PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

As we wind down another semester at Albright, I want to tell you about a few of the exciting improvements we’ve made to our campus over the past few months.

First and foremost is the completion of the new Science Center, which involved the complete renovation of the Merner-Pfeiffer Hall of Science, built in 1928, and the addition of 41,000 square feet of new lab and classroom space to the original building. The new section was named Trustee Hall to recognize the leadership, vision, and generosity of our trustees in making this long-held dream come true.

We’ve also finished construction of Roessner Field, a multisport practice and recreation field made possible through a generous gift from Albright College trustee John K. Roessner III ’61, who also provided the funds to launch men’s and women’s intercollegiate lacrosse programs. Our inaugural season’s first home games will be played March 3, 2012, with the men’s game starting at 1 p.m. and the women’s game starting at 3:30.

Finally, the area around the Campus Center, Sylvan Pond, and from White Chapel to the Main Lot has been transformed to enhance its appearance, increase accessibility, improve the flow of pedestrian traffic, and create an inviting, grassy commons in the heart of campus. This project is phase one of Founders Walk, as envisioned in the College Master Plan. It will eventually connect the campus from Union Avenue at the southern edge of campus to The Woods at our northern boundary.

These projects, especially the Science Center and the Founders Walk construction, have certainly caused some inconvenience for our students, faculty and staff, but like many such inconveniences we know they’ll be well worth it in the long run. I hope you’ll be able to visit campus soon to see what I mean.

Until then, please accept my warmest wishes for a healthy holiday season and a happy new year.

Lex O. McMillan III,
President, Albright College

MESSAGE FROM PARENTS COUNCIL CHAIR

Parents take pride in their children, and children are the PRIDE of Albright. They represent the future of our nation and the world. You have supported your child since infancy, and you know that raising a child is a lifelong commitment. As I was speaking to administrators at Albright about the benefits my son, Daniel Sherman ’14, has received in conjunction with an Albright education, we decided that parents like me might be looking for ways to constructively express their support for the College.

Today, I am pleased to share that we are reestablishing our Parents Council for just this purpose. Our vision is to engage Albright parents in the life of the College through volunteer efforts in admission, outreach and fundraising. We all know that education is a significant financial and emotional investment for a family, but when the benefits of that education are as strong as they are at Albright, many of us would like to further our ties by giving more in many and different ways. This council, we hope, will provide such opportunities.

Under the administrative leadership of Kathleen Sutton, director of The Fund for Albright, we will be looking for volunteers to assist us in our efforts. If you have ideas or suggestions, please email them to ksutton@alb.edu. Kathleen or another Albright staff member will follow up with you.

We hope to have accumulated enough volunteer interest to host the first Parents Council meeting this spring. I am honored to be one of the leaders in this important endeavor, and I look forward to working with you and others to continue to strengthen Albright College.

Jill Marsteller,
Chair, Parents Council
FOR FIRST- AND SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS

Do you find that your student is not happy in his/her major or is not earning the expected grades? Perhaps speaking with a Career Counselor and/or taking one of our career tests will help them uncover other academic or career interests. Students should contact the Experiential Learning and Career Development Center at 610-921-7630 or elcdc@alb.edu to schedule an appointment.

FRESHMAN CORNER

Freshman students will soon be returning home for winter break after their first semester at college. Here are a few changes or common trends you may notice in your first-year student:

• Your student is tired! Students are typically tired after the rigor of ‘crunch week’ and final exams, and they probably sleep a lot the first week or two of winter break until they get back into healthy sleep patterns and habits.

• You feel your student did not reach their academic potential this semester. Sometimes during the first semester of college a student may not do as well academically as you or they would have hoped. The first semester of college for any student is a time of adjustment and transition. There are new rules and new freedoms that your student has to navigate. Students should use the winter break to reflect on their successes and failures so they can get a better understanding of who they are and where they need improvement.

• Your son or daughter wants to change their major. Research has shown that about 50 percent of college students change their major at least once before graduating. Your son or daughter may have realized that the major they initially selected is no longer for them. Or, they may have taken a class or had an experience that led them to an interest in a different major.

• Your son or daughter is never home! It has probably been a few months since your son or daughter has seen their friends from high school, and they will need this time to catch up with them. Make sure that you ask your son or daughter to schedule some time to spend with you over the break!

The first semester of college can be challenging for you and your student, but please know that there are many resources at Albright ready and willing to provide assistance. Please visit the Albright website to view each department and a list of the services and programs provided to assist students.

SOPHOMORE CORNER

• Is your student experiencing the “sophomore slump”? If so, you might suggest the following:

  • Talk to your RA about upcoming residential programs.

  • Look for advertisements about Greek Life opportunities during the first few weeks of spring semester.

  • If you’re interested in role modeling for new students, the POPs application process will take place during February and March.

  • Schedule an appointment with your advisor to make sure you are on track to graduate. By the end of sophomore year, students should have declared an academic major.

• If you’re interested in study abroad opportunities or curious about career exploration, stop by the Geiser House at 1817 Linden St. (next door to the Health Center) to discuss your interests with their professional and friendly staff.

• Looking for other opportunities to get involved and make a difference? Stop by the Campus Center Desk for a list of active student organizations and clubs. If you don’t see what you’re looking for, ask how you might start your own organization on campus. If you have a passion for helping others, stop by the Volunteer Center near Jake’s Place and ask the students about service opportunities available to you.

• Is your student interested in moving off campus for their junior year? Make sure that they thoroughly research off-campus living options before signing that lease! Refer to www.albright.edu/campuslife/housing/off-campus.html for a list of renter’s tips, safety tips, off-campus resources, and information about renter’s insurance and local ordinances. Also, make sure your student does a cost-benefit analysis of on-campus versus off-campus living. Need more help? Stop by the Residential Life Office, located next to Mohn Hall, or the Assistant Dean’s/Dean’s Office, located in Selwyn Hall–South, to schedule an appointment.

JUNIOR CORNER

Here are some things to think about if your student is a junior:

• Your student should have a good understanding of what’s expected of them, both academically and socially, and they have probably developed a certain rhythm to their college life.

• Your student may now be moving into an apartment or off-campus housing, which brings a host of new challenges and opportunities. There will be new living arrangements, financial considerations, visits from friends, dealing with a landlord, and more.

• Students may be adjusting to new relationships and boundaries. Some may be 21, so going into licensed establishments is now an option.

• Your student may be considering a semester abroad. It can be a wonderful experience, but it also creates many considerations for your student and other family members.

• Your student sees that the working world may be a little more than a year away, and there is significant pressure. Your student may be looking into internships and career plans. Hopefully they are working with Albright’s Experiential Learning and Career Development Center. They may be preparing to further their studies in graduate, law, dental, medical, or other postgraduate academics and research.
SENIOR CORNER

Is your student on track? Students in their senior year should be preparing for the next stage in life, their career. Seniors should be doing the following to secure their future:

• Meet with a career counselor and your academic advisor(s) to define your post-graduation goals and create an action plan for your senior year.
• Meet with a career counselor to finalize your resume and cover letter, discuss job search strategies or graduate school, schedule a mock interview and prepare/practice your networking introduction (30-second commercial).
• Research employment, post-graduate volunteer/internship or graduate/professional school options and start applying.
• Understand what employers and graduate/professional schools seek in an applicant. Be able to convey how your knowledge, skills and experiences, including athletics, club/organizational leadership, internships, ACRE and/or studying abroad, will be an asset to the organization to which you apply.
• Spend time developing an online professional profile through LinkedIn. Reach out to potential contacts in fields of interest.
• Network, network, network! Attend our “So You Think You Can Network” event held each fall, and don’t be afraid to utilize your network in seeking opportunities.
• Remain open to possibilities; be proactive and continue to assess your options!

Remind your graduating senior that the Experiential Learning and Career Development Center offers many vital services for the daunting job search! Check out the website at www.albright.edu/elcdc and encourage your senior to stop by or set up an appointment! Professional Events coming up during spring semester:

• “Oh My God! I’m a Senior” Part 2-January 31, 6 p.m., South Lounge
• Horizons Job Fair-February 8, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Main Lounge
• Lehigh Valley Collegiate Career Expo-February 15, noon to 4 p.m., Holiday Inn, Fogelsville, Pa. (transportation provided)
• Networking Night with Greater Reading Young Professionals-February 29, 5 to 7 p.m., Albright College Freedman Gallery
• BYOB (Bring Your Own Briefcase)-March 6, 6 p.m., South Lounge (Dress for Success Fashion Show and Etiquette Dinner)
• Teacher Recruitment Day-March 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Millersville University
• On-Campus Recruiting-March and April; check the website for companies interviewing on campus

SENIOR WALKWAY LEGACY

Each year, Albright’s senior class raises funds for a project that is intended to leave a lasting impression on campus. The Class of 2012 will soon be invited to support the Senior Walkway Legacy Program, which aims to replace all the walkways on campus, one section at a time. This year, we will continue to focus on the area around Sylvan Pond. Additional improvements to the pond area make it an even more inviting and relaxing place on campus.

A gift of $100 or more allows your student to have his or her name engraved on a special paver. It also means that your student becomes a member of the President’s Council for Young Alumni. The President’s Council is the College’s most prestigious giving society. Members are invited to the annual President’s Council reception, an event designed to recognize and honor Albright’s most generous supporters.

Seniors who pledge to the Senior Walkway Legacy Program will have until May 31, 2013, to fulfill their pledge. With your help, we can make the 2012 Senior Walkway Legacy Class Gift Program the most successful one yet. We hope you’ll encourage your senior to participate in the Senior Walkway Legacy Program, because we think you’ll agree that it is truly satisfying to give back to an institution that has been such an important part of your life.

ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER

The Academic Learning Center (ALC) gives all Albright students the opportunity to advance their academic careers through tutoring, study skills workshops, academic coaching for classes, disability services, and assistance with academic matters and faculty. Should your son or daughter need help developing their academic skills and finding new ways to increase their academic performance, please refer them to the ALC at www.albright.edu/academics/alc.html provides additional information about us and our services.

PASS

Volunteer with the Admission Office’s Parents and Alumni Seeking Students (PASS) program! The PASS program enables parents to share their enthusiasm about Albright with college-bound students. The intent of PASS is to increase Albright’s name recognition and encourage students to learn more about Albright College, in the hope that they will apply and matriculate. By interacting with prospective students and their families, you are able to help them navigate the college search process while validating what the Admission Office has already told them about Albright. Volunteer opportunities with the PASS program include serving on an Open House Panel, mingling with prospective students and their families at Open Houses, and assisting with move-in day as a parent volunteer. If you would like to learn more, please visit the PASS website at http://albright.edu/PASS/ or email Catherine Souza, PASS Coordinator, at pass@alb.edu.
SAVE THE DATE
Just for Juniors Open House: April 29

DID YOU KNOW?
Newsweek’s College Rankings 2011 rated Albright College in the top 25 colleges in the country for artistic students. “Most artistic” colleges were selected from colleges across the country “based on how imaginative their student body is, as well as how much the college fosters a creative atmosphere.”

ENROLLMENT FOR 2011/2012
Freshmen: 509, Sophomores: 354, Juniors: 386, Seniors: 362, Total: 1,668

CELEBRATE WITH A BIRTHDAY BASH BAG
You can help your son or daughter celebrate their next birthday by sending them a Birthday Bash Bag. For just $20 they'll get a balloon, four plates and napkins, forks (if they order a cake), and an Albright cake server or pizza cutter, along with their choice of a chocolate chip or sugar supercookie, or a yellow, chocolate or marble cake. Delivery is offered both on and off campus, and orders should be placed at least one week in advance. Please contact Nikki Detwiler in the Assistant Dean's Office at 610-921-7795 or ndetwiler@alb.edu for additional information.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS
We are excited to celebrate our recent designation to Newsweek's “Top 25 Most Artistic Colleges.” Additionally, we would like to congratulate Taylor Rae Cole ’13, Ryan McCarthy ’13, Sheryl Smith ’13, and Szalene Anthony ’13 (alternate), who were nominated by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival respondents to the “Irene Ryan National Acting Competition” based on their good work in Tom Stoppard’s Arcadia, directed by Jeffrey Lentz earlier this fall.

FINE ART & THE FREEDMAN GALLERY
Day Job: January 26–March 4, Freedman Gallery
Nurturing Nature: March 20–April 15, Freedman Gallery

MUSIC
Elements, a Symphonic Band & Choral Concert
Saturday, March 3, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Chapel
Albright Angels/Mane Men Spring Tour, March 9–16
Home Again, the Albright Angels & Mane Men Spring Tour Local Concert-Sunday, March 25, 4 p.m., St. Matthew’s Church, Lancaster

THEatre
The Waiting Room by Megan Smith
Friday & Saturday, February 3 & 4, 8 p.m., Wachovia Theatre

On the Verge, by Eric Overmyer
February 17–19 & 23–25, all performances 8 p.m., except Sunday matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wachovia Theatre

24-Hour Theatre Project
Saturday, March 31, 8 p.m., Wachovia Theatre

ATHLETICS FALL HIGHLIGHTS
Women’s Tennis - Victoria Foanio ’14 became the first MAC conference singles champion in Albright tennis history, while garnering MVP honors. Alyssa Sell ’15 teamed up with Foanio to claim the MAC conference doubles championship.
Women’s Soccer - The Lady Lions finished their season as 2011 ECAC semi-finalists.
Football - Albright football faced Widener in its Homecoming game in front of alumni, students, parents and fans while battling wintry conditions and eight inches of snow.
The team received a bid to face Cortland State in the ECAC South-East Bowl.
Women’s Swimming - With record-setting swims, the Lady Lions are off to a great start with a 6-1 record and undefeated in MAC swims.
Men’s Basketball - Men's basketball won the 2011 Wyndham-Reading Tip-Off Tournament when they defeated a talented Randolph-Macon team 69-58.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR THE LIONS
Men’s Swimming - Watch the Albright men continue their quest to defend their title as 2011 MAC Champions.
Women’s Basketball - Come watch the Lions face their league and perennial rival, Alvernia, on Feb. 8, 2012.
Softball - The Lady Lions return a lot of talent with great confidence after wins in their fall scrimmages.
Men’s and Women’s Lacrosse - Thanks to a generous $1 million gift from the John K. Roessner III Trust, new Albright men's and women's varsity lacrosse teams will begin competing in the spring of 2012. Come watch this exciting new sport at Albright on March 3, 2012, when the men face Penn State Abington at 1 p.m. and the women take on Immaculata at 3:30 p.m.

STAY CONNECTED
Follow Albright parents on FACEBOOK (www.albright.edu/fbparents/) and stay up to date on the latest Albright parent news. Check out College updates, including TWITTER and YOUTUBE, at WWW.ALBRIGHT.EDU/SOCIALMEDIA/