Final frontier in theology? ‘Star Trek’ for college credit

By Gloria A. Hoffner
INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

ALLENTOWN — Everyone knows there are religious differences between Jews and Muslims, Bajorans and Klingons.

At Muhlenberg College, the conflicts are term-paper subjects for students enrolled in “Topics in the Study of Religion: Religions of Star Trek.” The three-credit course comparing Gene Roddenberry’s fictional future to human spiritual life is the creation of Susan L. Schwartz, associate professor of religion and a Star Trek fan.

A Muhlenberg College professor for 16 years, Susan L. Schwartz, 52, has been teaching “Religions of Star Trek” since 1998. A fan of the TV shows and movies, she uses them to explore spiritual issues.