Homecoming at Neumann this year celebrated some recent milestones for the school. The new Mirenda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development was officially opened, and signs of University status were everywhere. More than 1,200 alumni, students, and families attended the event.

“'This year’s homecoming was special because we were celebrating our first year as a University and the new additions to Neumann’s campus. Most of all, this homecoming was a celebration of all the people that truly make up our Neumann family: alumni, students, parents, and friends. It only seemed natural to make the theme ‘All about U,’ the ‘U’ obviously meaning our University status, but more importantly symbolizing ‘you’—each person who helped in the growth and success of Neumann,” said Judi Stanaitis ’07, director of alumni relations and special programs.

The celebration kicked off with the fourth annual king and queen of homecoming pageant on Thursday, October 15, with senior Dorian Long and sophomore Jessica Foulks taking the crown. “The pageant drew a standing-room-only crowd and was a fun start to the week,” said Stanaitis.

Due to inclement weather, the pep rally and spirit car contest and fireworks had to be canceled on Friday night. Saturday began with the PGH and Neumann Nursing lecture series with Patricia D’Antonio, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, associate professor and associate director of the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. D’Antonio’s lecture, “A New Historical Perspective on Nursing Education,” acknowledged the importance of strict discipline, loyalty, and obedience, using writings of nurses themselves.

The lecture was followed by the opening and blessing of the new Mirenda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character development. Construction on the new building began last year, and Cardinal Justin Rigali, archbishop of Philadelphia, was on hand to bless the new facility. At the ceremony, Jay Devine, chair of the Board of Trustees, announced that the building would be named in honor of the president of Neumann, Rosalie Mirenda, and her husband Tony. Student ambassadors were also ready to give tours of the building.

Students break out into a spontaneous YMCA dance to surprise attendees enjoying the carnival.

Homecoming King and Queen Jessica Foulkes and Dorian Long were crowned at the pageant to kick off Homecoming weekend at Neumann.
First University Homecoming a Success!

“Despite the nor’easter that dumped a steady flow of rain, the party went on as planned! There were so many moments I will never forget,” said Stanaitis. Attendees were treated to lunch and an indoor carnival featuring games, face painters, a juggler, and a magician. Hot chocolate and marshmallows were available to help warm guests up from the cold rain outside. Students also broke out into an impromptu dance to surprise the crowd with hits like the Village People’s “YMCA.”

There was also a women’s volleyball tri-match to open the new Mirenda Center. The Knights of the Round Table dinner followed with guests enjoying the company of President Mirenda, the newly crowned King and Queen of Neumann, and the royal court. Saturday ended with Beatlemania, the Tribute! A Fab Four performance mixed with music and combined with authentic costumes, vocals, and vintage equipment. “The audience at Beatlemania was literally singing out loud and dancing in the aisles. No one in attendance will forget that event,” said Stanaitis.

Homecoming weekend concluded with a homecoming mass on Sunday followed by the Alumni Awards brunch. The class of 1967 received the President’s Distinguished Alumni Award for exemplifying the characteristics of leadership, dedication, and a commitment to Neumann University.

The John Neumann Award for outstanding alumni went to Rogers Glispy ‘03 for his work with the International Student Athlete Academy, Inc. (ISAA), a non-profit organization based in Philadelphia. With Roger’s help, the ISAA has placed hundreds of students into college, most on scholarship. The award is presented to alumni who, through their own professional development, service to Neumann University, and community service, exemplify the values of the University.

Elena Barrar ’06 received the Alumni Association Volunteer of the Year Award for outstanding alumni who demonstrate a personal commitment to the University and to the Neumann Alumni Association through volunteer service. Megan Zabel ’92 received the Alumni Association Recognition Award for alumni who have shown dedication and devoted service to Neumann.

“Homecoming this year was a true family reunion. With the excitement about the new Center and St. John Neumann Circle, this is ‘Neumann’s time.’ More people wanted to be a part of homecoming this year. Our students and the Office of Student Activities deserve a standing ovation. Their involvement created an energy and spirit that set the tone for the week,” said Stanaitis.
Bock Book Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

Neumann University celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Bock Book Award on October 6, by awarding the prize to Zen Ties by Jon Muth. The Frances and Wesley Bock Book Award for Children’s Literature is awarded each year by the Neumann University Library and the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies.

Zen Ties is a disarming story of compassion and friendship that reaffirms the importance of our ties to one another. “Zen Ties was chosen for representing the Franciscan value of sharing and also because of the intergenerational kindness — the children helping the elderly woman and her returning the favor,” said Mike Powell, director of library services.

Muth visited Neumann with his wife and two young children and gave a reading of the book to children from the Child Development Center. Following the reading he demonstrated how the illustrations from the book are made, using Japanese brushes and special black ink. Afterwards the children were treated to a reception in the Bachmann Main Building lobby.

“I thought the presentation was wonderful. I was pleased he took the time to draw and engage the children and describe the different types of brushes he used. Muth even gave us the illustrations when he was finished,” said Powell.

The award acknowledges Franciscan values in children’s books and gives each year’s winner a prize of $500, a plaque, and a gold emblazoned emblem for the book. The text for the winning book must be values-oriented, interesting, and stimulating for ages 3-8 years, and pleasing and aesthetic. The illustrations should provide support for interpreting the story, instill a reverence and compassion for all creation, and depict creation in all of its diversity. Both the text and illustrations should promote a moral attitude and/or action.

Previous winners include We Are One by Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell, 2008; Brother Juniper by Diane Gibfried, 2007; Daniel and His Walking Stick by Wendy McCormick, 2006; Boxes for Katje by Candace Fleming, 2005; The Boy with a Wish by Harry B. Knights, 2004; In the Blink of an Eye by Dieter Wiesmuller, 2003; Where Does God Live? by Holly Bea, illustrated by Kim Howard, 2002; Each Living Thing by Joanne Ryder, illustrated by Ashley Wolff, 2001; and Saint Francis and the Christmas Donkey by Robert Byrd, 2000.
Philosophy Professor Uses Music to Teach Ethics


Written in language that is straightforward and, according to Mizzoni, “genuinely introductory,” the book addresses three theoretical problems (Where do ethical standards come from, are these standards relative, and what is human nature?) and one very practical issue: What makes something morally right or wrong?

It’s the last question that generates excitement among his students. “I want my students to use their critical thinking skills and apply abstract principles to specific examples,” explains Mizzoni, who began teaching at Neumann in the fall of 2000. In addition to following each chapter with a discussion question that involves popular music, the professor also uses local and national news stories as illustrations of ethical issues that range from capital punishment and fetal alcohol syndrome to euthanasia and civil disobedience.

In the introduction, Mizzoni writes, “What I am offering is a framework to help you organize a truly bewildering array of philosophical questions about ethics.” He reminds students that ethical questions are not avoidable. “You are living a life right now, so you have no choice but to attempt to deal with the problem and answer the questions: How should I live my life? What makes an action morally right or wrong? And how should I determine the right thing to do?”

Mizzoni is also a singer-songwriter and uses one of his own songs, *Should I Do It?*, to illustrate thought-provoking ethical questions. A fusion of pop, rock, and folk, the single is from Mizzoni’s forthcoming CD, *Lose My Cool*. The song is available for sale at www.myspace.com/johnmizzoni.

The book, published by Wiley-Blackwell, can be purchased in the University store or through Amazon for $29.95. In addition to the book, Mizzoni’s scholarship on ethics generated three published articles in 2009, including *What Would Darwin Make of Bernard Madoff?* (July 3, Newsday.com).

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**Distinguished Alumni Honored at Homecoming**

Six distinguished alumni joined Dr. Rosalie Mirenda, University president (center), and Cheryl Wanner ’99, president of the Alumni Association (right), at the 2009 Alumni Awards Brunch. The honorees (holding plaques) are Pauline M. Lutostanski ’67, Eleanor M. Haworth ’67, Sr. Kathleen M. Moffatt, OSF ’67, Sr. Kathleen McCabe, OSF ’67, Rogers Glispy ’03, and Elena Barrar ’06.
The fall lineup of classical and cultural performances by the Arts Guild offered a broad menu of entertainment options. From an educational program on zoo animals to symphonic treatments of works by Liszt and Rachmaninov, there was something for everyone from eight to 80.

For the younger set, there was the Philadelphia Zoo on Wheels, a show which provided tons of information about the history of the institution that was founded in 1859 and featured some very special four-legged visitors to the Meagher Theatre. Stages of Imagination, the award-winning children’s theater group, brought its original play, Wooden Heart, to life on stage for pre-k through 5th-graders in November and December. The show focuses on the interaction between young Tommy and the toys that come alive in his playroom to teach him about problem solving, sharing feelings, and coping with grief.

For fans of classical music, the Delaware County Symphony presented an October concert entitled Saints and Demons, which included Piano Concerto No. 1 by Franz Liszt and Symphonic Dances by Sergei Rachmaninov. The orchestra closed the semester in December with The Three Bs, featuring compositions by Beethoven, Brahms and Bach. The Symphony also performed two chamber concerts in the fall with selections by Haydn, Schumann, Prokoviev, and others.

Faculty members Terence Gleeson, Yukiko Ishida and Richard Sayers led university-sponsored Arts Guild groups through memorable fall performances. In a thought-provoking show that challenged conventional notions of art and reality, Gleeson’s University Players staged Six Characters in Search of an Author. Action in the Pirandello play is launched when a group of people who call themselves “characters” demand that a group of rehearsing actors create a play that brings the characters to life.

Yukiko Ishida (recently appointed a Goodwill Ambassador by Hakodate, Japan) directed the University Concert Chorale in its performance of Holiday Treats, the 2009 version of the group’s Christmas concert. The Chorale sang The Mystery and the Majesty and other holiday selections to an overflow crowd. The group regularly performs to standing-room-only audiences in the 300-seat Meagher Theatre.
The University Concert Chorale entertained a full house with its annual holiday concert.

For its annual December concert, the University Jazz Band, under the direction of Rick Sayers, mixed in a few Christmas tunes to the delight of the audience. In addition, the group performed big band standards, classic jazz, and creative arrangements of pop and rock favorites.

Adding even more spice to the fall slate were faculty concerts by Maria José Parker and Yukiko Ishida and Cultural Arts Forum presentations that included a lecture on Victorian women, a glee club concert, and a sophisticated fashion show.

Rounding out the fall schedule was the International Ballet Classique’s marvelous production of The Nutcracker, another show that played to sold-out houses.

For the spring 2010 Arts Guild schedule, see the inside back cover of this issue.