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## Accelerated Degree Program Celebrates Milestone

During this special 85th Anniversary year of the College, the Accelerated Degree Program (ADP) achieves its own major milestone: 25 years of meeting the needs of undergraduate adult students.

Albertus was one of the first colleges in Connecticut to welcome adults who wanted to complete, or to begin work toward, an undergraduate degree. Adult programs here evolved from efforts in the 1970s, when the late Sr. Marie Louise Hubert, O.P., president of the College, developed "Begin Again" for women seeking to complete degrees started years before. It was a small but highly-respected program.

"Back in the 1980s, it was Sr. Marie Louise who inspired all of us to reflect along with Larry DeNardis, at the time a member of the faculty, and Sr. Jane McDermott, O.P., on the importance of expanding our services for adults," says President Julia M. McNamara.

ADP, initially known as Continuing Education, was based on a schedule that would offer busy, working women and men the flexibility they needed to juggle demanding jobs, family responsibilities and rigorous course work as they went back to school—without taking eight or ten years to earn a degree. [Read the Full Story](#)

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Targeted to promoting student success and retention, the project will foster student engagement and thinking; support an innovative honors program focused on student learning outcomes rather than simple course completion; and enable the College to gain a new source of data for program and institutional assessment.

Albertus has a history of successfully working with underrepresented student populations and first-generation college students. The Education Trust ranks the College second highest for both its four-year and six-year retention rates when compared to 15 benchmarked institutions, and the Washington Monthly ranks the College 10<sup>th</sup> out of 250 liberal arts colleges for promoting social mobility.

The Davis Educational Foundation was established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after Mr. Davis's retirement as chairman of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc.

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ADP, initially known as Continuing Education, was based on a schedule that would offer busy, working women and men the flexibility they needed to juggle demanding jobs, family responsibilities and rigorous course work as they went back to school—without taking eight or ten years to earn a degree.

"The key to our success was a very simple concept that few colleges had thought about: give adult students a schedule that met their specific needs, a schedule that made a college degree accessible, convenient and achievable," says Robert J. Buccino, senior vice president for advancement, who developed the program in 1985. "To do that, we had to change our educational delivery system to make it user friendly for working adults."

The solution: compress two traditional semesters into five eight-week modules providing the same amount of class time. ADP began with business and communications majors; today it offers 13 majors.

"We had looked around to see who had a problem we could solve. ADP was the answer for women and men who wanted to attain their degrees and were willing to focus on that goal. It worked, and has been successful beyond expectations," says Buccino.

In 2004, the program re-invented itself to take advantage of technology, offering blended courses—a combination of classroom and online instruction. It was one more way to make ADP courses more user friendly. Students said they liked the choice and flexibility, going online when it was most convenient for them, whether it was 5 p.m. or 5 a.m. They reported that blended courses even helped them save on gas and babysitting costs. The number of blended courses has grown steadily, now joined by fully online courses.

"The students in our evening Accelerated Degree Program are committed, motivated and eager to succeed," says Annette Bosley-Boyce, director of enrollment and administrative services. "Even though they may be working full-time and taking care of their families, they still find the energy every week to attend their classes and complete their assignments, whether they are on campus or online. It's an honor to see so many students graduate and become success stories as a result of our program."

Over the past 25 years, more than 2,000 undergraduate degrees have been awarded through ADP, enabling graduates to become the success stories Bosley-Boyce mentions. Eileen Bujalski '07, access services coordinator in the Library at Rosary Hall, is typical of many students. "I returned to work after raising my children, and decided to complete my B.A. degree after a 25-year gap," she says. "ADP set me on the path of an all-new career choice, and I have now completed my master's in library science and information technology. Thanks to AMC I have found a profession I truly enjoy."

"Albertus is like a family, and it is truly a community," says James Scott '07. "College offers you an array of opportunities; there are certain jobs that you will not even get an opportunity to apply for if you don't have a degree. You can start with one course; you will eventually get there."

Anthony Cuzzo '08 recalls that after leaving college to pursue a career 20 years ago, "it became painfully obvious that I would need to complete my undergraduate studies if I were to advance further... AMC's ADP offered the perfect fit for me and my family. I fell in love with the school and after receiving my bachelor's degree, I decided to continue with the master's in leadership program. In less than four years, I completed my B.A. and M.A. at Albertus."

Latrece Mayes-Santiago '07 says that "AMC has been a blessing to my life and the quality of life of my family. My career advanced within four months after graduation. I am now in the last semester of graduate school. I tell everyone about the 'well-rounded' education Albertus offers."

Who is a success story? Every graduate of the Accelerated Degree Program.

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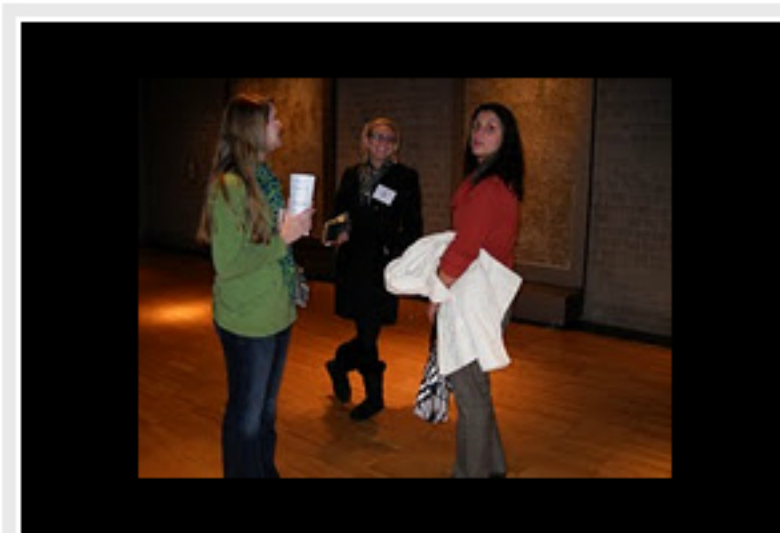
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Dr. Christine Atkins, assistant professor of foreign languages, directs the Honors Program, advising students on course selection and their career options, working closely with the Office of Admission and with Career Services. "We want to make sure students in the Honors Program feel challenged and excited about their opportunities here," she says.

Cultural activities also have a role in the Honors Program. In November, 24 students joined Atkins and Suzanne Yurko Wall, director of career services, for a tour of the permanent collection at Yale University Art Gallery, followed by dinner at Press 200, a new restaurant in downtown New Haven, where Will Talamelli '08 is the chef.

Coming up for the spring will be attendance at a concert by the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and a performance at Long Wharf Theatre. The students have taken the initiative to research volunteer opportunities in the greater New Haven area.



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Dr. Christine Atkins, assistant professor of foreign languages and director of the Albertus Honors Program, who received her doctorate from Yale University, was invited to participate in a September panel offered by the Yale Graduate Career Services office and the Graduate Teaching office as part of a workshop series for current Ph.D. candidates. Her session was "Teaching Beyond Yale," and she spoke about her experiences teaching at Albertus. She was asked to return to speak informally to another group of graduate students in October.

Prospective traditional undergraduate students and their families, 150 strong, attended the Albertus Fall Open House on November 13 to learn more about the College. Brunch, tours of the campus and information sessions on financial aid were part of the day's program. Faculty and staff from all academic departments, student clubs and organizations, athletics and the Albertus Alumni Association were on hand in the Tagliatela Academic Center to explain their table displays and answer questions. Academic department winners for the most creative table display were: first place, The Writing Center; second place, sociology/global studies; and third place, biology and chemistry. The department winner for the most creative table display in Bree Common was Campus Ministry.

The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Sports Council recently held its Courtside Chat with men's and women's basketball coaches of the five local colleges and universities. Mitch Oliver, men's head coach, and Ed Panzo, women's coach, discussed the upcoming seasons.

Here at Albertus the College culture encourages students, faculty and staff to work together in campus activities. On November 17 Albertus launched the holiday season with a reading of "A Christmas Carol" in Rosary Hall. Cast members, in order of appearance, were John Donohue, Sean O'Connell, Garrett Dell, Robert Hubbard, Paul Robichaud, John McCann, Evie Lindemann, Christopher Anagnostakis, Karen Kendrick, Abbe Miller, Sarah Harris Wallman and students Kelly Matera and Heather Cassella.



The National Prep Showcase, one of the top post-graduate basketball events and the unofficial kick-off to the prep school basketball season, took place at Albertus the weekend of November 19-21. This year's event featured a 23-team field from schools around the country, including more than 150 Division I prospects, and attracted nearly 200 college coaches to check out the action. Media sources on campus were ESPN, Sports Illustrated and National Recruiting Report among others.

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## In Memoriam: Alumni, Relatives and Members of the Albertus Community

### In Memoriam

**Mary C. Beecher '36**, had a 41-year career in education  
August 19, 2010  
Hamden, CT

**Doris Smith Carle '40**, former teacher  
November 9, 2010  
Orange, CT

**Mildred M. Tomasino '40**, graduated from Albertus at the age of 19 and was a longtime editor at the New Haven Register  
August 16, 2010  
New Haven, CT

**Gladys Testo Christiani '43**  
January 31, 2010  
Easton, CT

**Lucy Scillia '48**, sister of Antonette Scillia Giangarra '43, and a former librarian and library administrator for the Milford (CT) public school system, and board member and volunteer for many organizations  
October 14, 2010  
Orange, CT

**Grace Murphy Thomas '52**  
November 27, 2010  
Hyannis, MA

**Dorothy Dowd Flanders '53**, was a school and town librarian  
August 20, 2010  
Hartford, CT

**Joan Curello Davis '57**  
August 17, 2010  
Teaneck, NJ

**Clementina Valentino '57**, teacher in the Hamden public school system for more than 30 years, member of the Third Order of St. Dominic, and lector and Eucharistic Minister at St. Mary's Church in New Haven  
November 20, 2010  
New Haven, CT

**Arlene Kosack '69**, a retired teacher of Spanish  
March 3, 2010  
East Haven, CT

**Gloria Pregano Steffenburg '71**, had a career in theatre and later as a financial advisor  
October 30, 2010  
New Haven, CT

**Elizabeth McNeff '94**, a dental hygienist in the New Haven public schools  
September 9, 2010  
New Haven, CT

**Dorothy Chrostek Far '95**, a customer service representative  
October 9, 2010  
Orange, CT

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**Sr. Ellen Bailie, O.P.**, sister of Sr. Ann Bailie, O.P., longtime Albertus faculty member  
November 19, 2010

**Emma Cirinna**, grandmother of Diana Edwards Bogue '90  
April 17, 2010

**Frank Flynn**, father of Patricia Flynn '75  
May 1, 2010

**Stelia Fusco**, mother of Anthony P. Fusco '03 MAAT  
May 2010

**Benedict Giangarra**, husband of Antonette Scillia Giangarra '43  
October 30, 2010

**Ann Leslie Cosenza Hallberg**, sister of Christine Carmela Cosenza '91  
November 21, 2009

**Debra A. Mack**, mother of Timothy Mack, access services support staff member in the library  
October 17, 2010

**Angela M. Maler**, mother of Jannine Malicki, Mailroom  
October 24, 2010

**Edward M. Messer**, benefactor of the College who helped make possible the Cosgrove, Marcus, Messer Athletic Center  
November 18, 2010

**Lawrence H. Russell**, husband of Phyllis Aldous Russell '52  
October 16, 2010

**Thomas Schrader**, twin brother of Michael Schrader '95  
October 18, 2010

**Vincent "Jimmy" Tursi**, grandfather of Lisa-Marie Tursi '98, associate director of financial aid  
October 3, 2010

**Jochen R.A. Twele**, husband of Anne McCabe Twele '51  
November 12, 2010

**Francisco Velez**, father of Jeanne Velez-Anderson '85  
September 2, 2010

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## Editorial Information

*From The Hill* — Keeping in touch with alumni of Albertus Magnus College who remember their days on Prospect Hill.

Julia M. McNamara  
*President*

Robert J. Buccino  
*Senior Vice President for Advancement*

Andrea E. Kovacs  
*Vice President for Marketing*

Rosanne Zudekoff '60  
*Director of Communications and Community Relations*  
*Editor*  
[zudekoff@albertus.edu](mailto:zudekoff@albertus.edu)

Carolyn Behan Kraus '86  
*Associate Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations*  
[alumni@albertus.edu](mailto:alumni@albertus.edu)

Belinda Russell  
*Webmaster — Information Technology Services*  
[brussell@albertus.edu](mailto:brussell@albertus.edu)

Contributing Photographers:  
*Christine Atkins*  
*Carolyn Behan Kraus*  
*Judy Sirota Rosenthal*  
*Robert Hubbard*

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Editorial offices are located at Mohun Hall, Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT 06511.

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A Catholic College in the Dominican Tradition

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