Among the Best — Again
Once again, Neumann is one of the best colleges and universities in the Northeast according to The Princeton Review. The education services company selected the school as one of 218 institutions it profiles in the “Best in the Northeast” section on its website and in its book, The Best Northeastern Colleges: 2010 Edition.

In the book’s profile on Neumann, The Review describes the college as delivering “an environment that fosters personal and academic development” and favoring “applicants who demonstrate a high degree of potential.” The 640 colleges named to “regional best” lists across the country represent about 25% of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges.

Puppy Love
Fr. Jude Michael Krill blessed more than 50 pets at the annual Blessing of the Animals on October 4, including one cute puppy that seemed very much at home in the University Chaplain’s arms.

New Business Dean
Elizabeth M. Doherty is the new dean of business and information management at Neumann. As the dean, Doherty will be responsible for directing and implementing the program, curriculum, courses, and methods of instruction and evaluation in the division.

Doherty graduated cum laude from Lawrence University and received her master’s degree in social work and Ph.D. in organizational behavior from Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. She formerly served as chair and associate professor of the department of management at St. Joseph’s University.

Folly with a Purpose
Sean McDonald ’09, radio coordinator, belts out Piano Man during Faculty Follies, the annual event to raise money for the Stephanie Marek Performing Arts Scholarship.
Our Own Radio Star

Junior Megan Ingenbrandt, above, received the best on-air personality award for her show, “Socially Awkward” at the Philadelphia Achievement In Radio (AIR) Awards on November 5. “Socially Awkward” airs on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and features rock music mixed with random fun facts.

Ingenbrandt has been with the radio station for three years and beat out students from Kutztown, Cabrini, and Rowan for the award. The AIR awards program, now in its 16th year, is an annual March of Dimes fund-raising event, honoring and celebrating Philadelphia-area achievement in radio.

Stars on the Radio

*Going Deeper with Sports*, an interview show on NU Radio, featured a lineup of notable athletes and writers this fall: former Nittany Lion Adam Taliaferro, who recovered from a paralyzing spinal cord injury; retired NFL players Jack Scarbath and Freddie Scott; current WNBA player Swin Cash; and thought-provoking columnist Dave Zirin.

Staff of the Institute for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development host the 60-minute program that airs Mondays at 11 a.m.

Miss Mayo Relishes Role

Sophomore Caitlin Lotty, a nursing major, has been named Miss Mayo by the Mayo Association of Philadelphia. The Association sponsors the annual pageant to encourage cultural and charitable development in young women in Philadelphia’s Irish-American community. Contestants are judged on their character, integrity, poise, community involvement, appearance, and awareness of their cultural identity.

Lotty is a first-generation Irish-American and her family has history in five counties in Ireland. As Miss Mayo, she will represent the Mayo Association at the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, the Mayo Christmas Party, the Mayo Social, the Our Lady of Knock Mass, and other events sponsored by the society.

Tips from a TV Pro

Bill Baldini, a longtime news reporter for NBC 10, spoke to the first group of Neumann students inducted into Lambda Pi Eta, the national communications honor society, at a December ceremony. The students honored Baldini, who worked as a television journalist for 42 years, by making him an honorary member of the society.

“When you’re in the news media, people trust you, they believe in you. So you have a responsibility to be ethical,” Baldini told the group. “Leave your biases at the door and never, ever, misrepresent a material fact.”
$300,000 for Neumann Circle

Neumann has been awarded a $300,000 grant from the Connelly Foundation to support the construction of St. John Neumann Circle, the new pedestrian hub of the campus.

St. John Neumann Circle is a major component of the University’s Grow to Inspire Campaign, an initiative that has reshaped the 68-acre campus and connected the academic, social, residential and athletic sections of the grounds. The Circle is the new gateway to the University, providing a broad, open space for visitors and students alike as they walk to classes, sporting events or concerts.

The Neumann Circle overtly reflects the University’s commitment and promise to the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia and to their values and legacy; when completed, it will symbolize Neumann’s commitment to its Catholic identity and to the saint whose name it bears . . . St. John Neumann.

According to Dr. Rosalie Mirenda, president of the University, “The Circle will serve as a beacon of hope through education and will offer a welcoming spot: a center to gather; an open space for reflection, conversation and prayer; a classroom amidst nature; and a sacred space to learn about our founding and history.”

The Circle, already open to pedestrian traffic, is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010. The other main component of the campaign, the Mirenda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development, opened on October 17.

“Grow to Inspire is our most important initiative to date,” explains Dr. Mirenda, “because it creates a fully integrated campus environment that supports our educational mission — inspiring young men and women to value learning, faith and service to others. This generous gift from the Connelly Foundation will allow us to help our students grow and find inspiration.”

The Connelly Foundation seeks to foster learning and to improve the quality of life in the Greater Philadelphia area. The Foundation supports local non-profit organizations in the fields of education, health and human services, arts and culture and civic enterprise.

Inspired by the spirit of its founders, John and Josephine Connelly, the Foundation assists members of the community to attain more fulfilling and productive lives by providing incentives to learn, encouragement to achieve, and reasons to hope.
Beauty in the Franciscan Tradition

The Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies hosted its first semester-long visiting scholar last semester. Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ, spent the fall at Neumann, lecturing and speaking on her new book, as well as touring the east coast.

Sr. Mary Beth’s journey to Neumann started when she was in graduate school in Switzerland. Not a Franciscan, she was doing her doctoral work at the University of Fribourg when her director told her he had a dream and that he thought she should focus on Franciscan ethics. “I began studying Scotus and never managed to move into Ockham. I did my doctoral work on Scotus, and my focus has really been doing work on beauty as a specific Franciscan theory.”

She was invited to Neumann while on sabbatical from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California. “We hoped that Sr. Mary Beth would help us to understand more fully the Catholic Franciscan intellectual tradition.”

We wanted to generate conversations among faculty, staff, administrators, and graduate students. We also asked her to share her insights and experience in trying to integrate the Franciscan tradition into the curriculum,” said Sr. Pat Hutchison, OSF, director of the Neumann Institute.

While on campus Sr. Mary Beth presented several lectures, including the Welcome Back Day lecture to faculty and staff; “Faith Seeking Understanding: The Relationship of Reason to Faith in Catholic Higher Education” to faculty and administrators; and “Mindful of Our Dignity: the Human Person and Scotus’ Moral Perspective” to graduate students and faculty in the Pastoral Care and Counseling department. She also consulted with several faculty members and facilitated discussions based on her book, *Rejoicing in the Works of the Lord: Beauty in the Franciscan Tradition*.

This book is currently at the press and is an introduction to the theme of beauty as it appears within the two main traditions of Francis: Bonaventure and Scotus. “The idea is to see beauty not as something in a museum, but being surrounded by beauty as a spiritual and moral vision,” she said.

While at Neumann, Sr. Mary Beth was able to take in a Phillies game and visit Gettysburg. “It was moving to see and hear the battle and what a deep tragedy it was for the nation,” she said. She also traveled to New York and New Orleans to give the presidential address at the American Catholic Philosophical Association.

Sr. Mary Beth left campus in November to return to California. “My experience at Neumann has been rich and deep. It has been an opportunity for encouragement for the wonderful things already happening on campus,” she said.

Sr. Pat Hutchison agrees, “I believe that many of our Neumann personnel are thinking more intentionally about the Catholic Franciscan intellectual tradition and how the tradition can come alive on our campus and within the curriculum. Sr. Mary Beth’s interaction with the graduate students in Pastoral Care and Counseling also promoted thought and discussion. I believe that we will continue to ‘break open’ all that Sr. Mary Beth has shared with us.”

Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ