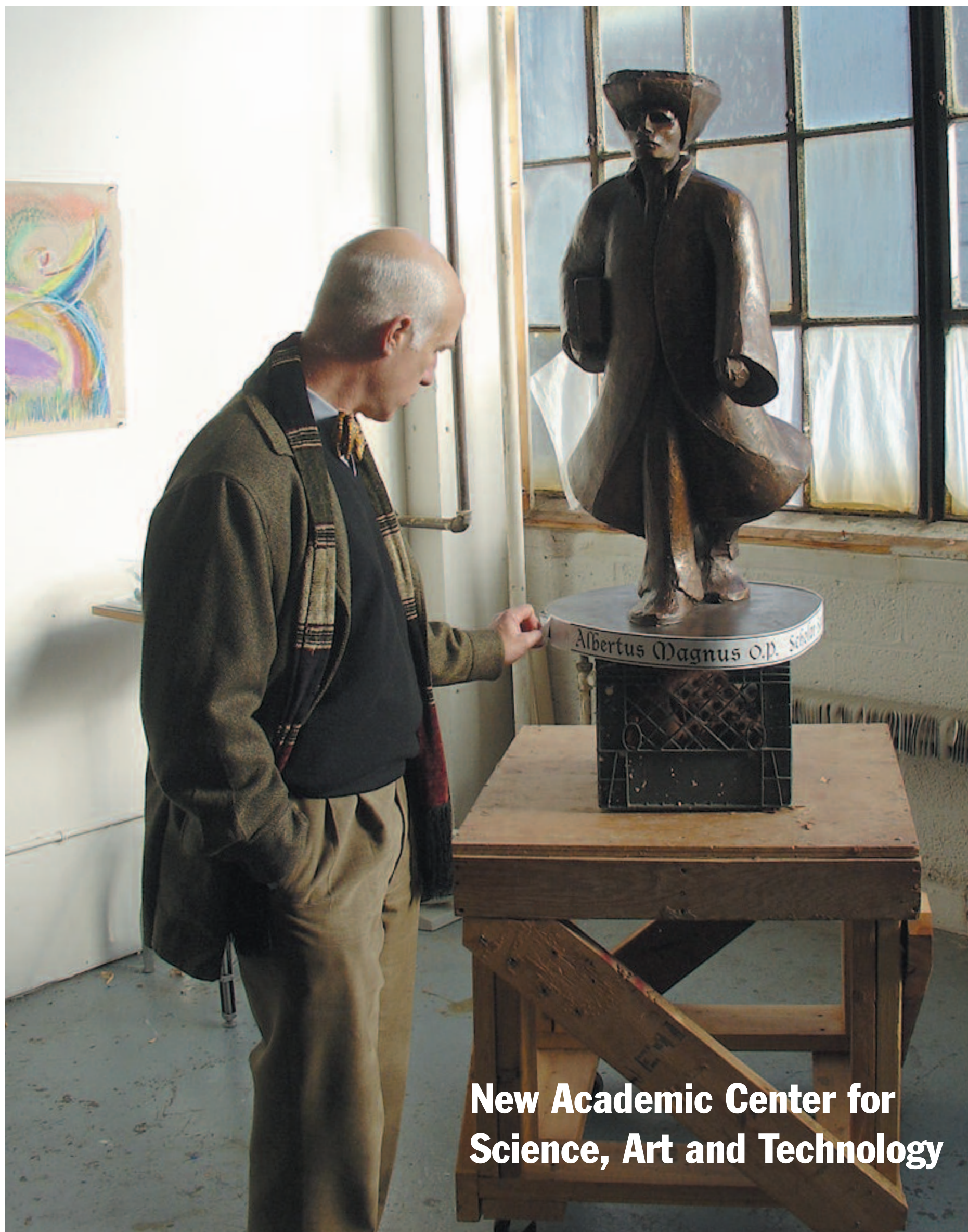


# From the Hill



The Publication for Alumni of Albertus Magnus College

SPECIAL INSERT DECEMBER 2004



**New Academic Center for  
Science, Art and Technology**

Architect Barry Svigals of Svigals + Partners checks the inscription on the one-third-size model of the statue of Albert the Great he created for the entryway of the new building. General contractor for the building is Pavarini Construction Company of Stamford.





## Here's a look at four major design elements of the Academic Center.

### Caryatid

A nine-foot-tall bronze sculpture of Albert in full stride and boots supports the canopy over the main entrance to the building and greets those entering. In his lifetime Albert was known as the “Bishop in Boots” because he walked everywhere. Barry Svigals, principal of Svigals + Partners, the architectural design firm for the Academic Center, created the statue after studying the life and times of Albert.



An early-stage model of the St. Albert statue.



### Tides of the Mind

A water wall is at the heart of the Academic Center's atrium, which is dedicated to St. Albert and sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs. Etched on the wall's 20-foot-high glass are the titles of every text or “book” that Albert wrote. The texts on philosophy and theology, and the sciences, Hoyt notes, “come together as two streams of thought; they are represented here in variants of a single typeface.” The positioning of the type creates the illusion of a flowing body of water.

A variable-speed pump, controlled by a networked computer, regulates the water flow based on the tides in New Haven Harbor. As the tidal patterns change, the computer downloads tidal charts from several independent web sites and reformats the information into electrical pulses, which pump more or less water over the wall to correspond to the real ebb and flow of the tides.



*The Academic Center for Science, Art and Technology symbolizes the spirit and achievements of St. Albert the Great—Albertus Magnus—patron of the College. No matter where one looks in the building, there are evocations of this medieval scholar and theologian—described by a contemporary as “so superior in every science that he can fittingly be called the wonder and miracle of his time.”*

“With this new facility, we celebrate the mission of the Dominicans, which is to contemplate and to give to others the fruits of contemplation. It is what we as a College community have always tried to do through the hard work of teaching and learning—the heart and soul of any academic enterprise,” says President Julia M. McNamara. “This Academic Center speaks of the wisdom, the ministry, the love of science and the scholarship of Albert, a man of the people with his own special focus,

strength of character and personal resolve. Everything about this building is open, and everything reflects the Dominican tradition.”

Albert’s writings on theology and philosophy, and the sciences inspired the building’s environmental design program and Randall E. Hoyt, its creator. “The design elements unite with architecture to form a gateway of discovery into the mind of Albertus Magnus. We are inviting the universe into the everyday,” he says.

### Writing of the Mind

Latin phrases reflecting the College’s Dominican heritage and mission encircle the perimeter of the building and the atrium’s balcony. The letters are sheet aluminum, and on the outside wall they are inverted and cut so that one reads the space around the letters rather than the letters themselves. “By abstracting the letters, we make them symbols of acts of faith and intuition. It’s often the understanding of what surrounds a thought that leads to its comprehension,” Hoyt says.

Insight, the College’s new general education program, also reflects this Dominican heritage: providing an education that helps students develop the skills necessary for insight into the self and the world, and that prepares them for lives that are personally and professionally fulfilling and socially responsible.

The word CONTEMPLATA—to contemplate—appears on the west elevation, and the text continues on the opposite side of the building with ALIIS TRADERE. Together, these words form the Dominican motto: to give to others the fruits of contemplation; it through these words that College’s heritage passes to future generations of students.

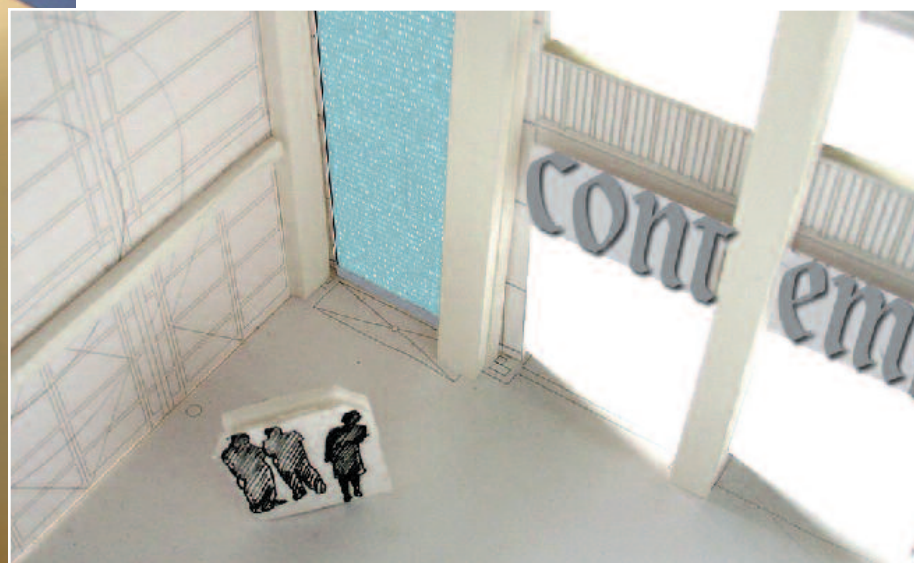
On the north side of the building, the text continues with the Dominican phrase: LAUDARE, BENEDICERE, PRAEDICARE, “to praise, to bless, and to preach.”

The phrase CONTEMPLATA ALIIS TRADERE is repeated across the atrium’s balcony and, the designer notes, “symbolically embraces the heart of the building and its mission as a center of knowledge.” The interior letterforms are not inverted, but “present the letters themselves in perfect reflection with the external texts.”



### Light of the Mind

As the sun moves across the sky, it will shine through the southern window wall of the Academic Center. Incorporated into the window is an etched glass representation of the College’s seal; light streaming through the red center of the seal will light specific floor tiles that represent significant Dominican, academic and solar dates at one o’clock on the specific date. The atrium becomes a giant solar calendar. *(For more information about the tiles, see the following page.)*





# Tile Sponsorship Available to Alumni

Robert J. Buccino, the College's vice president for advancement and planning, has vivid memories of Reunion on June 14, 2003: "That is the day President McNamara made the first public announcement of our plans to construct our magnificent Academic Center for Science, Art and Technology. Alumni greeted the news with resounding applause, especially Dr. Evelyn Garrity, Class of 1948, Professor *Emerita* and retired department chair, a longtime advocate for a new science facility.

"It was a wonderful moment in the history of the College and in the College's relationship with its largest group of stockholders—the women and men who have graduated from Albertus Magnus College," he says.

The Academic Center with 20,000-square feet of new and renovated space devoted to education has become his passion. "I love it, and I know that visiting alumni will find it extraordinary... and be very proud of their *alma mater*. Putting on my planning hat—and these days it's often a real hard hat for weekly construction project team updates at the site—I see the building as a symbol of the College's strategic planning process, the place where all of the initiatives come together."

Many alumni have generously supported the private and public phases of the current Capital Campaign to raise funds for the construction, outfitting and installation of leading edge technology for the Academic Center, and to grow the College's endowment. "Their encouragement and their commitment were crucial," he points out.



During the year, specific tiles on the atrium's floor will be illuminated by a beam of light streaming through College's seal set into the southern window wall of the Academic Center.

Now, as the College closes in on the \$5.5 million campaign goal, alumni have the opportunity to help put the "Finishing Touches" on this campaign. Participation in the tile program is available with a gift/pledge of \$2,500.

"This is a great way to honor the College and its mission of service," says Buccino. "Names of these donors will be inscribed on a wall plaque displayed in the atrium. We will not associate a specific tile with a specific donor, but rather acknowledge all who participate in the tile program."

**Alumni wishing to pledge \$2,500 for tile sponsorship may e-mail a pledge commitment to [alumni@albertus.edu](mailto:alumni@albertus.edu), fax it to 203-785-8652 or call 203-773-8502. Checks should be sent to the Office of Advancement, Albertus Magnus College, 700 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511. Gifts for the tile program should be made by June 30, 2005, the end of the College's 2004–2005 fiscal year.**

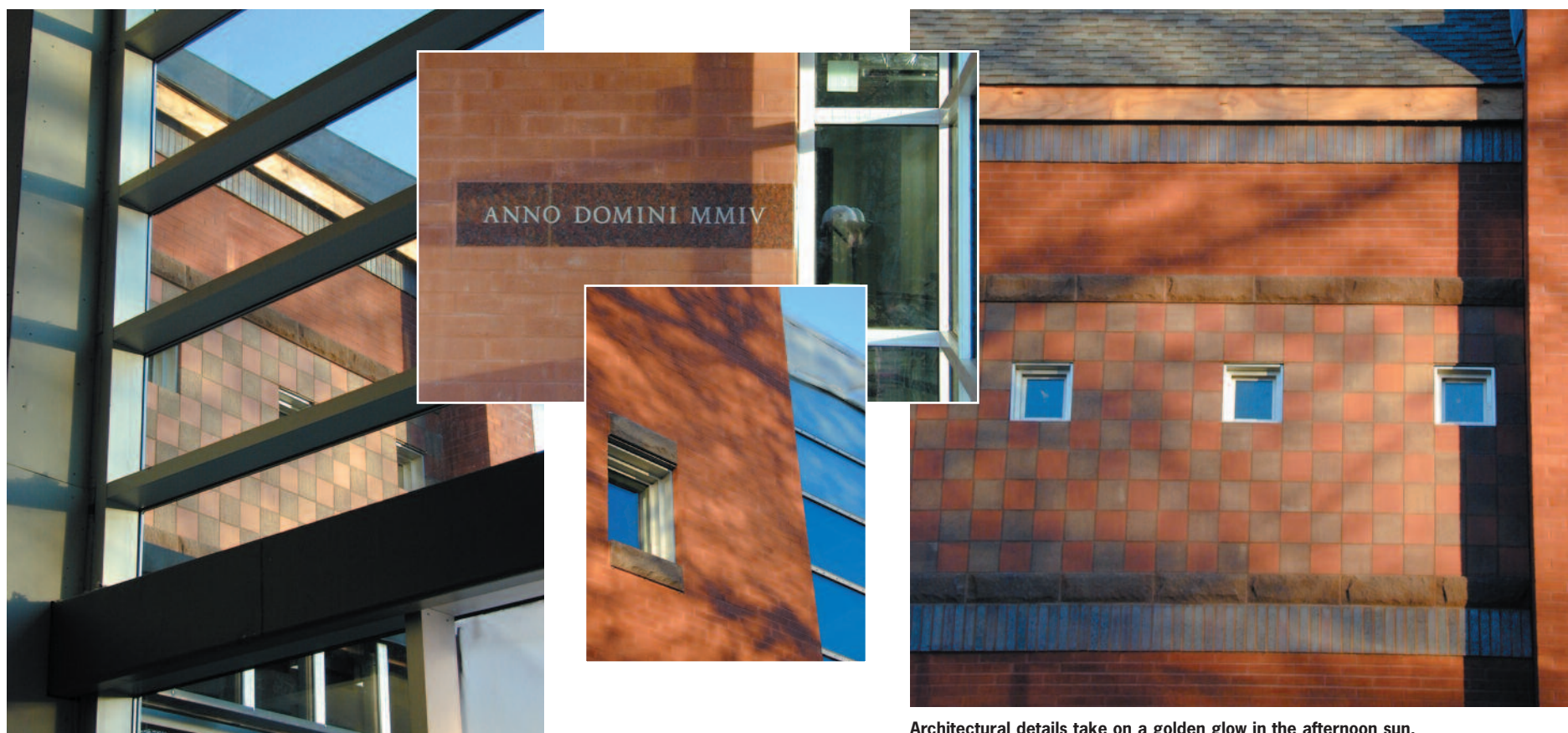
## Among the special tiles are ones honoring...

*The founding of the College*

*The Feast of St. Albert*

*The Feast of St. Catherine*

*Rosary Hall, the College's first building*



Architectural details take on a golden glow in the afternoon sun.

Carolyn Behan '86

## From the Hill



Keeping in touch with alumni of Albertus Magnus College who remember their days on Prospect Hill.

A Catholic College in the Dominican Tradition

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Photographs courtesy of Randall Hoyt

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