Put over the top by responding to the $250,000 TRUSTEE CHALLENGE before June 30, 2010:

Give at any level and be recognized as a donor to Grow to Inspire: The Campaign for Neumann University.

Give $1,000 or more to become a patron, and your name will be inscribed on the donor wall in the Mirenda Center.

Call 610-558-5513 for details.

Grow to Inspire Announces Trustee Challenge

Grow to Inspire: The Campaign for Neumann University has entered its final stages, but that doesn’t mean the activity has slowed. With the announcement of the $250,000 Trustee Challenge by Board Chair Jay Devine, the campaign begins its final drive to the finish line — $6,500,000.

As of December 15, 2009, the campaign had raised more than $5,500,000 in support of the projects funded by the campaign — the construction of St. John Neumann Circle and the Mirenda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development. The Board of Trustees has spearheaded the fundraising for the campaign through pledges and outright gifts exceeding $2.5 million. This total is reflective of the enthusiastic support the Board has committed to these projects since their conception.

To recognize this support, and to challenge the rest of the Neumann University community to back these important projects, the Trustee Challenge has been instituted. All gifts, regardless of level, will be recognized as donors to Grow to Inspire. Donors of $1,000 or more will be recognized as patrons of the campaign and permanently honored as part of the donor wall housed within the Mirenda Center. All are asked to consider supporting this important initiative to provide the key funding that will put Grow to Inspire over the top.

For more information, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement and University Relations at 610-558-5513.

Jay Devine, chairperson of the Board of Trustees, announced the Trustee Challenge at the opening of the Mirenda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development.
Students are already benefiting from the Title III Grant Neumann was recently awarded. The school received the $1.9 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the Title III, Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP).

The grant focuses on enhancing student experience and improving academic success through the creation of a walk in Academic Advising Center, the centralization of Developmental Education and the enrichment of Neumann’s INT 101, Freshman Experience course. Taken together these initiatives are designed to strengthen retention and persistence to graduation. The five-year grant is also designed to help build a stronger sense of community in order to better meet the needs and expectations of “millennial learners” (those students born in 1982 and after).

Gerard P. O’Sullivan, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs, serves as Title III coordinator and monitors successful implementation of the program. Michael Mullen has been appointed Director of Academic Advising and Lori Pellecki serves as Director of Developmental Education. "Mike Mullen brings an excellent and extensive record of working with students to his new role, and Lori has years of experience as a reading specialist and a developmental educator. Lori will help division deans and faculty better coordinate teaching and learning across all sections of our pre-100 level courses," said O’Sullivan.

“We're especially interested in helping our students improve their math skills. Quantitative reasoning skills are indispensable for success across all disciplines, and we believe that numeracy, or math literacy, is just as important to the success of our students as the ability to read, write, and communicate clearly,” said O’Sullivan.

Neumann is highly committed to ensuring that the practices and improvements implemented through the grant will become a permanent part of the institution’s budget, planning, and culture. Construction on the new Academic Advising Center was completed in March of 2009. “In a few short months, hundreds of Neumann students have benefitted from one-on-one advising sessions held in the Center. Our full-time and part-time advisors work with students and their faculty advisors to enhance and streamline the advising experience,” said O’Sullivan.

The grant proposal received a perfect score of 100 points from three external readers. "The score reinforced our beliefs that the plan we proposed was solid, and the goals were not only ambitious, but attainable,” said O’Sullivan. Dr. O’Sullivan wrote the grant proposal with Henry Sumner, vice president for institutional advancement and university relations; Theresa Huke, director of the John C. Ford Academic Resource Center; and Dr. Ayshe Ergin, director of Institutional Research, among others.
Peter and the Wolf Marks Tenth Year of "Evening In" Celebration

The Arts Guild at Neumann University celebrated the tenth anniversary of the “Evening In” series with an entertaining production of Sergei Prokoviev’s Peter and the Wolf on January 8. The Delaware County Symphony and International Ballet Classique, both Guild members, collaborated to bring the well known children’s work to life in the third and last year of the event’s Russian theme.

The final Evening in St. Petersburg stayed true to the format that had made its Viennese and Roman predecessors so popular: sumptuous food in the Great Hall, marvelous entertainment in the Meagher Theatre, and a champagne and dessert reception until midnight. In its ten years, the annual fundraiser has generated $200,000 to support the arts on campus. Proceeds have been used to help purchase a Steinway concert grand piano, improve the technical capabilities of the theater with lighting and sound systems, and enhance the appearance of the hall with new upholstery and carpeting.

The St. Petersburg cycle ended with a very popular show. In 1936, the Central Children’s Theatre in Moscow commissioned Prokoviev (1891 – 1953) to write a new musical symphony for children. The goal of the piece is to cultivate an appreciation for classical music in youngsters although the character of Peter also embodies a number of virtues that the Russian composer seemingly admired — curiosity that engenders rebelliousness, cleverness at solving problems, and courage in the face of danger.

Under the baton of Conductor Roberta Winemiller, the Symphony captured the leitmotifs of Prokoviev’s work (a different musical theme for each character in the story) with playfulness and energy. International Ballet Classique’s Denis Gronostayskii, artistic director, choreographed performances that blended precision with grace. Anastasia Babeyeva, ballet mistress, collaborated with Tina Fanjoy and Gronostayskii on the marvelous costume design. Gronostayskii and Babeyeva are graduates of the esteemed Bolshoi Ballet Academy,

Little does the Duck (Hallie Rumsey-Lasersohn) know that she would later become the Wolf’s dinner.
one of the world’s finest and most exclusive schools of ballet study.

Dancers included Leonid Goykhman (Peter), Esmiana Jani (Bird), Jane Caldwell-Koorts (Cat), Casper Koorts (Wolf), Hallie Rumsey-Lasersohn (Duck), and Matthew Scruggs (Grandfather). The Hunters in the production were Nicole Handy, 14; Bethany Schwartz, 14; and Kelsey Tierney, 12.

Narrator Vicki Giunta from Stages of Imagination, another Arts Guild group, added her voice to the impressive list of performers who have mesmerized audiences with entrancing storytelling: Arthur Godfrey, Jose Ferrer, Sir Ralph Richardson, and Sir John Gielgud.

Mary Moody, owner of In the Mood to Cruise and Travel, was honored for ten years of generous support for the arts at Neumann. Every year, Moody’s company donates round-trip airfare to the city that is featured during the evening’s performance. A raffle for her donated tickets always results in additional funding for the arts on campus.

After three years in Vienna, Austria, four in Rome, Italy, and three in St. Petersburg, Russia, the “Evening In” series will move to Dublin, Ireland, on January 7, 2011.