we impact our students and community as a distinctive Franciscan university. Alvernia’s 50th anniversary offers the opportunity to look back with gratitude and pride as we embrace our future as a Catholic, Franciscan institution—a precious gift we offer to the communities we serve as we celebrate this significant milestone.

This gift might best be understood with an analogy. Catholic and Franciscan are equivalent terms, like being a fish and being a trout. One does not exclude the other, but the latter term expands and qualifies or distinguishes the former. Alvernia is a Catholic institution. It was founded in 1958 as a Catholic, private, liberal arts college for women. Today, Alvernia is a comprehensive institution which has grown in size and programs, but it retains a liberal arts core while continuing to offer professional and graduate programs to a larger and much more diverse population. Being Catholic is integral to our mission and identity. It reinforces our commitment to our founding purpose and to the academic and moral dimensions of our curriculum; it encourages a research agenda that emphasizes the complementary aspects of faith and reason; and it provides a valuable and greatly needed service to the Church and to the world.

Alvernia is also characterized by the heritage and values of the Franciscan tradition. The mission of Alvernia flows from the mission of its sponsor, the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, a Catholic, Franciscan congregation of women religious whose mission has always included education. As a Franciscan university, Alvernia possesses a rich historical tradition inspired by its patron St. Francis of Assisi and the renowned theologians and philosophers of the great medieval universities, including St. Bonaventure, St. Anthony, and Blessed John Duns Scotus. A distinguishing trait of this tradition, unique among other great Western religious traditions, is the Franciscan intellectual vision emphasizing the advancement of knowledge joined with love and service. This is the source of our inspiring and singular mission motto: To Learn, To Love, To Serve.

Perhaps the unspoken question that some might ask is: how can someone who is neither Catholic nor Franciscan fit in this context? Francis of Assisi was neither a scholar nor an academic, but his extraordinary spiritual vision inspired the world with a new understanding of Jesus Christ in his humanity and divinity, and awakened in human hearts a love for all people based on Gospel values. This is the foundational premise of any Franciscan enterprise, and in the macrocosm of higher education there is a place for everyone. The genius of Francis lies in his understanding of God as overflowing love and goodness, expressed first in Christ, and in every person and all creation. There is universal appeal in the Franciscan agenda that actively pursues peace and works for social justice; values contemplation as a way to honor both the divine and the human; respects the environment as a reflection of its Creator; and believes that in serving others we receive abundantly more than we give; and that we are all brothers and sisters before God, equally loved and redeemed. All of these values can be affirmed by Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

However, to be honest, one cannot say that there are no tensions in the Catholic-Franciscan identity. Sister Margaret Carney, president of St. Bonaventure University, has
addressed these concerns in her excellent article, “The DNA of Franciscan Institutions” (AFCU Journal, 2005). She writes that although many individuals identify with Franciscan, they are not as comfortable with Catholic. Francis and Clare lived in troubled times as well, in a church torn by divisions between the laity and the hierarchy, in a world where Christians and Muslims clashed violently, where the rich nobility ignored the poor and marginalized. As Margaret Carney noted, Franciscans created space at the margins of power in the medieval church for dialogue and mediation, setting the agenda for future generations to follow. At Franciscan institutions, there is a unique opportunity for community building and for ecumenical outreach, for collaboration and partnerships, for conversation and debate that seeks common ground and the common good.

The expert on experience

Joseph J. Cicala
Alvernia University

As of spring 2009, a new vice president of University Life and Student Learning Experiences will join the Alvernia University team. Dr. Joseph J. Cicala comes to Alvernia from La Salle University where he held the dean of students position for 10 years. In addition, Dr. Cicala has more than 15 years of experience in a multitude of University life positions, including director, counselor, and assistant professor.

Dr. Cicala received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from La Salle University of Philadelphia, and a Master of Science from West Chester University in counselor education. His Ph.D. in higher education administration was received from New York University, after he completed a dissertation about “The relationship between student involvement and reflective judgment for students attending a community college.”

During a meet and greet session in late 2008, Dr. Cicala told faculty and staff that he is looking forward to bringing his experience and expertise as a leader and an educator to his new post at Alvernia University.

Students at the LaSalle campus describe Cicala as a person who is committed to high aspirations for them and the University. “I strive to maintain a genuine presence, along with stimulation of others’ presence, in students’ lives, to build relationships that contribute to the kind of community that fosters students’ personal and intense involvement,” explained Dr. Cicala. “I believe good relationships are the most direct positive stimulus of learning.”

Dr. Cicala has served on many committees throughout his professional experience, including University Council, President’s Cabinet, Council of Deans, Academic Affairs and Curriculum Committees. Additionally, he chaired the Student Affairs Committee, and co-chaired the University Calendar Committee.

Among countless other honors, Dr. Cicala is a nationally certified counselor, and was previously inducted by the La Salle University chapter as a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary and a Distinguished Member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Previous Professional Experience:
• La Salle University: dean of students
• West Chester University of Pennsylvania: resident director, Office of Residence Life
• Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.: director of the Shaw Living/Learning Center, Office of Residence Life; academic counselor, Office of Supportive Services; associate director of Academic Advising and Counseling Services, College of Arts and Sciences; and director of Career Exploration Services, College of Arts and Sciences
• Suffolk County Community College, Brentwood, N.Y.: counselor and assistant professor
• Philadelphia University, Philadelphia, Pa.: director of the Advising and Counseling Center

An honorary Franciscan

Alfred J. Weber, president of Tweed-Weber, Inc. and the vice chair of the University Board of Trustees, was given the 2008 Franciscan Award, the highest the University bestows, for selfless devotion to the University and the greater community, at the annual President’s Dinner. In his acceptance speech, he graciously acknowledged the entire campus community for teaching him that “it is in giving that we receive” and cited Alvernia as becoming “a genuine force in the region, a truly transformational institution.” Also at the event, the Berks County Community Foundation received the Pro Urbe Award for being a vital organization serving Greater Reading.

Alumni around the world

From California to Kenya, almost 9,000 Alvernia alumni can now be found all across the globe. Check out the map to see where in the world Alvernia alumni are today.
Getting electrified with Alvernia’s new MBA Online—

Launched in January, Alvernia’s new MBA Online program has been designed to meet the needs of today’s busy students, without sacrificing accreditation and integrity.

“Alvernia’s MBA Online program stands apart from other programs in a significant way,” explained Joan Lewis, dean of Graduate Studies. “It will provide a flexible learning environment for busy individuals while directly mirroring the University’s established, reputable, Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs accredited on-campus program.” In fact, the faculty who will provide instruction for the new online program will be the same as those who teach on campus.

Designed to be completed in two years, the program will require students to complete the same curriculum as their on-campus counterparts. In addition, the admissions and academics requirements for the MBA Online program are identical to the requirements of the on-campus program.

The MBA Online format will utilize sophisticated, but easy to use online programs (such as Blackboard and Horizon Wimba) for Web-based courses. More than 75 percent of the program’s instruction will be conducted electronically.

“The online program was developed with the demanding schedules of working professionals in mind,” said Lewis. But there is something missing if students never meet face to face. Therefore, the program will also feature a residency component that will bring students to campus four times during the course of the program. The on-campus seminars combine online course content with a program orientation, person-to-person faculty interaction, professional networking, traditional academic presentations, and lectures from leaders in the field of executive business administration.

“There will be plenty of opportunities for students to interact with each other and with their professors through the residencies and Web-enabled conferencing,” said Lewis. “Alvernia University MBA students are required to engage in various discussions, debate, and extensive analysis of the material presented through lectures and guided discussion.”

More information about the new Alvernia MBA Online can be found on the University website: www.alvernia.edu/online.

A Moment with Michelle LeGrande ’99

Michelle LeGrande
Alvernia BA in accounting – Class of 1999
Current on-campus MBA student

Employer: Vanguard
Job Title: Financial Advisor
Duties: budget forecasting and variance analysis
Future Plans: Financial Analyst for Vanguard

Why Alvernia? “The convenience of evening classes close to home fits with my job and family commitments. And Alvernia, unlike other colleges I looked at, didn’t make me take classes over that I’ve already completed. In fact, they gave me credit for them instead.” Alvernia’s program is already making a difference in her work. “It makes me understand what’s going on in the financial services industry—why certain decisions are made, why companies get into trouble. Professors are out there working in business, so they know what you need to know. It’s really made it all come together for me.”
Obama Presidency on Tuesday, March 10, during a public lecture entitled “Six Weeks in Washington: The New Administration,” as part of the Alvernia Faculty Series. Besides American political history, he also considers medieval political history one of his specialties. When he’s not talking to CNN, MSNBC, or the print media, he may be canoeing, traveling, eating in diners, or staying in cheap motels.

Is the public’s fascination with the private lives of American presidents a new obsession? Up until Watergate, the private lives of presidents were generally off limits. However, the first systematic use of personal details to advance a political candidate’s agenda actually dates back to McKinley, who leaked these details himself. And, of course, Teddy Roosevelt had no private life whatsoever.

What makes a good president? A president can only be as strong as his ties to the job and to the Constitution. Good presidents are able to isolate what they personally feel from what they do officially. Loners have made the best presidents. Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Jackson, Dwight Eisenhower, and Ronald Reagan were all loners. Most successful presidents are not good at forming relationships. If a president has a lot of close personal friends serving on his Cabinet, he’s probably not going to be as successful—he’ll be too easily influenced by those friends.

Why would anyone want to be president of the United States? Would-be presidents are not reasonable, by most people’s standards. These are people with tremendous ambition who are willing to work 14 hours a day, every day.

What kind of president will Barack Obama be? It’s too soon to predict with any certainty. I would like a lot more information about his interaction with his family. I’d like to know how many good friends he has. Though he ran on a platform of change, most presidents can’t really effect much change. Since he’ll be appointing three or four judges, Obama will have the most impact on the Supreme Court. However, sometimes the potential for change can build up and a president will come along who makes a tremendous amount of change. Like the Jimmy Carter phenomenon, Obama does represent something new and exciting.

How did you develop two such divergent areas of specialization? American political history and Medieval political history have more in common than most people realize and far more in common when compared to Modern European political history. In the Medieval world, a despot like Mussolini would have been killed. Kings didn’t have absolute power back then; there were strict rules about things kings could and couldn’t do. Edward II and Richard II and III were all killed because they overstepped their bounds. Kings were required to have councils and discuss decisions with them. Like Medieval rulers, American presidents are restrained by the checks and balances established in the constitution.

What is it about cheap motels you appreciate? In fancy hotels, guests never hang around the lobby and talk—they breezethrough on their way in and out. Whereas people are always hanging out in the lobbies of cheap hotels. They are great for studying people.
The latest edition of The Conscious Reader was published in August 2008. This is the third edition to include Marc DiPaolo on the cover (as editor) and Alvernia University credited as DiPaolo’s home institution. Several notable contributors to the new Conscious Reader were members of the Alvernia community: Thomas Bierowski’s short story “Red Power Ranger and the Fruit Bat” appears as a selection; Alvernia alumnae Lynzie Biggs ’06 is credited in the preface as a research assistant; photography adjunct Heidi Reuter’s photograph is featured; a student photograph by Yasiris Martinez is included; and the instructor’s manual for the book features a “sample syllabus” credited to Marc DiPaolo, Beth DeMeo (communication), Carrie Fitzpatrick (communication), Jen Reimert (registrar), and Richard Law (communication).

An excerpt of Sr. M. Pacelli’s (English/communication) new book, Designed to Serve: the Place and Persons of Francis Hall, and a book review written by George M. Meiser IX, publisher, will appear in upcoming issues of The Historical Review of Berks County. The book review will also be featured in an upcoming “News-Bits,” according to Meiser.

**HUMANITIES**

Donna Yarri (theology) and Spencer Stober (sciences) co-presented at the 2008 national Film and History Conference in Chicago, which focused on film and science. Their presentation was entitled, “Here Comes Frankenstein Again: The Depiction of Genetic Science in Recent Films.”

**BUSINESS**

Bryan Dreibelbis (business) received the “Top 5 Outstanding Members” award from the Reading Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA). This award is based on members’ activities, involvement with chapter projects, and dedication to the accounting profession.

**COMMUNICATION**

“Cinema Chat,” a program about films and filmmaking co-hosted by Marc DiPaolo (communication) and John Nelka (library services) aired on BCTV, Wednesday, August 6, at 9:30 p.m., and Wednesday, September 3. If you missed their live broadcast or can’t access BCTV, their complete show is now available online at www.bctv.org/Archives.aspx.

Faculty and Staff

Congratulations to the 2008 Greater Reading Top 5 Rising Star award winners: Matt Golden– managing partner, Reese & Assoc.
Tom Minick– director of development, Alvernia University
Connor Morganti– financial advisor, American Portfolios
Pamela Shupp– director Economic Development, Berks Economic Partnership
Tammy White– senior VP, Resource Development, United Way of Berks County

Donna Yarri (theology) had a book review published in the Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics (Vol. 28, No. 1, Fall/Winter 2008) on Charles Curran’s most recent book, Loyal Dissent. She also reviewed, and edited the manuscript of, as well as wrote a back cover blurb, for Ethics in the Global Village, by Christian ethicist Jack A. Hill.

Tim Blessing (history) presented “The Rise of the Novice Presidency,” at the Cabrini College History Forum: Presidential Elections, on Saturday, November 1 and presented, “In the Mood for Leadership: Glenn Miller, Leadership, Arts, and Culture,” on November 15, at the International Leadership Conference. Blessing was featured in a Reading Eagle column entitled, “Berks professor meets first lady,” on December 8. An article excerpt reads, “‘It was like being in battle,’ said Dr. Tim Blessing, a published expert on the U.S. presidency. ‘While you are experiencing it, you handle it. But when it’s over, you can hardly believe it happened.’” (See page 20 for a profile of Tim Blessing.)

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

John Luvisi (institutional advancement) was re-elected as treasurer of PREP/APRA at the organization’s conference held at Franklin & Marshall College this past fall. Prospect Researchers of Eastern Pennsylvania (PREP) is the Eastern Pennsylvania regional chapter of the Association of Professional Researchers for Advancement (APRA). Luvisi has been a member of both organizations since 2000 and has served as a member of the board of directors of PREP/APRA since 2003. The mission of PREP/APRA is to educate, to foster professional development and career growth, and to promote standards of excellence within the field of prospect research.

Gale Martin (marketing and communication) won fifth place in the National Writers Association 2008 Novel Competition. In addition, she was accepted for the 2008 Algonkian Writers Conference in New York City for her manuscript, The Shaker Proposal. Conference attendance is by invitation only and includes submission of the novel’s synopsis and author’s publication history for acceptance. Martin also received an offer of literary representation from Foundry Literary & Media (NYC) for The Shaker Proposal. Foundry sold books of seven debut novelists in 2008.

Social Work

Sr. Mary Anne Pawlikowski, OSF, professor emerita at Alvernia University, passed away on July 30 at St. Joseph Villa at the age of 94. Pawlikowski was the founding chair of the Social Work Department, and served at Alvernia from 1975 to 1987. She was made professor emerita in 2005, and she was also honored by the Social Work Department with the Humane Service Award recognizing her dedication and service to the University and the department during her tenure.

Social Work

Chef John Taylor, was named “Chef of the Year” for Aladdin Food Service Management, Inc., in 2007-2008. Congratulations, Chef!

David Stuart (residence life) was named the recipient of the Ann Webster New Professional Award for the Mid-Atlantic Association of College & University Housing Officers (MACUHO) on October 15, 2008. “The Ann Webster New Professional Award is intended to recognize significant institutional and/or regional contributions to our field. The recipient should be someone who has worked full-time in the field of housing/residence life for less than three years.”

After building a new home with a classic...
feel, Tracy Hine (student life) was featured in a *Berks County Living* article, for October 2008. The article ran over seven pages.

Jennifer Gittings-Dalton (career center) gave a résumé creation workshop at the Mifflin Community Library on December 1, 2008. The workshop helped people returning to the workforce, or beginning a new career, to write a résumé. (Featured in the *Westside Weekly*, November 27)

Mary Sacavage (Schuylkill Center) successfully passed her dissertation defense, for her degree of Ph.D., in administration and leadership studies from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania this fall.

Karen Rightmire, United Way executive challenges graduates to ‘change the world’

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*I want to talk with you about Baby Boomers*—what shaped our thinking, why many of us moved into human service professions, and why you are the exact right people to replace us as we now start to retire.

Boomers listened to President Kennedy when he said, ‘Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.’ And to the Beatles when they told us to imagine a world without war and that all we needed was love. Driven by a need to give back, many of us became teachers, nurses, or human service providers. Eventually we became not only leaders in our organizations but also, mostly unbeknownst to ourselves, servant leaders, who asked whether those being served were growing as persons, becoming healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous or more likely themselves to be leaders? This is not top-down leadership, but one reliant on collaboration, teamwork, and employee empowerment, one ideally suited for leading helping organizations and corporations, too.

As graduates of Alvernia University, your education has been grounded in the core values of service, humility, peacemaking, contemplation, and collegiality—all of which you need for this work.

Boomers are retiring in droves and the health and human service fields are no exceptions. A recent article called ‘The Leadership Deficit’ predicts the non-profit sector will need 640,000 new executives in the next decade. Not all of the openings are from retiring Boomers, but we exacerbated the situation.

The truth is, we need you! If you choose this path, I promise that you won’t get rich, but I promise that getting rich is not what it’s all about. It’s about the intrinsic satisfaction from making a difference in someone’s life. It is knowing people are better off because you were here.

You don’t have to work in human services to make a positive difference. Many business leaders impact our communities by providing good jobs and fair wages, offering their workers chances to live decent lives, provide for their families, and maintain their self worth.

You are ideally suited to replace us; you have the right attitude, the right temperament, and what it takes to deal with some of the most difficult issues we face as a society. You have hope. The community needs you, the country needs you…the world needs you.

*Go out there and change the world!*
The Holleran Center for Community Engagement (HCCE) taped a program with Senator O’Pake, Dr. Flynn, Alvernia students, and the Creativity Camp that was featured on the monthly television program *Capitol Connection* (aired Sunday, July 6 at 2:30 p.m. on the Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN) and again on Sunday, July 20th at 2:30 p.m.). The program’s topic was Paying for College and included film shot at Alvernia University. In addition, Ginny Hand (HCCE) appeared on *Comcast Tonight* on Tuesday, August 5, to promote the center’s programs. The show featured pictures from this year’s Creativity Camp for South Reading middle school children and mask-making at an after-school program offered by the HCCE and the Institute of the Arts.

The *Reading Eagle* reported that Alvernia adjunct James Nicholas, math and sciences, (also President of the Alvernia Education Honor Society and master’s in Education student), was honored by the Southern Middle School Hall of Fame, May 9.

Two-time Alvernia alumnus, Keith Sadler, retired from the Philadelphia police force (where he was in charge of more than 700 detectives) to take a high profile position as the new city police chief of Lancaster. According to *Lancaster Online* (April 24), Sadler is also the city’s first black police chief. Sadler has his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Alvernia, and is currently part of the doctoral program at the University, and is an adjunct professor for criminal justice and multicultural issues in law enforcement. *Lancaster New Era* reported on April 2 that Lancaster Mayor Rich Gray was “particularly impressed by Sadler’s educational background.”

Up and running since this past summer, the redesigned “Facebook-style” alumni community website has received positive feedback from alumni, and now has more users than ever. Over 70 percent of visitors to the site since August are first-time visitors. See what the buzz is about by visiting alumni.alvernia.edu.

Alvernia’s new Masters of Science in nursing degree for nursing educators was featured in a *Reading Eagle* article on September 7. The program is designed for professional nurses looking to move into the field of education. “Lack of faculty is the number one reason why schools of nursing cannot grow,” said Karen Thacker, professional programs. “Developing a program like this is for the bigger picture of setting up the workforce of the future.”

Alvernia’s 50th Anniversary milestone was featured on the front page of the *Reading Eagle*, on September 12. Sr. Pacelli (communication), Sr. Rosemary Stets (ministry) and past presidents of Alvernia were included in the article.

WFMZ Channel 69 News covered Alvernia’s Founders Day Festival on September 13, interviewing Sr. Rosemary and alumnae RoseMarie Winters ’82.

Sr. Pacelli (communication) was featured in the *Reading Eagle* on September 14 in an article entitled, “Nun’s book traces history of Alvernia College.”
The September 25 announcement about Alvernia’s new university status has been on the lips of many across the state. Locally, the ceremony was featured in the Reading Eagle, and in multiple newscasts by Channel 69 News, WFMZ. The announcement has also been spotted on WGAL Channel 8 News (Philly), WHP CBS Channel 21 News (Harrisburg), WHTM ABC 27 News, and in the York Daily Record, The Evening Sun, Lebanon Daily News, Center Daily Times, and the Erie—Pittsburgh News Now Network.

According to President Tom Flynn, “University status reflects what we have already become due to the extraordinary growth and progress of recent years.”

A Reading Eagle online editorial “Alvernia University, looking great at 50” published on Tuesday, October 7, called for reader opinions, saying that Alvernia has reached a historic point having become Alvernia University, and that “Its leaders over the years are to be commended for their vision and devotion to education.”

A Berks Technical Institute student commented on the September 25 announcement, “The fact that we have a full fledged university in Reading excites me. I have nothing but joy to hear of this. Having a University just around the corner makes it very convenient for me and many other Berks County students to pursue their dreams.”

Past Alvernia President, Larry Mazzeno, was featured in a Reading Eagle article, October 3, for his newly published book, Omi: Mother Courage. As part of the Literary Festival at Alvernia, Mazzeno discussed his book on October 27.

Literary Festival highlight speakers, Richard Russo (Pulitzer prize winning author) and Bruce Becker (artist and author) were featured as the Entertainment Spotlight in the Reading Eagle, October 13. Russo was also featured on WFMZ Channel 69 News on October 21.

Alvernia’s Inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony was featured in the Reading Eagle and Pottstown Mercury newspapers the week of October 24, 2008. In addition, Jack McCloskey, retired athletics, was featured in the Boyertown Area Times for his induction. Paintings of the new inductees are now hanging in the main floor of the PEC. (See page 14 for the full story.)

Mary Lozada (cultural initiatives) and several Alvernia students were pictured in LaVoz, October 16, celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

A joint class by Jodi Radosh (communication) and Victoria Williams (political science) was featured in the Reading Eagle October 31. The article featured a compelling slideshow and quotes from several students in the class.

Sr. Pacelli (communication) was included as an “Area Highlight” in the Reading Eagle in November. Pacelli talked to a packed literary festival crowd about the research she conducted to write her new book Designed to Serve: The Place and Persons of Francis Hall.

Alvernia nursing students were featured in the Reading Eagle, Thursday, November 6, for their humanitarian project with elderly apartment residents. Each year, nursing students run a health fair for apartment residents in Reading. Students Crystal Klopp, Deborah Weitkamp, and Camille Cloutier were quoted in the article, along with their instructor Connie Twyman.

Tim Blessing (history) and five Alvernia Ph.D. students went to the WFMZ (Allentown) studios to do election night analysis on November 4, 2008. Blessing had an active roll in analyzing the presidential candidates for local and national media this year.
Alvernia in the News

Jodi Radosh (communication) co-hosted election night (November 4) on BCTV with Mike Zielinski (Reading Eagle) and Mark Abrams (KYW radio). Victoria Williams, political science, and students from the co-taught media and politics class also made the trip.

Alvernia students Andrew Wedlock, Chris Fake, and Brett Ames were recognized in separate Reading Eagle articles, in November, for their dedication to the Holleran Center for Community Engagement (HCCE) and the South Reading Youth Initiative.

A men’s basketball season preview, with Coach Mike Miller, was featured in the Reading Eagle on November 13.

“Alvernia nursing students hold community health fairs” was the title of a Westside Weekly article on November 5.

Women’s basketball standouts, Kelli McIntyre and Alexandra Velazquez were featured in the Reading Eagle, November 19. McIntyre scored 19 points in the game, and Velazquez scored 10 in the last eight minutes, when the team was down by nine— for the win over Albright. Velazquez was also pictured in the paper, shooting over the head of an Albright player.

The Alvernia chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) was featured in the Reading Eagle, on December 6, for its annual effort to collect food and supplies for the Animal Rescue League. Chapter president, Robert Ganter, was pictured delivering about 25 bags of food to the shelter.

Alvernia men’s basketball star, Nick Rivera, was featured in a Reading Eagle article in early December. Rivera was pictured overpowering an opponent in the key. Women’s basketball standout, Allison Toczylowski was pictured in the Eagle shooting over a Delaware Valley opponent on the same day.

The Alvernia chapter of the Student Nursing Association made headlines in December when they placed first in the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) Super Bowl. The event pitted nursing students from across Pennsylvania against each other, as they answered NCLEX questions in a game show format.

According to the Reading Eagle, Tim Blessing (history) was part of a small group of 18 people personally invited to be part of a White House tour, conducted by First Lady Laura Bush. The tour was held less than a week before the presidential election.

Southern Berks News featured senior soccer player, Chad Quinter, in a lengthy article this fall. Accompanied by a photo of Quinter, the article talked about the criminal justice major’s excellent attitude and leadership ability.

December graduates from Alvernia University were listed in several area and regional newspapers, including the Reading Eagle, the Morning Call, The Republican & Herald, and the Lancaster Daily News.

“Alvernia University student receives posthumous degree” was the title of a Reading Eagle article on December 15. Tyeasha Lewis walked the stage at Alvernia’s December 2008 graduation to receive a degree her mother (Kindra Lewis) earned as a student. Kindra died in November after a 12-year battle with cancer.

Dr. Bunmi Ojikutu from the Reading Hospital Children’s Health Center moderated a health care panel for the 2008 Junior Achievement Young Women’s Symposium at Alvernia.

Alvernia students, faculty, and staff gathered in the Student Center to watch Barack Obama’s Presidential Inauguration in January.
And so far, it’s been a hit. In the project’s inaugural year, more than 100 student-athletes on six different teams participated in projects with groups like the South Reading Youth Organization, IM ABLE, and area youth athletic programs.

Twelve members of the men’s lacrosse team and eight from the women’s lacrosse team traveled to the Vanity Fair Outlets in November to participate in an obstacle course fundraiser for the IM ABLE Foundation. The foundation is designed to focus on the abilities, rather than the disabilities, of children and adults with disabilities.

“It felt great to be part of an experience like that,” said junior Chris Baker. “We had the opportunity to see things from the point of view of a disabled person. The IM ABLE Foundation is a great program, and I’m glad we could help.” The event raised $17,200, which will be used to buy two skis for a new adaptive ski program at Bear Creek.

The Alvernia University baseball team spent most Wednesday afternoons throughout the month of October in the City of Reading, working with boys and girls from Lauer’s Park Elementary School. Approximately 15 team members traveled to Lauer’s Park each week to teach baseball fundamentals to 27 boys and girls, ranging from third to fifth grade. “It was fun just to see them so happy,” said Alvernia sophomore student-athlete, Tim Ahlquist. Alvernia senior, Eric Focht, was also involved in the service project. “Seeing how the kids opened up to us made the whole experience worthwhile,” he said. The Lauer’s Park group is looking forward to seeing their Alvernia mentors again when they visit the University campus to watch a baseball game this spring.

Find out more about the Alvernia University Community Engagement Program and team Crusader projects on the Web at athletics.alvernia.edu.
1960s

Dr. Marie Nowakowski '61 was a recipient of the Archdiocesan Medal of Honor from Bishop Francis Malooly, western vicar for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, on April 13. The medal is given to those who have offered significant contributions of time, talent, and treasure to their parish and community.

1970s

Patricia “Pat” (Werner) Savage '71 received her Ph.D. in organizational leadership from the Union Institute and University in 2005.

1980s

Charles R. Broad ’78/06 was appointed executive director of the Downtown Improvement District (DID) of the City of Reading.

John Deegan ’80 was promoted to chief performance improvement executive at Wernersville State Hospital in September 2008.

1990s

Barbara (Beccaria) Stick ’90 is a licensed realtor with Keller Williams Realty Group in Royersford, Pa., and does property management for a townhome community.

Michael J. Heimbach ’88 was promoted to second in command at the FBI’s National Intelligence Office in Washington, D.C. Michael was named associate director of National Intelligence in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence by FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III.

2000s

Helen E. (Auer) Ravel ’73 is now a proud great-grandmother! Sarah Autumn Bloss was born to Stephanie (Ravel) Bloss ’06 and Robert Bloss of Shillington on October 24, 2008.

Ann Schaefer ’74 recently accepted a new position as manager, Supply Chain for Acorda Therapeutics in Hawthorne, New York.

Sr. Linda Marie Bolinski ’74 of Sts. Cyril and Methodius was installed as part of the order’s leadership team at a Eucharistic Celebration in the Basilica of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pa., on July 2. Sr. Linda Marie was elected to serve a second term as general superior.

Charles R. Broad ’78/06 was appointed executive director of the Downtown Improvement District (DID) of the City of Reading.

1977: Alvernia receives approval from the Pennsylvania State Board of Nurse Examiners for a two year Associate Degree Nursing program.

On June 15, 2008, Father Richard Brensinger ’86 became the founding pastor of the Church of All Saints, which was a consolidation of six parishes in north Schuylkill County.

Linda (Scheib) Lysakowski ’88 recently had her book The Development Plan published by Wiley and Sons, Hoboken, N.J.

Michael J. Heimbach ’88 was promoted to second in command at the FBI’s National Intelligence Office in Washington, D.C. Michael was named associate director of National Intelligence in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence by FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III.

1980s

John Deegan ’80 was promoted to chief performance improvement executive at Wernersville State Hospital in September 2008.

Tammie (Carr) Kipp ’93, ’98 has been named chief financial officer of Fromm Electric. In her new post, Tammie will oversee accounting and
Credit departments. Her responsibilities include asset management and financial performance.

David G. Spaeth ’94 is engaged to be married to Colleen Drake.

Sherri “Sher” (Mellinger) Hopple ’95 is a microbiologist at Sanofi-Aventis research and development site in Malvern.

Randy Strausser, Jr. ’96 recently started a financial planning firm in Sinking Spring with fellow alum Jeff Smith ’86.

Holly A. (Sibley) Lamont ’96 has a new addition to her family. Calvin Sibley Lamont was born on November 28, 2008, at 11:36 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces. Calvin joins his big sister, Amelia (5), and half-brother, Collin (12).

Diane L. (Palko) Corcoran ’96 was named assistant vice president at Sovereign Bank, Reading.

Andrea Marie Fisher ’96 has been named co-chair of the Massachusetts Paralegal Association. She is also a member of the American Freelance Paralegal Association.


Tom Minick ’98 was presented one of the “Rising Star” awards by The Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce Industry. Recipients were recognized for their business accomplishments, community involvement and personal commitment to make Greater Reading better. Tom is employed as director of development at Alvernia.

Deborah (Haldeman) Shaffer ’98 has joined Stout Associates Inc., Muhlenberg Township, as a real estate agent. Deborah received her real estate license in 2002.

Melissa (Santai) Clark ’99 received her Master of Social Work from Marywood University in May 2008.

**Alumni Milestone**

Business management and accounting major, Kyle Levengood ’08, made history for Alvernia a month after graduating in May. Now, after half a year into the real world, he takes a look back to thank the business department at Alvernia.

The real world didn’t come as a shock to Kyle Levengood ’08. “Alvernia provided a plethora of different avenues for me to prepare for life after graduation,” he remembered. Through Alvernia, Kyle interned for three years as an analyst with the financial brokerage firm Morgan Stanley. “This internship prepared me both mentally and professionally for what to expect after graduation,” he said. “Dr. Tufan Tiglioglu suggested an internship there, and to this day I cannot thank him enough. I would recommend that all students take advantage of internships.”

As a standout student, Kyle was offered a full time job by Herbein and Company Inc., Sinking Spring, during the fall semester of his senior year. He received his Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) License in July, making him the first student to be granted the award in Alvernia’s history.

CFE specialists are educated and trained in the detection and deterrence of a wide variety of white-collar crimes, such as identity theft, fraud, and embezzlement.

Kyle says Alvernia gave him the chance to excel both socially and academically, which most colleges cannot offer. “Through Alvernia I was involved in the honors program, Phi Beta Lambda, Delta Mu Delta, Pre-Law society, the Institute of Management Accountants, a student affiliate of the AICPA & PICPA, and I tutored peers in the Alvernia Learning Center,” Kyle explained. “In addition to that, I was a very involved member of the tennis team, and took part in the intramural basketball program.”

Now at Herbein and Company, Kyle works as a staff accountant in the audit department, where he tests the financial statements of different companies to ascertain the validity and reliability of their information. He is currently preparing to take the Certified Public Accountant exam.
Roger Ulrich ‘00 has accepted a call as pastor of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, Topton, and Christ-Delong UCC, Bowers.

Elizabeth (Bruce) Hartz ‘00 was hired as a life skills teacher at Kutztown Elementary School. In addition to her bachelor’s degree from Alvernia, she also has her certification from Alvernia.

Adam Spangler ‘00 works for Met-Ed in Hanover, Pa.

Hank J. Clarke ‘01 and his wife, Melissa (Santai) Clark ‘99, welcomed their third child, Nicholas Edward, to the family on September 8, 2008. He was 8 pounds 1 ounce and 19 3/4 inches long. Hank received his Juris Doctor from Widener University School of Law in Harrisburg in May 2008. He also passed the Pennsylvania State Bar Exam on the first try and is expected to be admitted to the practice of law in December 2008.

Alecia (Fick) Katzaman ‘01 has recently accepted a position at the Surgical Institute of Reading in the inpatient unit.

Michael Kaminski ‘01 is a math teacher in the Panther Valley School District, in Lansford, Pa. He is also an assistant boys’ basketball coach at William Allen High School in Allentown.

Veronica Schmidt ‘01 has been working for Paychex, Inc. since August 2004. Her current position with the company is branch trainer.

Bryan Antosy ’01 is engaged to marry Amanda Pearson. Bryan is employed by DELL Inc., Austin, Texas.

Jill Ottinger ’02 was featured in the Daily Pennsylvanian (Philadelphia) as a five-year veteran quarterback on the Philadelphia Firebirds Independent Women’s Football Team (IWFL). According to the article, Jill honed her skills on the Alvernia softball diamond.

Carrie L. Kemp ’03 is engaged to be married to Mark D. Mountz. Carrie is currently employed by Travelers Insurance, Wyomissing.

Matthew Heaney ’04 and Karen (Frey) Heaney ’05 would like to announce the birth of their first child, Lillian Clare Heaney. She was born September 25, 2008, at 3:02 p.m., weighing in at 7 pounds 8 ounces, and 19 3/4 inches long.

Michael Hinkle ’04 has taken a coaching job at Gettysburg College.

Kyle G. Moser ’04 is engaged to be married to Amy Eremita. He is employed by Conrad Weiser School District.

Lorraine Felker ’04 is the new principal of Schuylkill Haven Area High School. Lorraine received her principal’s certification from Alvernia.

Kimberly Gromis ’04 is engaged marry Nolan Armipriester.

Brent Borzak ’04 has been named principal of the Carbon Career Technical Institute (CCTI) in Jim Thorpe, Pa., as of August 2008.

Heather Hebb ’05 is engaged to marry Jeffrey Hahn ’05. The couple plans to wed on June 13, 2009, in Pasadena, Md. Heather is employed by Penske Truck Leasing, and Jeff is employed by Service Access and Management.

Kate (Ketter) Jenkin ’05 is currently employed as the lead social worker at Spruce Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation in West Reading.
Susan J. (Martz) Kingsley ’05 married Scott Kingsley on September 20, 2008 in Honeybrook, Pa. Susan is employed as director of annual giving at Alvernia.

Maria (Scalzo) Scalzo-Rinehimer ’05 is now pursuing her graduate degree in biochemistry at the University of Scranton, as well as teaching an undergraduate chemistry class at the school.

Ryan Martin ’05 is currently employed with Delaware County Community College as a career, personal, and academic counselor.

Kathryn Hanna ’05 was featured in the Fort Washington Colonial in September 2008, for her unusual job with the Greater Plymouth Community Center. As part of her regular duties, Hanna planned a “Touch a Truck” event for community members to check out everything from U.S. Army Humvees to fire trucks to backhoes and mowers.

Megan E. Bischof ’05 is engaged to marry Matthew J. Gore. The couple plans on a spring 2010 wedding.

Sara Schroyer ’05 is engaged to Michael Paulson. The couple plans to wed on May 2, 2009, in Mother Cabrini, Shamokin.

Jessica Kutza ’05 is currently employed as the development assistant/event coordinator at Bethany Children’s Home in Womelsdorf.

Alexis Kasznia ’06 has graduated from Valparaiso (Ind.) University with a Master of Arts degree in liberal studies.

Stephanie (Ravel) Bloss ’06 and her husband Robert Bloss welcomed a beautiful little girl, Sarah Autumn Bloss on October 24, 2008. Her great-grandmother is Helen E. (Auer) Ravel ’73. Stephanie is currently enrolled in Alvernia’s graduate program.

Christian Kraft ’06 is finishing up a long term trip with his girlfriend, circling the globe over the course of one year. Catch up on his great photo adventure at www.followingthedream.com.

Amy B. Baum ’06 and Joel Ruppert were married May 17, in the Sandal Halycon Resort in St. Lucia.

Ashley T. Gerhard ’07 is engaged to marry to Melvyn L. Mayo, Jr. Ashley is employed by Berks County Intermediate Unit.

Going for your marriage license? Say hello to Alvernia grad Larry Medeglia ’07, Berks County Register of Wills.

Jarrod Emes ’07 is engaged to Lauren DeRoner.

Rebecca (Beetem) Fine ’07 got married on June 21, 2008.

Tawnya (Lavoie) Vernon ’07 welcomed a son on February 8, 2008.

Amanda Fenkner ’08 is currently employed as an inside sales representative for the Philadelphia 76ers.

DECEASED

Joseph Dalkner ’94 passed away on September 29, 2008.

Lori A. Kemp ’06 passed away on October 12, 2008. After graduating with honors from Alvernia, she was an English teacher and junior class adviser at Daniel Boone High School and was previously employed as a teacher’s assistant with Reading School District.

After a 12-year battle with cancer, Kindra M. Lewis ’08 passed away on November 15, 2008 in the Brandywine Hospital. Kindra was employed as a teacher at Chesterbrook Academy. She is survived by her daughter, Tyeasha (12), who was given her mother’s diploma during an Alvernia graduation ceremony on December 14, 2008.

IRELAND 2009

Learn about Irish heritage during an 11-day trip to Ireland!

Visit the “events” page at alumni.alvernia.edu for details.
That’s the mantra of Kathleen D. Herbein, Class of 1995, who completed her bachelor’s degree at Alvernia as an adult student. Upon graduating summa cum laude, inspired by the school’s mission and the example of the Bernardine Sisters, she sought to be a productive citizen and give of her time in meaningful ways.

By anyone’s reckoning, she not only stayed true to her goal, she exceeded it.

In 2008, she became the first Alvernia graduate to chair the University Board of Trustees, a 40-member body charged with upholding the mission and vision and ensuring solid management and adequate resources for decades to come.

Quite often people move on from their undergraduate alma maters only to return in a volunteer capacity years later once they have achieved professional success. By her own admission, Kathy Herbein never left. For one, she developed a sisterhood with her non-traditional counterparts and wanted to stay close to Alvernia. For another, College officials recognized her leadership talents and immediately tapped her to serve on the alumni council.

“I was asked and given responsibilities with Alumni Council,” she said. “I am where I am in life because I said ‘yes’ when asked.”

Besides having a deep affection for her classmates, she is also nostalgic about her own Franciscan experience at Alvernia. To her it represented a gentle affirmation of all that one can be, indicative of Franciscan values that resonate deeply with her, including the respect for the individual person regardless of gender and social standing.

She is excited about what Alvernia is becoming and sees the chairmanship as a springboard to ensure Alvernia’s signature Franciscan experience reaches more learners of all ages. She sees her service as chair of the Board of Trustees as an opportunity to go full circle in her Catholic education. “It is such an incredible opportunity to continue to learn. I feel privileged.”

She expects there to be challenges along the way in leading a tuition-driven institution like Alvernia forward in fulfillment of strategic goals in uncertain economic times. However, she has great confidence in the leadership in place at Alvernia—in the administration and in her trustee colleagues because of the vision, the strategies, and the sound judgment exhibited in recent decision-making based on best available data.

“So many processes are in place,” she explained, “that bode well for Alvernia’s sustained success. The changes to campus and the park-like setting are inspiring.” In her view Alvernia University is strategically repositioning itself so that the aesthetics of the physical plant are as compelling as its historic mission.

In addition, her long-time service on the Board of Trustees has allowed her to develop such a network of professional expertise that she moves forward with confidence in her new role. “I feel such warmth and regard for my trustee colleagues,” she said. “I am grateful to all of those who have served in this capacity before me.”

She devotes time and care to preparing for board meetings, to understanding the issues and the material, ensuring that she is equipped to face the decisions board members make. Not surprising for someone with an enduring commitment to intellectual curiosity whom friends describe as a natural born problem solver. She believes everyone has a choice to be part of the problem or part of the solution.

Besides her devotion to family, her sheer enjoyment of life is always bubbling up to the surface. “If you cannot do what you are called to do with a sense of humor, you have missed an opportunity.”

Like many who preceded her as board chair, a few strategic priorities particularly resonate with her: a focus on faculty and their commitment to student success; and strengthening and preserving the Alvernia experience. As a community leader, she feels gratified whenever she reflects on the University’s mission—having students graduate who are morally and ethically ready to be citizens in the world, committed to retaining those Franciscan values.

Who better to model the value of the mission in an Alvernia University education than Kathy Herbein ’95.
Our College Days Are Over.

It’s official! Alvernia College is now Alvernia University. We took a look at our 3,000 students of all ages, backgrounds, and interests—pursuing bachelor’s, master’s, and Ph.D. degrees—and what did we see? A multidimensional mix that deserves taking our name to a new level. And the Pennsylvania State Department of Education definitely agreed, so it awarded us university status. That means our name now truly celebrates the rich academic and social diversity at Alvernia, as well as our mission to serve an inclusive community of lifelong learners.

AN EDUCATION IN THE FRANCISCAN TRADITION

www.alverniaU.com  1-888-ALVERNIA
Calendar of Events

March

7  Alumni Night at the Reading Royals
10  Faculty Lecture Series: Six Weeks in Washington
12-14, 19-21  Alvernia Theatre
26  Hesburgh Lecture:
   The Human Landscape of Mexican Migration
28  *Shrek the Musical* Bus Trip

April

1  Edible Book Festival
18  Alumni Spiritual Retreat
22  1% Day
22  *Margaritaville*
24-25  Spring Fling

May

2  50th Anniversary Celebration Gala
11-13  Student Art Exhibit
15  Honors Convocation
16  Graduation
30  Alumni Tour of the Blessing Exhibit
31-6/13  Alumni Cruise: Greece & Eastern Mediterranean

June

3-13  Irish Heritage: Ireland Trip
26  Alumni Night at the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs

St. Francis, spotted in the crowd on University Day