Our DOMINICAN TRADITIONS
Sunrise over Mohun Hall
This issue of From the Hill celebrates the adult learner at Albertus, who pursues the dream of a college education at the undergraduate or graduate level. The issue also highlights the Four Pillars of the Dominican Charism—study, prayer, community and service—as they surface in the everyday life of the College.
The Candlelight Tradition

The oldest tradition on campus, the Candlelight Ceremony symbolizes the passing of the light of knowledge to incoming students by seniors. This year, for the first time, adult students had a Candlelight Ceremony of their own, which welcomed them to the Albertus academic community.

In the photo, members of the class of 1942 take part in Candlelight. The venues for Candlelight have changed over the years—Rosary Hall, Rosary Circle, St. Albert Atrium, Campus Center—but the true spirit of the tradition remains.

Albertus Magnus has always been a close-knit community with strong ties to the Four Pillars of the Dominican Charism—study, prayer, community and service. In the Albertus community, faculty members know the names of their students; students know that their questions and ideas are encouraged by faculty as part of the educational dialogue. A cheerful “hello” is ever present.

Each fall, the campus bustles with activity when undergraduate students move into dorms and begin classes. This year, activity has increased as the adult programs formerly at Long Wharf have moved back to Prospect Street. With the move, Professional and Graduate Studies students, faculty and staff will have greater access to College services and programs, and opportunities to identify more closely with the traditions and spirit of the College. We welcome them back, and we greet new adult students who are beginning their academic journey with us.

“A cheerful ‘hello’ is ever present.”
Learners of All Ages

Ten years after its founding in 1925, Albertus Magnus College reached out to New Haven and nearby towns, offering six courses free of charge to adults in the evening. Nearly 600 women and men registered, mostly teachers and nurses. Some 200 of the College’s first adult students requested credit for their courses and were willing to pay five dollars per credit. In 1936 the extension courses carried tuition and credit; in the following year, at the request of many professional men and women, the College agreed to count the credits gained in evening courses toward degrees. Classes met on Monday and Thursday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. There were courses in chemistry, economics, sociology, English, French, German, Italian, Latin, history, mathematics and philosophy. (From the Albertus Magnus College archives)

So began the tradition of adult education at Albertus, and the commitment continues. Since 1985, the beginning of a new era, several thousand adult students have become proud alumni, proud to have achieved the goal of a college education, often the first in their families to do so. The educational philosophy for adult programs builds on the College’s mission: to provide women and men with an education that promotes the search for truth in all its dimensions, and is practical in its application.

In August, Lorrie Greenhouse Gardella joined the Albertus community as vice president for professional and graduate studies, a new senior-level position reporting directly to the Office of the President. In announcing this appointment, President Julia M. McNamara noted that Lorrie Gardella’s “depth of experience with programs for adult learners will serve us well as we move ahead with this important area.”

Gardella will provide strategic and operational leadership focused on assessing and sustaining current evening programs and, over time, developing additional accelerated degree and graduate programs.

She is still settling in to her office at the Bree wing of Aquinas Hall—which houses the Division of Professional and Graduate Studies, including staff formerly at the Long Wharf campus.

“I admire the innovative educational opportunities that Albertus extends to adult learners,” she says. “The College has realized the transformative potential of life-long learning for individuals, families, and communities.”

Gardella has tremendous respect for the challenges and resources that adult learners bring to their education.

“It is a joy to teach older students, because they don’t necessarily believe what you say! Faculty and students learn from one another, testing theories against real world experience.”

Adult learners are often juggling demanding jobs, rigorous courses, and family responsibilities, Gardella adds. “Our goal is to make an Albertus education accessible to working adults, by scheduling classes and student services during evenings, online, and on Saturdays.”

The College is making its adult programs more accessible by offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs on Saturdays. Beginning this spring, three cohort-based programs will be offered on Saturday mornings: the B.S. in Business Management; the M.S. in Management and Organizational Leadership; and the M.B.A.

“Education extends beyond the classroom, and Albertus is proud to welcome adult learners into the College community,” Gardella notes. “During the recent Candlelight Ceremony, held during the evening for adult learners, new students signed the tradition of honor and assumed their rightful place in the history of Albertus Magnus College.”

Gardella spent 26 years at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford, where she served most recently as associate dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies and director of the University’s Program for Adult Learners. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Smith College, J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Connecticut.
Think Globally, ACT LOCALLY

The College’s second annual celebration of Founders’ Day took place September 20, a glorious, bright blue-sky day with perfect weather. Theme for the day was Dominicans: Think Globally/Act Locally. A morning panel featured Germaine Conroy, O.P., Patricia Idoko, O.P., and Judy Morris, O.P., offering their perspectives from service in Peru, Nigeria and across the United States. At noon, Candlelight Ceremony, the oldest Albertus tradition, in which seniors pass the light of knowledge and the spirit of Albertus to the new students, took place. It is a deeply-moving and solemn ritual, in which administrative and faculty participants wear full academic attire, students sign the Book of Honor and receive a small stone inscribed with the word Honor as a memento of a special day. This year for the first time, a second Candlelight Ceremony took place for adult students in the evening programs the following week. After the All-College Picnic, the morning panelists spoke about the need to Act Locally, to “find your voice and speak out for truth.” Following their talks, student responders Ginette Gonzalez ’14, Kevin Jorgensen ’15 and Dorothea Maher ’16 offered their views. The College presented the Veritas Award to Germaine Conroy, O.P., in recognition of her two decades of ministry in Chimbote, Peru. A reception followed at the Bree Common patio.
From the Hill

Dr. Sean O’Connell in academic attire

Germaine Conroy, O.P., recipient of the Veritas Award, and her family

Margaret Ormond, prioress of the Sisters of Peace; Joseph Crespo, chairman of the Albertus Board of Trustees; Sr. Germaine; and Julia M. McNamara, president

Veritas Award

The search for truth—Veritas—is an integral part of life at Albertus Magnus College. The Veritas Award is given from time to time to those alumni and friends of the College who personify the values, traditions and service to others we hold dear.

At this year’s Founders’ Day celebration, the College presented the Veritas Award to Germaine Conroy, O.P., honoring her for more than 20 years of ministry in Chimbote, Peru. As a member of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, Sr. Germaine’s service and ministry has included a long-term commitment to education.

As a missionary, she served as a health educator for CARITAS in Chimbote; director of formation for the Dominican Sisters, director of the Center of Communication and Human Promotion; interim director and staff member of the Social Justice Commission and coordinator for the Social Pastoral for the Diocese of Chimbote. Her pastoral activities included prison ministry and outreach to persons with HIV and their families.

A former Trustee of Albertus Magnus College, serving from 1970–1978 and 1983–1990, Sr. Germaine was a member of the Executive Committee and Secretary of the Albertus Magnus College Corporation.

She received a B.A. in chemistry from Ohio Dominican University and a master’s degree in hospital administration from St. Louis University, and pursued additional studies at the University of Notre Dame, Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati.
Andrew Foster, director of financial aid since 2005, has been promoted to dean of students. He will serve on the Administrative Council, responsible for the supervision and coordination of the Division of Student Services and for setting and maintaining standards for the academic, personal, spiritual and professional development of the College’s day and resident students.

Foster has a B.S. in psychology from Sacred Heart University and an M.A. in leadership from Albertus Magnus College. In 2011 Connecticut Magazine selected him as one of the state’s 40 Under 40 leaders.

Justin Cirisoli, director of residential life at Albertus, participated in a three-week seminar in Fanjeaux, France, for faculty and administrative staff of American Dominican colleges and universities. Dominic, the founder of the Dominican Order, lived in Fanjeaux centuries ago. Cirisoli shares his Fanjeaux experience and ways in which it can be applied to residential life.

Impressions of Fanjeaux
“One of the most impressive things about the faculty/staff seminar in Fanjeaux was finding out just how similar Dominican colleges and universities are to each other. As the only staff delegate from Albertus, I had the amazing opportunity to build connections with these professionals ranging from administrative assistants to faculty members and academic deans. Through our discussions and meaningful conversations, especially around the dinner table, I came to understand just how deeply rooted our institutions are in the tradition. Many of the schools have similar traditions to those we celebrate.”

Translating the Fanjeaux experience to residential life
“The Dominican Charism is built on four pillars—study, prayer, community and service. These principles translate wonderfully into residential life: it can almost be said that residential life is innately Dominican without ever knowing it. I strive in my work on campus to foster community in the residence halls, promote study through quiet hours that were designed to promote the academic mission of the College and, of course, service. Residential Life has participated in various service projects, such as Relay for Life and the American Diabetes Association Walk.

“After Fanjeaux, I decided to incorporate the tradition into the residential life programming model to help our students understand the charism and what it means to be Dominican. Our Resident Assistant staff of 12 is now required to incorporate the pillars into four separate programs that they perform throughout the year in their residential communities.”

For the full interview, go to albertus.edu/fanjeaux
SEMESTER AT SEA

Ginette Gonzalez, a senior global studies major with minors in art and communications, spent the second half of her junior year traveling with Semester at Sea. Taking four courses, including major religions of the world and western civilization, she visited Hawaii, Japan, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, Morocco, Burma, India, Mauritius, Spain and South Africa.

“It was an incredible journey, a voyage of growth for me,” she says. “I love new places; my goal is to travel the world, and get paid for it.” Her favorite memories of her semester on the high seas: feeding an African bull elephant in South Africa, gazing at the magnificent architectural detail of the Hassan II Mosque in Morocco and speaking with Bishop Desmond Tutu, who was aboard the ship as a lecturer. “He was extremely soft spoken, with a great sense of peace about him.” He signed a Bible she had bought for her grandmother.

Gonzalez grew up in Puerto Rico and traveled in Europe, but never to Asia. “I want to encourage people to travel, to think beyond borders. Now that I’m back, I want to do more community service.” She is a Writing Center associate and member of the Student Alumni Association. Her mother, Aida Mendez, graduated from Albertus in 1978.

DOMINICAN TRADITION

Elizabeth “Liz” McGarry, a senior marketing major, always wanted to study abroad, but never found a program that was truly appealing. When the opportunity to travel to Fanjeaux, France, with a group from ten American Dominican colleges and universities came about, she knew right away that this trip was the one for her. “I was never disappointed; I loved every minute of it,” she says. McGarry was a student representative from Albertus (for more on Fanjeaux, see the story on page 6). It was here in this village in southwestern France that Dominic, the founder of the Dominican Order, lived and preached. “Fanjeaux is an amazing place. Being in churches that are centuries old, you feel open to personal reflection, to spiritual experiences. It is quiet and beautiful; when you come home, you miss the quietness and sense of community,” she says.

The Dominican Tradition surrounds one in Fanjeaux; the Pillars of the Dominican Charism are topics of everyday conversation and discussion. “I now have a much better understanding of what the Dominican Tradition really means; Fanjeaux alters how you view life,” she says. McGarry plans to get an M.B.A., then go to law school. Her mother, father, sister and several aunts have graduated from Albertus.

Albertus Launches New Program

In 1936, Katherine Keresey was the first student from Albertus to spend her junior year abroad, studying at the University of Rome. Edith Metzger followed in 1937, studying at the University of Florence. Now, current students will be able to renew this educational tradition under a recent affiliation agreement with Assumption College to offer the Rome Campus Experience. This one-semester opportunity is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors, but is designed with the sophomore year in mind. The program includes classes and visits to culturally and historically significant sites in Rome and across the country. The Office of Career Services will assist students interested in the Rome Campus Experience, and also work with students who wish to spend a semester or a full academic year abroad in any one of a number of approved American-college-sponsored programs.
A Tradition of SCIENCE

The first home of the College’s science department in 1927 was a garage/stable built in 1907 for the property that is now McAuliffe Hall. It took a major renovation to transform that building into labs and classrooms for future scientists. Thomas J. Walsh financed the project, and the building was named Walsh Hall to honor him. In 2005 the science department moved to quarters on the second floor of the new Tagliatela Academic Center, overlooking the St. Albert Atrium. A contemporary of Albert once described him as “so superior in every science that he can fittingly be called the wonder and miracle of our time.” A wonderful place, indeed, for aspiring scientists.

T he sciences here at Albertus go back to the early years of our history. In 1927, Marcella O’Grady Boveri arrived at this fledgling college to establish a department of science.

She brought with her an amazing background for a woman of her time: in 1885 she was the first woman to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a concentration in biology; she had received a fellowship for advanced study in comparative zoology and embryology at Bryn Mawr College; and she became a full professor at Vassar College at the age of 30. In 1896 she traveled to Germany, to the University of Wurzburg, where she was the first woman accepted to the science program there. At Wurzburg, she studied with Theodor Boveri, director of the Zoological-Zootomical Institute, and one of the world’s first cancer researchers.

She and Boveri married in 1897, and they worked together on the chromosome theory of cancer until his death in 1915. She remained in Germany until 1926, when she returned to the United States for what was meant to be a brief visit. From a chance conversation with a former student who had married a former Yale University dean, she learned that the new liberal arts college on Prospect Hill—Albertus Magnus College—was looking for a distinguished woman scientist to establish its science department. She accepted the College’s offer on February 17, 1927, only when her contacts at Yale University assured her that she would have access to its laboratory and library resources.

Madame Boveri spent 16 years at Albertus, guiding and encouraging Albertus women in science to go on to graduate work. Her legacy is the many women and men who have built their own careers in science on the foundation she established here.

“From a chance conversation with a former student... she learned that the new liberal arts college on Prospect Hill—Albertus Magnus College—was looking for a distinguished woman scientist to establish its science department.”
Remembering Margaret Allman ’42

Margaret Mary Allman—Maggie to her classmates—loved her years at Albertus. As a science major, her second home was Walsh Hall and its labs. It was here, under the guidance of Madame Marcella Boveri, Dr. Dorothea Rudnick and others, that 14 out of the 38 members of the Class of 1942, majored in science or chemistry.

“Theme and Variations,” the yearbook of the Class of 1942, had this to say about Margaret: “Reason’s whole pleasure lies in these words—health, peace and competence.”

Following graduation, Margaret and seven Albertus classmates were among a group of only 100 women from across the entire country considered qualified by the U.S. War Department for work as civilian laboratory assistants at the Fort Monmouth Research Labs in New Jersey. They replaced male engineers and scientists who had volunteered or were drafted into World War II.

“Our three and a half years of service were demanding with long hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., six days a week. No vacation, only Christmas as a holiday,” recalled classmate Mary Skipp Phillips Winter in remarks at Margaret’s funeral service. “We did have moments of hilarity, and Margaret was one who kept us laughing with her dry sense of humor. She was also sensible, but not officious.”

After the war, Margaret went on to obtain two master’s degrees—from Yale University School of Nursing and from University of California, Berkeley. She devoted her life to science, education and helping others.

She was an assistant professor and chair of the medical-surgical nursing department at the University of Bridgeport, and taught at Southern Connecticut State University’s School of Nursing from 1972 until her retirement. In 1977, the Albertus Alumni Association honored her for her loyalty and service to the College. From 1971 to 1977 she served on the College’s Board of Trustees.

An inveterate traveler, this native New Havener enjoyed nothing more than a journey to explore the arts and cultures of new places. She also visited many countries as a faculty advisor to foreign nursing students from developing nations under a World Health Organization fellowship.

Margaret Allman died at the age of 90 in 2011. She left her entire estate to charity, including more than $900,000 to Albertus Magnus College. Per her wishes, 25 percent of the full amount of the distribution will be used to establish the Margaret M. Allman Scholarship for a student in the undergraduate day program from Greater New Haven who is a science major. The remainder of the bequest is unrestricted.

“Margaret's benefaction reflects not only her deep and continuing love for the College, but also her commitment to our mission of serving future students, particularly those who pursue science, as she did with such great passion and dedication,” said President Julia M. McNamara.

The extraordinary generosity of Margaret Allman will allow another generation of students to flourish here in the academic areas she cherished, and be touched by her spirit.

Have You Remembered Albertus in Your Estate Plans?

If you are interested in exploring ways you can support Albertus Magnus College through a bequest or other planned giving program, please contact your attorney, financial advisor or Carolyn Behan Kraus, vice president for development and alumni relations, at 203-773-8502 or cbehan@albertus.edu.

A visit to our Planned Giving site will also provide you with information about the Prospect Hill Society, the group honoring those alumni and friends who have indicated that they are remembering the College in their estate plans (albertus.edu/support-albertus/planned-giving).
New Director of Athletics

James Abromaitis, former UCONN basketball player, joined the College in July as director of athletics. His background includes economic development, administration, banking and experience in the world of college and professional athletics. Most recently, he served as executive director of the Capital City Economic Development Authority, with oversight of the Connecticut Convention Center where he led efforts to attract sporting events to the facility, and was a member and elected chair of the State of Connecticut Sports Advisory Board. He earned a B.A. in urban studies and an M.A. in education, both from the University of Connecticut.

Cheers for Our STUDENT-ATHLETES

In the past 30 years, hundreds of women and men student-athletes have carried the Albertus colors onto playing fields, courts and cross-country trails. Today, as a member of the NCAA, the College sponsors 14 varsity sports, competes at the Division III level and takes part in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) and the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). The Albertus Magnus Falcons carry on a proud tradition of competition, sportsmanship and fair play, making the 2012–2013 season one of the most successful in the history of competitive sports at Albertus.

This year Albertus had 19 GNAC All-Conference and 9 GNAC All-Tournament selections, 5 All-New England honors and 2 GNAC Championship teams. Lianna Carrero of the women’s basketball team became the College’s first Academic All-American, named to the Capital One Academic All-America (CoSIDA) Second Team for her achievements in the classroom as well as on the court. Stephen Zapata of the men’s soccer team became the College’s third All-American in school history. Thirty-six student-athletes from Albertus were named to the 2012–2013 GNAC All-Academic Team, and the National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors Court recognized men’s basketball players James Economopoulos and Julian Sanders for excellence in academics throughout the year. Shannon Skidmore of the women’s soccer team received the GNAC Sportswoman of the Year honor, and Alex Zapata of the men’s soccer team was named GNAC Rookie of the Year. Congratulations to all our student-athletes.

Mary Benevento Fund for Athletics

The Mary Benevento Fund for Athletics, established last year, honors the College’s director of athletics from 1952 to 1980. Former student-athlete Tabitha “Tab” Wazorko Manafort ’94 was inspired to make a leadership gift to jump start the fund in honor of her years at Albertus. “My years at Albertus were, and continue to be, so very special to me. This donation is one way to show my deep and heartfelt ‘thank you’ to our alma mater.” Interest earned from the endowed Mary Benevento Fund will be used to support special projects in our Athletics program.
Matthew Quinn Martin’s novel, “Nightlife,” came out in October from PocketStar/Simon & Schuster. He is a lecturer in the department of English.

Abbe Miller, director of the Master of Arts in Art Therapy program, was promoted to associate professor in fall 2013. She gave the keynote address on the archetypal imagination in the transformative and healing process at a weekend workshop in November.

Jerome Nevins, professor of visual and performing arts and co-chair of the department of visual and performing arts, has been selected by the Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut as one of its 2013 Accessible Art exhibiting artists. His work was also part of a show, “Snap to Grid,” at the Los Angeles Center for Digital Art.

Sean O’Connell, Ph.D., was promoted in May to vice president of academic affairs and dean of the faculty with the concurrent and continuing appointment as professor of philosophy; he had served since early in 2012 as interim vice president for academic affairs and dean.

Charles Rafferty, director of the Master of Fine Arts in writing program and adjunct professor of English, has won the Steel Toe Books competition with his poetry collection “The Unleashable Dog,” which will be published in 2014. Fomite Press published “Saturday Night at Magellan’s” in September. The New Yorker recently accepted his poem, “Diminution.”

Timothy Raynor, chair of the department of business administration, management and sport management, has been promoted to associate professor of business administration and management.

Stefanie Seslar has been promoted to director of alumni relations from alumni associate in the College’s advancement division.


Matt Waggoner, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy and religion, in October delivered his paper, “The Decline of Prescience,” at the Association for Political Theory conference at Vanderbilt University.

Sarah Wallman has been promoted to associate professor of English.
CLASS NOTES

Are You a Volunteer?
Dominicans think globally and act locally. Dedicate your volunteer hours of service to others in the name of Albertus Magnus College, and help us reach 1,925 hours in honor of the College’s founding in 1925. Register your service hours online at albertus.edu/founders-day by the end of this semester.

Alumnae Graduate from Biblical School
Betsy Andresen Hackett ‘51 and Clare McMahon Bernard ‘64, both of Cheshire, CT, graduated in June 2012 from the Catholic Biblical School at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield. The Catholic Biblical School is a four-year training/formation program for Catholic adults interested in learning more about the Bible.

1940  75th Reunion June 13, 2015

1943
Frances McCormick King reports that she and Tom have moved from Guilford to Gastonbury, Connecticut, to be near their daughter Amy. She is “glad they made the move” and would be happy to hear from friends.

1944F  70th Reunion June 14, 2014

1944S  70th Reunion June 14, 2014

1945  70th Reunion June 13, 2015

Mary Louise Byrne Ellinger, Cœur d’Alene, ID, tells us that the College was “just a sprout” when she was fortunate enough to attend. “It is so satisfying these many decades later to see the beautiful tree of learning she has become. Thank you for the care you have given her.”

1948
Elizabeth Hurley Candels, Avon, CT, is a housewife and caretaker for her husband, Lothar. Her fondest Albertus memory is of meeting him at a joint glee club concert with Fordham University. She sends thanks for a great education and four years of wonderful life at Albertus and since.

Anna Fraulo, Hamden, CT, a retired teacher and administrator, self-published “What’s Cooking” and “Reflections.” Another book was under way when she died September 16.

Anna Arcudi Maloottian, Quaker Hill, CT, and her husband, Mark, have three adult children and eight grandchildren. She is a docent at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London and enjoys gardening and reading. She fondly remembers “steak sandwiches and hot fudge sundaes from Nick’s after study time in the dorms.”

1949  65th Reunion June 14, 2014

Faith Auger McCarthy ’49, and her husband, Robert, center, traveled with her classmates Marilyn Connolly Cole and Virginia Sefors Murphy on a Danube River cruise from Budapest to Prague. They enjoyed visiting Vienna, Salzburg and many interesting medieval towns in Hungary, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

1950  65th Reunion June 13, 2015

Phyllis Mays, Needham, MA, a computer instructor for the towns of Wellesley and Brookline, volunteers with the Council on Aging, the Needham Immigration Task Force and the St. Joseph’s peace and justice committee. She received an M.B.A. from Babson Graduate School of Business in 1996 and M.S. in information technology from Boston College in 2002.

Barbara McCarthy McCooe, Ridgewood, NJ, enjoyed a trip to Prague and Vienna with her daughter and two grandchildren—one is a junior at Princeton studying abroad for the semester. Another trip is planned to hike the last 100 miles of the Way of St. James to Santiago de Compostela.

1953

1954  60th Reunion June 14, 2014

1955  60th Reunion June 13, 2015

1956

Louise Colvano Pease, Canaan, ME, writes that she is “blessed by God.” She is presently in remission from Stage IV ovarian cancer. Members of her family have been her strongest advocates, and she had the “love and support of all my friends who prayed daily for my recovery. My motto is: ‘Know Your Body, Be Positive, Pray Daily and Anything is Possible.’ ”

1958

Carolyn Newins Denny, Warwick, NY, has four children and five grandchildren. She is a Eucharistic Minister in New York and Florida, a volunteer with Meals on Wheels for 25 years and a story teller at a migrant summer camp.

June Munnelly Falcone, Naples, FL, reports “the usual for retirees: book club, bridge, golf, serving on community committees.” She is an Arimathean (member of the church grief group) and a Eucharistic Minister. Married to Vin for 54 years, she has three children, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law and six grandchildren.

Joan Schaefer Horton, Lyman, ME, is a Eucharistic Minister at a nursing home and touring docent at Ogunquit Museum of American Art. She and Don have four children and 10 grandchildren. She notes: “The children are scattered, and we travel a lot just to keep up with them.”

Elizabeth Tringali Rosano, Portland, CT, has been retired since 1995 from the Middleton school system, where she taught high school social studies and English. She and Joe have been married for 54 years and have three children and six grandchildren.

Virginia Foley Valade, Trumbull, CT, retired as coordinator of the Child Nutrition Program at the Diocese of Bridgeport. She writes: “In the fall of 1956, June Munnelly Falcone asked me to go on a ‘blind date’ to a Yale-Penn football game with a friend of hers, Jay Valade. I agreed, and the rest is history. We will celebrate our 54th wedding anniversary in October.”

1959  55th Reunion June 14, 2014

1960  55th Reunion June 13, 2015

1963

Elizabeth “Betsy” Ahern Burbank, Guilford, CT, has two sons and three step-sons, and is involved with gardening, book clubs, music, theatre and golf. She remembers the “first-class education received at Albertus...great preparation for life!”

Teresa Teodosio Cavaliero, Milford, CT, is Stanford Adult Education’s only full-time guidance counselor and has been with the program since 1995. Her daughter lives in Massachusetts and is married with two children; her son lives and works in New York City. In 2011 Connecticut’s adult educators elected her Educator of the Year.
Golden Ring Award for Albina Cannavaciolo

Albina Sacco Cannavaciolo ’56, North Haven, CT, a retired mathematics teacher, received a Golden Ring Award from the Boys & Girls Club Alumni in April.

The award honored her for many years of teaching and advocacy on the national level for mathematics, and for her many community activities. She served as president of the Associated Teachers of Mathematics in Connecticut (ATOMIC) and chair of many statewide mathematics conferences. She currently serves on the ATOMIC board of directors and is the general chair of its 2013 Fall Conference. A former board member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, she helped organize regional math conferences, and has made more than 400 presentations throughout the United States and Canada on ways to help motivate math students. In 1998 she retired after 35 years of teaching math at Hamden Hall Country Day School.

In 1970 Cannavaciolo, received the Albertus Alumni Association’s Award for Loyalty and Service to the College. She currently is a member of the College’s Education Advisory Panel.

Checko Receives Connecticut’s Top Public Health Award

Patricia Checko ’64 received the 2013 Charles-Edward Amory Winslow Award from the Connecticut Association of Public Health in April. The award, named for the founder and first dean of the Yale University School of Public Health, recognizes a Connecticut public health professional for achievement and leadership in public health practice, research and education.

Checko was honored for her “four decades of exemplary public health leadership including leading the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health and MATCH, a statewide coalition to reduce tobacco use; through her commitment to scholarship; and for her unwavering dedication to health equity and social justice.” The Winslow Award is the highest recognition for a public health professional in Connecticut.

Checko, a resident of Berlin, is the retired director of health for the Bristol-Burlington Health District. She received the Albertus Alumni Association’s 1999 award for outstanding professional achievement. In July she traveled to Poland.

1968

Ann Bain, Baltimore, MD, has a master’s from Temple University, certificate of advanced study from Harvard University and a doctorate in communications disorders from Johns Hopkins University. She is an instructor at the Dyslexia Tutoring Program in Baltimore and a member of the Maryland Orchid Society.

Alyce Tuttle Fuller, Evanston, IL, is retired and interested in photography, quilting, golf and traveling. She has a son and a daughter.

Maryann Cronin Horgan retired as chair of the biology department at Greenwich (CT) High School and has relocated to Southport, North Carolina.

1969

Rev. Terry Fitzgerald, Baltimore, MD, is now pastor of First and Stephen’s United Church of Christ. She received a Master of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Ministry degree, both from Andover Newton Theological School.

1970

45th Reunion June 13, 2015

Jane Utz Hamilton, Richmond, VA, has retired from Verizon after a 33-year career there, and is now the director of planned giving at the YMCA of Greater Richmond. She has three grandchildren: Emily, 6; Hunter, 4; and Cullen, 2 months.

1973

Mariah Bellello, Asheville, NC, has a master’s in E.S.L., and works for Western North Carolina Community Health Services.

Rita Vagnini Elliot, Hanover, PA, has seven children, four sons and a granddaughter. She is interested in museums, archeology, travel and reading, and fondly remembers Sr. Mary Faith Dargan’s classes.

Maryalice Phillips Hoogland spent the winter in Naples, Florida, working in a part-time seasonal job at Chico’s Waterside. In April, she and her mother, Mary Skipp Winter ’42, traveled to Buenos Aires for a 10-day vacation, which “stretched to almost a month due to Mother’s trip over a cobblestone. She had hip replacement in Buenos Aires!”

Winifred “Winnie” Lynsky Riley ’58 of Jefferson City, MO, is retired, and since 1991 has been the part-time director and producer for plays at Helias Catholic High School. She recently was inducted into the Helias “Hall of Fame,” an honor bestowed on individuals who have contributed their expertise and time to the school and the community.

In addition to her work with Helias, she was the co-founder of the Little Theatre of Jefferson City and executive director and founder of A Children’s Theatrical Performing Arts Core (ACTPAC) from 1989 to 2003. The Capital City Council on the Arts has honored her with its annual arts award. She has been recognized with the Jefferson City Jaycees “Outstanding Young Woman Award” and as a “Woman of Achievement” nominee of the Zonta Club.

Riley has taken graduate studies in French and Italian at Yale, Middlebury and the University of Missouri.

Checko Receives Connecticut’s Top Public Health Award

Patricia Checko ’64 received the 2013 Charles-Edward Amory Winslow Award from the Connecticut Association of Public Health in April. The award, named for the founder and first dean of the Yale University School of Public Health, recognizes a Connecticut public health professional for achievement and leadership in public health practice, research and education.

Checko was honored for her “four decades of exemplary public health leadership including leading the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health and MATCH, a statewide coalition to reduce tobacco use; through her commitment to scholarship; and for her unwavering dedication to health equity and social justice.” The Winslow Award is the highest recognition for a public health professional in Connecticut.

Checko, a resident of Berlin, is the retired director of health for the Bristol-Burlington Health District. She received the Albertus Alumni Association’s 1999 award for outstanding professional achievement. In July she traveled to Poland.
Lesley Hudson ’70 received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) at its 2013 annual scientific meeting in May in Chicago. She is executive director of the association, and has been a member of its administrative staff since 1980. She also is project director for the Southeastern Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model System Program at Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

In announcing the award, ASIA President Lawrence Vogel, M.D., noted that during Hudson’s tenure at ASIA “no single individual has had a greater influence on the development of the organization.” Hudson is a founding staff member at Shepherd Center, the largest spinal cord and brain injury rehabilitation facility in the nation. She began her work there as administrative director in 1976, and founded several departments and programs during the early years of the Center. In 1982, she wrote the first successful grant application for a federal designation (U.S. Department of Education) that would name Shepherd Center as a “model system of care” for individuals with traumatic spinal cord injury. She has been project director of that grant program since then. Co-project director and founding Shepherd Center Medical Director David F. Apple Jr., M.D., noted that “there are few people in the field of spinal cord injury medicine who have had the significant long term impact that Lesley Hudson has. Her skill set is remarkable and Shepherd Center and ASIA have benefited from her dedication.” Hudson also began a quarterly medical journal, in partnership with Dr. Apple, in 1993, and served as managing editor until last year. “Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation” is one of the most popular professional journals in the field of spinal cord injury medicine.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is reserved for professionals in spinal cord injury medicine whose impact on the field is unique, quantifiable and lifelong. Hudson is the 23rd person, and the first woman, to be so honored.

At Albertus Hudson majored in English, with minors in French and education. She earned a master’s degree in English at the University of Rhode Island, her home state, before moving to Georgia in 1975. She is a widow, and has twin daughters who are juniors in college.

1981
Karin Rannestad, Southport, CT, had an exhibition of her paintings on view at the Woodbury Public Library in March. For many years she was a textile design artist in New York.

1983
Kathryn Evans, Pasadena, CA, is a scenic artist in the entertainment and theme park industries in Southern California and worldwide. She works for several different set painting shops in the area and does on-site work at the studios as well as Disneyland and Universal theme parks. She recently finished doing an ice cave in a commercial for “The Most Interesting Man in the World.”

Maribeth Piscitelli, Las Vegas, NV, is the manager, team member services, in human resources for Westgate Resorts.

1984  30th Reunion June 14, 2014


1986
Josephine Agnello-Velez, Kensington, CT, is assistant director of human resources at Capital Community College. She earned an M.S. in human resource management from Hartford Graduate Center/Rensselaer.

1988
Barbara Reney Livingston, Hyannis, MA, sends word that her daughter, Francesca Derteano, graduated from The Kent School in Connecticut in May. She was actively recruited by Division I universities for NCAA crew.

Karen Yarussi-King, Clayton, NC, earned a master’s degree in public and international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh. She and her husband, Eric, have four sons; she is employed by Shrilvent Operating Company.

1989  25th Reunion June 14, 2014

Karin Nobile, Branford, CT, in September marked her five-year milestone for Noble Communications International, a company providing business development communications and social responsibility planning. She is a former member of the Board of Governors of the Albertus Alumni Association.


Dawn Barrington Zoni, Honolulu, HI, since August 2012 has been working for Kapilolani Community College, part of the University of Hawaii system. Associate professor of student success, she is an assistant dean of student affairs. She received a master’s degree from New York University and the Ph.D. from the University of Northern Colorado.

1993
Frankie White, New Haven, CT, is executive director of St. Mark’s Day Care Center, in Bridgeport. She and her husband, David, have lived in New Haven since 1975. She often visits the campus. “Today I am encouraging women, regardless of age, to find a pathway of personal interest and achievement. Albertus can help in their journey.”

1994  20th Reunion June 14, 2014

Katerina Gotis Bondi and Dustin Bondi, Branford, CT, are the parents of Andrea Samantha Bondi, born October 25, 2012.


1996
Bekim Belica, Watertown, CT, received the Ed.D. degree in 2012.

Lianne Escher ’82 of Guilford has been recognized by Continental Who’s Who as a Pinnacle Professional in the field of mental health services. She graduated from Albertus as an adult student, majoring in psychology, and then received her M.S.W. from Smith College. She is a psychotherapist with a private practice, and works with clients in the area of energy healing and counseling.

The 2010–2011 Albertus Annual Report featured Escher; Athena Thompson ’02, her daughter, who also graduated as an adult student; and grandson Elijah Beebe-Maddix, currently a student at the College.

1998
Adam Z. Lein, Scarsdale, NY, reports that he is “still loving photography” as part of his design job—14 years as graphic designer with Rohrer/ Sprague Partners—news coverage, fashion shows and weekend weddings. His fashion photography work has increased, with photos in use by NYC Fashion Runway, Black Tie Magazine and Asian Fusion Magazine (February 2013 issue) among others.

Rebecca Finch Virgil, Orange, CT, is married, with a four-year-old son and a son born in November 2012.

1999  15th Reunion June 14, 2014

Garrett Dell, ’03 M.A.L.S., Guilford, CT, lecturer and coordinator of academic services for evening programs at Albertus, has finished his doctoral coursework in humanities at Salve Regina University. Next step: his dissertation, “Technological Ambivalence in the Poetry of Robert Pinsky.”


Carol Stockton, ’09 M.A.L.S., North Haven, CT, was the curator, photographer and facilitator for The Tin Box Project—Our Stories, an exhibition of art created by or in honor of women who have suffered and escaped domestic abuse, which was sponsored by Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, an agency providing services to women who have experienced domestic violence. The exhibition took place in January at the Margaret L. MacDonough Gallery on the Albertus campus.

2002
Wendy Williamson Bonner, ’05 M.S.M., ’06 M.B.A., New Haven, CT, has embarked on her third master’s program. While on campus, she was active with the NAACP.

2003
Chad Gonzales, Stamford, CT, is new business director for Icon International.

Margaret “Maggie” Nichols Hallinan, Branford, CT, writes that she is “excited to celebrate my 10th year reunion from Albertus, simultaneously with my 30th year reunion from Sacred Heart Academy. Proving that although obtaining my bachelor’s degree took me 20 full years to realize, it is NEVER
CLASS NOTES (continued)

TOO LATE to obtain your goal! Her son, Alexander, successfully completed his first year at Bryant University; her daughter, Zelia, is a senior this year at Sacred Heart; and her step-daughter's wedding was in September.

2004 10th Reunion June 14, 2014

Corina Alvarazdelugo, Branford, CT, received a citation from Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee for participating in the state's Latin American Visual Arts Exhibition. Several of her paintings and three of her sculptures were accepted for the juried show. She was invited to exhibit at the Alexey VonSchlippe Gallery in Groton, Connecticut, June 7–July 31.

Lara Enzor, M.S.M., Austin, TX, is the founder of Bow-Wow-Chow, the city's first mobile food truck for dogs in Texas, which offers a variety of locally-sourced healthy, natural treats for dogs.

2005 10th Reunion June 13, 2015

Mary Marguerite Condon ’43, a longtime employee of the State of Connecticut, enjoyed travel with her friends during retirement; she was a lifelong communicant of the Church of the Assumption in Ansonia March 23, 2013 Seymour, CT

Virginia Bracken Isaksen ’43 is survived by her daughter, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; she received a master's degree in 1967 from Southern Connecticut State University March 21, 2013 Wallingford, CT

Mary Foody Cronan ’50 received a master's degree in education from the University of Connecticut and taught in Connecticut, Ohio and South Carolina; she is survived by a daughter, four sons, seven grandchildren and a sister December 4, 2012 Fleetwood, PA

Mary Labate ’50 for more than 20 years taught children of U.S. families serving their country in Europe; she was the sister of Laura Labate Anderson ’48 April 27, 2013 East Haven, CT

Katherine Schlauder O’Conner ’51 served on the boards of many organizations and associations in Stratford; she was the founder and owner of Katherine O’Conner Real Estate for many years and also served as president of the Greater Bridgeport Board of Realtors; she and her husband, George, met while he was at Yale, and they married shortly after her graduation June 3, 2013 Stratford, CT

Mary Claire Davis Rudiger ’52 was a devoted member of her church for 50 years; a math major at Albertus, she loved the great outdoors and had a passion for Native American culture; and she had a 30-year career as a library/media technical assistant with the Claremont Unified School System March 20, 2013 Claremont, CA

Jane Flynn Francis ’53 and her beloved Richard, who died in 2005, had three children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; she was an avid gardener and traveler April 22, 2013 Colorado Springs, CO

Janet Kapish ’56, obtained a master's degree in public health from Yale University and retired after a 35-year career with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health where she served as a chief of regulatory and environmental chemistry April 4, 2013 Wallingford, CT

Anne Collins Racanelli ’56 is survived by three daughters, four grandchildren and two sisters October 8, 2012 Medford, NY

Elizabeth “Betty” Fleming Giglio ’60 received a master's degree in theology fromFordham University; for many years she was the director of adult education for the Diocese of Bridgeport in Connecticut; in 2011 she was ordained a Dame of the Order of Malta; she is survived by her husband, four daughters and two grandchildren July 17, 2013 Plymouth, MA

Janice Baldwin McKernon ’65 practiced for many years as a psychotherapist at the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven and at the Meriden-Wallingford Hospital, where she headed the Alcohol Treatment Program; her battle with multiple sclerosis lasted for more than 40 years; she is survived by her husband, daughter and three grandchildren May 28, 2013 Wallingford, CT

Virginia “Ginny” Vilnis O’Rear ’68 was born in New Haven and graduated from St. Mary’s High School; she majored in chemistry at Albertus and was a laboratory researcher at the University of California, San Francisco for 13 years February 14, 2012 Petaluma, CA

Katherine “Anne” Flood Sandalls ’68 received a master's degree in demography from Georgetown University in 1970; she is survived by her husband, a son and a daughter and was pre-deceased by a son October 10, 2012 Weston, MA

Carol Esposito Gillispie ’70 dedicated much of her life to persons with disabilities and her community; the first blind person to attend New Haven's public schools, she was a rehabilitation teacher for the blind, visual impairment service coordinator for the VA and worked for Recording for the Blind and Dystleic; she was a volunteer and advocate for many organizations, and a lector at St. Paul's Church and the VA for more than 25 years; in 2000 she received the City of West Haven’s public service award and, in 2003, the State’s public service award June 9, 2013 West Haven, CT

Arlene Pueschel Main ’80 moved to New York City after graduation, working for ten years as a graphic artist at Parade Magazine, and later in Philadelphia in graphics at Farm Journal Magazine; she and her husband, Kent, settled in Charlotte, where she started and operated Simply Gardening, a garden maintenance and design business June 29, 2013 Charlotte, NC

James V. Ranelli Jr. ’94 served as a Marine in the Vietnam War; he worked for the State of Connecticut Department of Labor June 16, 2013 East Haven, CT

Ladavai Law ’03 was a lifelong resident of New Haven March 20, 2013 New Haven, CT

James J. Johnson ’08 was a U.S. Air Force veteran and a deacon of Christian Love Center Church; he is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter and three grandchildren July 28, 2013 New Haven, CT

Nancy Sousa ’10 was the founder and owner of a local laundromat; an accomplished singer, she was a vocalist for many of the area’s top bands; she was active in the Susan G. Komen for the Cure CT Foundation and was the recipient of the Connecticut Komen Ruth Ann Lobo Award April 22, 2013 Wethersfield, CT

Kimberly Norris ’11 was employed at the United Illuminating Company, where she was a human resource specialist, for the last 33 years; she is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren September 14, 2012 Bridgeport, CT

2008

Katherine Mallory, East Haven, CT, outreach care specialist for Wellpoint Anthem Blue Cross Behavioral Health, is studying for the Master of Divinity degree in the Hartford Seminary Co-Op Program. She writes: “I am almost finished with my second year, and as part of the program, will transfer to AndoverNewton Theological Seminary, which will lead me to ordination as a United Church of Christ minister in another two years, all while working full time and maintaining a 3.49 G.P.A.”

Hector Rivera, M.S.M., Windsor, CT, has been elected to a four-year term on the board of the National Youth Employment Coalition. A graduate of Springfield College, he is chief operating officer of Hartford’s Our Piece of the Pie, Inc., which helps urban youth become successful adults.

On December 15, 2012, Daniel Bland ’07 was installed as senior pastor of the Mt. Calvary Holy Church Revival Center in New Haven. A native New Havener, he is a founding member of Take a Stand and Know Youth Outreach Ministries, and provides counseling and social services to at-risk youth and their families. He is married to Melanie Smith Bland ’05, and both are members of the Alumni Association’s Board of Governors.

IN MEMORIAM

Effa Chestney Fisher ’39 died two days before her 95th birthday; she received a master’s degree from Fairfield University, taught for many years and later became the principal of Beecher School in New Haven; she is survived by two children and their spouses, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren May 22, 2013 Malaupan, NJ

Barbara Fitch Prokop ’39 taught French at Hamden High School and English at Eli Whitney Technical High School, and was a certified reading specialist with a master’s degree from Southern Connecticut State University; mother of Ann Prokop ’67 June 12, 2013 Cheshire, CT

Eleanor Devine ’40 was a longtime member of Hamden’s St. Patrick Parish; where she was the first female lector and a member of the first Parish Council; she spent many years in the business world, including 12 years at Southern New England Telephone as its first paralegal; she was director of alumni affairs at Albertus for 12 years, a former member of the College’s Board of Trustees and the recipient in 1968 of the Award for Loyalty and Service to the College April 3, 2013 Hamden, CT

Anne M. Dorsi ’42 joined Blue Cross/Blue Shield after graduation from Albertus, retiring as vice president for customer relations; she was a lifelong and active member of St. Lawrence Church and served as a volunteer and supporter of many local organizations May 31, 2013 West Haven, CT
Limbach Honored for Distinguished Service
Mimi Holland Limbach ’72 was honored in November by the American Nuclear Society (ANS) with its 2013 Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding contributions, as a longtime member and volunteer, to the development of the Society. ANS is a professional organization of engineers and scientists devoted to the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. Limbach has helped to raise the quality of communications training ANS offers, served on the ANS public information committee and led numerous communications training workshops.

Currently managing partner at Potomac Communications Group in Washington, D.C., Limbach has more than 30 years’ experience in leading communications and campaign strategies. She led the European development of the Society. ANS is a longtime member and volunteer, to the outstanding contributions, as a Distinguished Service Award for her Distinguished Service Award for her NSA offers, served on the ANS public information committee and led numerous communications training workshops.

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Rogers Appointed President of Fielding Graduate University
Katrina Duhancik Rogers ’85, provost since 2011 of Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, California, was appointed president in July. Fielding offers degrees and courses for professionals living and working anywhere in the world.

Rogers, a history major and magna cum laude graduate of Albertus, was a Fulbright scholar for two years in Germany at the University of Tubingen and received the Bundeskanzler Post-Doctoral Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. She holds doctorates in political science and history from Northern Arizona University.

She led the European campus for Thunderbird School of Global Management in Geneva, Switzerland, for nearly a decade. Currently, she serves as a trustee for the Public Dialogue Consortium and the Toda Institute for Global Policy.
From the Hill

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

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A Catholic College in the Dominican Tradition

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Rosary Hall, accommodated all of the College’s needs in 1925: library, class-rooms, dormitory, dining hall and chapel. Today, the Rosary Hall library has been transformed into a 21st century information and service hub, housing library services, the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, Information Technology Services, the Writing Center, Peer Tutoring and the Office of Career Services.