

The Knight Times

January 2010
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Winter On Campus



Alter celebrates it's first Fine Arts Assembly



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Father Jim Manning, President

We begin 2010 in a spirit of gratitude. There were many visible changes at Alter this past year and some not so visible. Many people made these changes possible, but there are two whom I would like to highlight: Frank Donaldson from the Institute of School and Parish Development (ISPD), and Tom Frericks, Class of '73, from the Building and Grounds Committee of our Board of Trustees.

As the President of ISPD, Frank Donaldson is the leading Catholic Development consultant in the nation. He came to our campus three years ago to lead us in a strategic planning effort. Now, his work complete, he leaves us with an infrastructure that will carry on in his absence. Frank has provided the Alter community with a true spirit of Catholic Development—not just fundraising. He has helped us all to see that we must invite and engage people throughout the community into the planning process and direction of their future. The planning process he established identified nine areas of school life that we will continually develop: spiritual life, academics, student life, faculty, technology, athletics, marketing and development, finance and administration, and building and grounds. With Jeff Plate hired as the Director of Institutional Advancement, he will perpetuate what Frank started as we plan for the next 3-5 years for Alter High School.

A Distinguished Hall of Fame inductee, Tom Frericks functioned as a volunteer project manager for the entire renovation that took place in 2009. He worked with architects and construction experts to assure the project was done well, completed on time, and under budget. As a member of the Board and the Committee Chair, he assured other board members that we were diligent stewards of the funds entrusted to us. As an alum, Tom is passionate for Alter High School! He cares about his alma mater and that is evident through his active leadership each year for AlterFest.

We owe these men a debt of gratitude for their tireless energy and dedicated service on behalf of Alter, as well as so many others who by your generosity of prayer, involvement, and resources made the first phase of our renovation possible.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Nicki Brainard, Principal

Happy New Year! We have much to celebrate at Alter High School as we start the new decade! While it seemed they would never end, the renovations which began this past June are finally complete and our incredible new spaces have been turned over to us for use! These rooms are many things: pristine, state-of-the-art, sacred, educational, functional, and a sign of the great things that are happening every day at Alter High School.

When we returned to school on Monday, January 4th after a restful Christmas break, we began by opening the new science wing and chapel. The students joined the faculty and staff in the blessing of our newly renovated chapel and labs. It was important to us that the student body, faculty and staff all be part of a celebration in conjunction with their use of these new facilities. Without their help and cooperation, the renovation process would not have gone so smoothly.

I would like to thank our students for their adaptability and patience, our teachers for dealing with the distractions and noise inherently associated with construction, Mrs. Groene, Mrs. Popp, Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Walter, Mr. Reeder, Mr. Thuente, Mrs. Willits and Mr. Troha for moving their professional “homes” twice with absolutely no complaints and an incredible amount of flexibility, and Mr. Schoen, Mr. Tankersley and Mr. Roark for giving up a large portion of their Christmas break to oversee and expedite the final move. The Alter Community is truly incredible and has, again, gone above and beyond the call of duty to help make these dreams a reality for our students.

As we prepare to grant another class of student’s admission to Alter I can only hope they are as wonderful as the students currently enrolled. It will be fascinating to see how their educational experiences at Alter will be enhanced as a result of these wonderful facilities and the new tools our amazing teachers now have at their disposal.

May God bless each and every one of you this New Year!

FROM GUIDANCE

By Shannon Brown and Courtney Limbert

Happy New Year Alter Community! The New Year means many graduating seniors need to seek scholarship opportunities. All scholarship requirements, awards, and deadlines are posted outside the Guidance office and are updated as new scholarships become available. Seniors should pay close attention to the deadlines for submitting required documents to ensure timely submission to the particular scholarship committee. If you have any questions about the scholarships or the process, please contact Mrs. Brown or Ms. Limbert.

This time of year is also particularly important for seniors to obtain financial aid for college. Families who plan to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form, or FAFSA, should do so as early as possible in 2010. Go to www.fafsa.gov for help filling out the form. This year's "College Goal Sunday," an event for providing individualized assistance in filing the FAFSA, will be held on Sunday, February 14th at 2:00 pm, in Anderson Hall at the University of Dayton and in the Library Annex (in the basement of Paul Laurence Dunbar Library) at Wright State University. We suggest you pre-register at <http://www.ohiocollegegoalsunday.org/> due to the high number of students utilizing this great resource. That site and the one at <http://www.collegegoalsundayusa.org/> also provide important information about the event.

Please plan to attend Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Night at Alter on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria. Representatives from Wright State University, Sinclair Community College, and the University of Dayton will be here to provide information on PSEO at their schools. For additional information, please contact the Guidance office at 428-5316.

KEY CLUB HAS RECORD SETTING TURKEY DRIVE

By Norm Rich

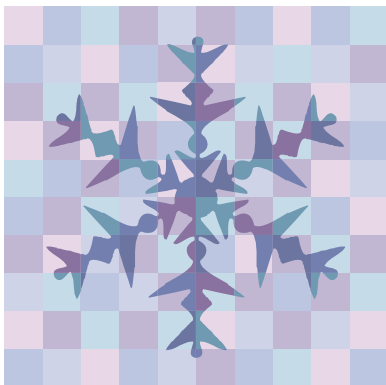
THANK YOU for everyone's support for the Turkey Drive. We collected \$8,500 (most is several years), purchased approximately 650 Turkeys, delivered about 8,000 canned goods (Dare To Care provided a quite a bit at Thanksgiving) and about 500 gifts from the Giving Tree, contributed \$400 dollars in charitable donations, and used discretionary cash to purchase peanut butter, spaghetti meals, and other goods from Cub Foods (thanks to Dennis Yux, Class of '79, for his support!). Items were delivered to St. Vincent/St James, Catholic Social Services, St. Paul's and East United Methodist while certain gifts were distributed to Montgomery County Children Services.

KEY CLUB HOSTS FEBRUARY DANCE

by Norm Rich



The Key Club is proud to host the annual "Shin-Dig" dance on Saturday, February 6th, from 8:00-11:00 pm in the gym. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from a Key Club member or through the main office. This is a special "mother-son" evening, so we hope you plan to attend!



INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

By The Advancement Office

Last week, you have received email and phone updates due to the wintry conditions. Aside from those timely contacts, we want all parents to check either WDTN Channel 2 or 7, or 107.7 FM Radio and watch/listen for a specific listing for Alter High School.

OLD(ER) KID ON THE BLOCK CHRIS LAMMLEIN – 10 YEARS AT ALTER



Mr. Chris Lammlein, Department of Mathematics, is in his 10th year teaching at Alter. To celebrate this anniversary, we asked him to answer a few questions for us.

1) *What brought you to Alter?*

In 1998, I was a radio DJ for Classic Rock 102.9 WING-FM and a recent graduate of the University of Cincinnati.

Since the radio station was just across the street from Alter, I decided to visit. While I was in the office, the academic director asked if I would be interested in doing some substitute teaching at Alter. I said “yes” and have been here ever since!

I began my teaching career with two long-term substitution assignments at Alter before getting hired full-time. My first full-time position was to teach Mechanical Drafting and Health. After a couple of years, I switched from Health to Mathematics. I still teach the Drafting class.

2) *Why have you stayed?*

I really enjoy teaching at Alter. I love being able to work with my students in and out of the classroom. In the classroom, the majority of my students are motivated to learn the concepts being presented. This is refreshing! Also, the parent support of their children’s academic careers is outstanding. During my time at Alter, I have had the opportunity to help coach the track and football teams. Due to an ideal schedule, I have been able to continue my favorite hobby – weightlifting – while simultaneously assisting others with their own strength and conditioning needs. Also, Alter has allowed me to have a lot of quality time with my own family.

3) *What are the biggest changes you seen?*

There have been many through the years. One important change is the huge increase in the use of technology. Another is the obvious construction being done at Alter. These changes will enable our students to progress to a higher level of achievement in their academic careers. I anxiously await the changes that are soon to occur at Alter and am

proud to be a part of the development and advancement of our school.

ALTER WELCOMES NEW TAYLOR RESOURCE CENTER DIRECTOR

By The Advancement Office



Though not new to the Alter Family, Coleen Walsh Petrello ‘84 is certainly new to Sinclair Community College (SCC). Coleen joined SCC, and, hence, the Alter “staff” before Christmas. We caught up with her for a brief introduction.

Q: What are your primary duties?

My primary function is to facilitate the use of the Taylor College Resource Center. Basically, that means I am the contact person for:

1. Teachers who wish to schedule their classes to use the lab for OGT preparation or AP class research
2. Students who:
 - a. are seeking assistance with their college search, the application and financial aid processes, preparing for ACTs and SATs, and essay writing tips
 - b. would like more practice on the OGT and PSAT
 - c. need remediation in any subject area by using Study Island
 - d. sign up and take classes through SCC

Q: What attracted you to Alter?

I am the youngest of 10 children who all attended Alter H.S., so I felt like a Knight before I ever entered the doors as a freshman! I received a strong academic and values-based education at Alter which prepared me not only for the academic rigor of college, but for situations I faced outside of the classroom as well. I accepted this position because I wanted to participate in the excellence that is Alter H.S.

Q: What are the biggest changes you’ve seen?

You mean besides Mr. Troha getting older?? Ha-ha! Seriously, I’d have to say the biggest changes I’ve noticed are the variety of Honors and AP classes offered, the number of computers available for student use, and the focus on Campus Ministry. I love that Stan Troha is at the helm of the Campus Ministry Department, guiding all the students to

become more involved in the faith community here at Alter. As I walk by the new, beautiful Chapel, I am reminded of one aspect of Alter that will never change: Christ-centered. As long as Christ is at its center, how can Alter not help but to succeed for years to come.

CATHOLIC HONOR BAND TO PERFORM AT UD

By Todd Tucker, Director of Bands

Alter musicians Nathan Braun, Lauren Guerriero, Mitchell Bleser and Luke Gardon were selected to participate in the Southwestern Ohio Catholic Honor Band concert. This year the concert will take place on Saturday, February 13, 3:00 pm at The University of Dayton. Admission is free. Nathan, Lauren and Mitchell are returning participants, and Luke, our newest honor band member, is in his first year.

The honor band was created by Catholic high school band directors from the Dayton and Cincinnati areas. It is an opportunity for students to play high caliber music with the best wind and percussion players from the area's Catholic schools. Last year's concert was held at The College of Mount St. Joseph and David Shafer, from Miami University, was the guest conductor. Mr. Tucker was a guest saxophone soloist and taught woodwind sectionals during the 3-day rehearsals and event.

The students will have four intensive rehearsals, including an all day rehearsal the day prior to the concert. Because of this critical rehearsal, the students are excused from school that day (not a bad perk!). The guest conductor and clinician for this year's concert is Gary Speck, Director of the Miami University Wind Ensemble.

DIGITAL ARTISTS WORK DISPLAYED

By Allyson Shank, Fine Arts Department

Congratulations to Emily Maxwell ('10) and Kayla Anderson ('09), whose photos were two (of eight submitted) retained for display at DAI in the Regional Artists Gallery, which ran from October 25, 2009 to January 3, 2010. Hosted every year by the Dayton Art Institute (DAI), the art competition features images of the Holocaust. In 2009, students in Digital 1 classes created images that made them think or feel like what it was like to be subjected to the Holocaust. For our students, that could mean a dark and distressed photo of an ordinary scene. Eight photos were submitted, but, unfortunately, none were entered for the original show which ran in the spring of 2009. Emily and Kayla's photos,

however, made the cut, which was quite an honor as many lifetime artists never achieve such a feat.

ALTER'S "HIGH-Q" TEAM IS BACK!

By Andrew Arber



Alter scholars got the new decade and year off to a great start by fielding its first "High-Q" team since 1994. On January 3, Alter competed against the Tigers of Stivers School for the Arts on Channel 7's high school quiz show. Alter's "High-Q" team is composed of juniors Kathy Hess, Emily Cata, Thomas Dalton, and John Lecomte. The Knights battled hard, but the Tigers prevailed. We are always looking for great players, so contact Mr. Arber if your son or daughter wants to get more involved.

HALL OF FAME 2010

By John Patterson

Please join the Alter community when it inducts the newest distinguished Alter alumni into its Hall of Fame on Thursday, January 28th, 6:00-9:30 pm, at Presidential Banquet Center in Kettering. Tickets are \$45 per person and \$500 to sponsor a table of ten. Then, on Friday morning, the alums will address the Alter students at a special assembly beginning at 10:15am. Limited seating is available for this event.

The Hall of Fame Class for 2010 includes Distinguished Inductees Tom Zelibor '72, Lori Dorn '79, Courtney Sheridan DeOreo '84, and Laura Portune Cordell '94. Athletic Inductees are John Crotty '69, Chris Hart '80, Brandi Kohnle Schuerman '90, and Mike Rose '96.

Contact the Advancement Office at 428-2059 for tickets and any questions you may have.

ALTER READY TO LAUNCH ITS SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS!

By John Patterson

With the vehicles families use to communicate evolving so rapidly, Alter, too, is adapting to meet the information and communication demands of a changing parent and student population—through social media platforms like Facebook™, Twitter™, and YouTube™. Like business owners who seek to retain current clients and attract future customers, Alter seeks to retain its current Knights and attract future ones! Also, Alter must continually prepare its students for college and beyond and this is another step in that process. Alter High School's "Official Fan Page" on Facebook will go live on January 15. Stay tuned for campus news and alumni events "twittered" or "friended" to you during your commute, at your workout, to your desktop, or in the comfort of your recliner!

ALTER READIES FOR SCIENCE OLYMPIAD STATE COMPETITION!

By Jennifer Butler, Science Department

Alter's Science Olympiad team just competed at Northmont High School's Invitational on Saturday, January 9, to gain experience and prepare for state competition. Alter has competed in this national science competition for over 10 years—3 of those years Alter's team went to state! This competition goes above and beyond the typical science classroom experience as it covers 22 different subjects, including Cell Biology, Forensics, Chemistry and Physics Lab, and several engineering areas. Working in teams of two, fifteen students cover these 22 subject events. The next invitational occurs on March 6, followed by the state-determining regional competition on March 20.



Matthew Sill and Jacob Schreck testing their Mission Possible.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT HOSTS ANATOMY EXPERT, LEARNS ABOUT GENETICS

By Bonnie Walter



Dr. Mike Ewald speaks with anatomy class.

To conclude the unit on the skeleton, Dr. Mike Ewald, father of Claire (2011), was a guest speaker for our anatomy classes. Dr. Ewald is a practicing chiropractor and a physician for the Dayton Dragons. He gave his perspective on health issues and discussed topics regarding muscles and bones as they relate to sports which a chiropractor can possibly cure. In addition, he discussed the importance of nutrition and bone health. Speakers are an important part of Alter's science program so we provide students practical application to the theories discussed in class. Thank you Dr. Ewald!

On December 11, AP Biology students attended a 4-hour genetics conference at Oakwood High School given by Dr. Sam Rhine of Indiana University. His lectures are engaging and informative and covered the new understanding of the role of RNA, gene control, and possibilities for curing some diseases. Students especially enjoyed the discussion on stem cells and the importance of science literacy. This conference not only enriched the students and their understanding of genetics, but can open doors to careers in research and medicine.

**PHONATHON 2010
FEBRUARY 7-11
ALTER LIBRARY**