Scientists Clothed In Values

Traditionally, most liberal arts institutions in the 20th century based their curriculum solely on liberal arts. But Benedictines at St. Procopius College (the early Benedictine University) were visionary men. In 1908, they predicted that science would shake up the world. And they wanted to be part of that future.

Those early monks were the giants who established a solid science curriculum that even now continues to expand. Over decades, the institution has become a sleeping giant, but that sleep is slowly ending as the University gains more and more scientific acclaim. It is particularly evident in both ends of the spectrum — incoming students who major in the sciences, and graduates who hold positions in business, technology or scientific institutions across the country.

Over time, science grounded in the liberal arts has become recognized as a premier program at Benedictine. There are many fine science institutions preparing students for careers in the sciences; there are fewer liberal arts institutions that can claim science as a particular specialty. A Benedictine graduate not only knows science but also knows the ethical and moral implications involved in science. In a very real sense, Benedictine has a history of preparing “scientists clothed in values.” They are prepared to do the science, but also to ask the difficult question of whether the science should be done.

The articles in this edition of Voices documents and celebrates the science tradition at Benedictine University. The dramatic decision to send two monks for doctoral studies in the sciences profoundly set the direction the institution would take for the next hundred years. As we enter the new millennium, the need for “scientists clothed in values” is greater than ever. Our early founders predicted in 1908 that science would shake up the world. Few could doubt the efficacy of that prediction — a prediction that still guides us today.
The Benedictine Difference

by Fr. David Turner, O.S.B.

S

ome years ago we invited speakers to our campus who would help us focus on our Benedictine identity. Patricia Quinn, Ph.D., the author of a marvelous little book Better Than the Sons of Kings, explained a variety of elements that one finds in the near 1,500-year tradition of Benedictine education. Quinn reminded us that St. Benedict’s Rule provides for the education of the young, a tradition that goes back to about the year A.D. 530. Professor Quinn’s book explained how the children were educated and the ways in which the “Masters of the Children” cared for those entrusted to them. Her book’s focus ends with the year 1200, the beginning of the 13th century as cities developed and universities began to rise in Paris, Bologna, Prague and other places. The internal monastic schools continued, for the most part, and we do know that Thomas Aquinas received his pre-university education as a child oblate at Monte Cassino.

In the course of almost 15 centuries, there have been a number of ups and downs times of great growth as well as times of decline in both monasteries and schools. Charismatic figures arose over the course of those centuries, individual Benedictines men and women who hoped to live the ideals contained in Benedict’s Rule. This document is seen by many as wisdom literature rather than as legislation. Whatever the movement, whoever the charismatic leader, invariably accepting the challenges of the times helped Benedictine life flourish. When the Benedictine monasteries confronted their culture, they would grow and expand. When they withdrew from the task, they invariably would experience decline.

Whether it was a Boniface in Germany, or an Augustine in England, or an Anscar in the Scandinavian countries, the monastic men and women confronted their worlds with the message of the Gospel and did what needed to be done without yielding to caution or fear. They never hesitated, knowing that since they always sought the glory of God, the power of the living God was with them.

When Father Boniface Wimmer settled in Pennsylvania, with the companions who came to the United States from Bavaria in 1846, his vision was to establish the stable presence of a monastic school in his new land and to educate people with a missionary spirit. When Wimmer went to Chicago — to St. Procopius Church — in 1885, that same spirit went with them: “Look at your environment, evaluate the spiritual needs of Czech immigrants and then go to work and do what needs to be done.”

Father John Nepomucene Jaeger and his early companions did a great deal in a rather short time. The school opened two years to the day after they came to the parish on March 2, 1888. They established a press and provided a daily foreign language newspaper that would support the faith life of the immigrant population. They went off to be pastors of parishes in places as far away as northern Wisconsin and Nebraska, always ready to extend their vision and mission. Their work included preaching parish missions to bring up the spiritual lives of the people.

As Benedict of Aniane — followed the instructions of the emperor and introduced the Benedictine Rule as a standard for all the monasteries of the empire. The monastic schools continued to educate in such a way that the children of the poor, the “child oblates,” would grow intellectually. Some would one day become masters in the schools, but others would take their places in the developing world that would benefit greatly by the wisdom as well as the skills these people possessed.

Those early “Benedictine centuries” developed men and women who would keep alive the texts of classical civilization, the writings of the philosophers and people of “letters.” A St. Bede at the monastery of Jarrow was the same as Benedict of Aniane in his work. “All things God may be glorified” gave these founders a motivational base from which to operate. They knew well from the experiences of the past ages that if they truly sought the glory of God, the work would succeed.

Perhaps on occasion they looked back at monastic history. They readily could have reflected on the early tenth century when another Benedict — known in history as Benedict of Aniane — followed the instructions of the emperor and introduced the Benedictine Rule as a standard for all the monasteries of the empire.

We might well ask the question: “Have we come to another period in history when Benedictines — and we do not have to limit the word to the monastics — the teachers who share the Benedictine mission and vision in our prep schools, colleges and universities, will make significant contributions to the students in our contemporary world? How will we prepare those students? What foundational skills will we include in their educational programs that will motivate them to make the contributions needed in today’s world?”

The Class of 2006 has stated their educational venture on the campus of Benedictine University. They look at the academic schedule would indicate that there are some 14 sections of a course titled “First-Year Seminar.” This course, along with four others that make up a requirement in the core curriculum, has as a unifying theme “Person in Community.” What are we offering that helps to make “The Benedictine Difference”? What real commitment are we making to these young men and women that in a strong way tells them they will leave the University equipped with “something different”?

A few years ago, while studying at Princeton, I began a friendship with the late Dr. Ernest Boyer, the president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, at that time located in New Jersey. The foundation had published a study titled “The Search for Excellence” in which the statement was made that unless colleges and universities developed as communities they would eventually drop out of existence. The world around us seems to place a heavy emphasis on knowing facts. Colleges and universities have begun offering college degrees obtained totally “online.” Somehow the individual and a computer will interact for the next four years and that will provide whatever is necessary for a diploma. As one who studied human learning some 35 years ago, I admit that anyone can learn facts by interacting with a machine. However, the everyday working world will expect the university graduate to interact with people.

In the “Person in Community” course, students will be interacting with professors and fellow students to examine the nature of community and each educated person’s place within it. The work in this course will try to get all students to understand the characteristics of a Benedictine community and understand as well the “difference” that will take place because the student made the decision to study at Benedictine University.

Truly, we are a different institution of higher education. Yes, courses in the arts, sciences, humanities and social sciences are taught and credit built on transcripts. Benedictine University students will be exposed to facts that they well could have learned interacting solely with a computer. Our students, however, will experience The Benedictine Difference. Within the First-Year Seminar we will help our students develop “a life lived in balance.” We will help them understand their own positions as individual “persons in community.” They will understand what important and unique gifts they bring to Benedictine’s campus. The place would not be the same without the unique contributions of many men and women who have been part of our campus’s history. As the same time, we all hope that these students — a few many before them in the 1,500-year history — will be open to the gifts their classmates will bring to continue forming a diverse campus community.

The Benedictine heritage truly continues in our day. We can follow the example of those who have gone before us and continue to make our individual significant contributions to the world that awaits our gifts.
The vision that Fr. Cosmas set for the institution in its early years has been a strong force in the University’s history, bringing a good number of the young Benedictine monks to complete doctoral degrees at prestigious universities. The vision would recall how the master teachers of the Benedictine centuries provided an education referred to by Professor Patricia Quinn as “better than that received by the sons of kings” and they desired to continue that tradition by their own contributions as they moved with the University into the future.

Benedictine University’s strength in the sciences is well established and highly regarded. The University has been recognized three times (1991, 1996 and 2000) by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) in the form of major grants to pilot a freshman/sophomore integrated laboratory sequence, to support student/faculty research and to implement a summer bridge and first-year science curriculum for underrepresented minorities in the sciences. It has been well noted that only three institutions in the state of Illinois can boast of receiving more than two HHMI grants. The University of Chicago, the University of Illinois and Benedictine University. What is of note in this regard is that the Howard Hughes Medical Institute invites applications from very clearly defined assessment criteria based on data on total baccalaureate degree production as collected by the U.S. Department of Education. The institutions that are invited to submit applications are assessed on the basis of the percent and the absolute number of graduates from each institution who have (1) matriculated into medical schools, (2) earned doctorates in biology and (3) earned doctorates in chemistry, physics or mathematics. The three HHMI grants amount to a total of two million dollars.

The second addition to Benedictine Hall was a west wing to house chemistry, physics and biology labs, circa 1910. More than 700 different charts were created by the biology department starting in the 1920's (see page 12). The images were projected on a sheet of strong paper, traced and then filled in with waterproof inks.

The United States Congress Office of Technology and Advancement (OTA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have all recognized Benedictine University as “one of the most productive” institutions in the country for the rate that its graduates go on to earn doctoral degrees. One of the NEH studies ranked Benedictine University first in the state of Illinois and 29th (top three percent) nationally for the percentage of its graduates who went on to earn doctoral degrees in all fields of study, as well as fifth nationally in physics and astronomy and 11th nationally in chemistry.

Money Magazine has ranked Benedictine University among the top 10 universities in the nation for the percentage of its graduates entering medical school and ranked number 74 among the nation’s liberal arts and sciences institution in the state of Illinois. Graduates more science majors than Benedictine University.

Benedictine University is a special place for science education in part because of a strong Catholic/Benedictine tradition and a commitment to the liberal arts. Benedictine’s vital history has made the University poised to move forward in a way no other small school in the Chicago metropolitan area can claim.

The Benedictine faculty has a history of breakthrough contributions in the science field. From the Jurica brother’s “biological series” to the involvement of Benedictine’s faculty in the Manhattan project, the institution has a long history of excellence in scientific research. Which department received grants from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission totaling more than $5,000,000 in today’s money? Which faculty member held a U.S. Patent on the “Drippless Catsup Bottle?” Which program graduated the most future Ph.D.’s, future M.D.’s?

You’ll find the answers to those questions and many more as you read on. The tradition of science at Benedictine is really the story of men and women with a passion for teaching and research, who delighted in sharing, not only ideas, but also their lives with their students.

The Beginnings

Benedictine University began as a small school with only two students in 1887 in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago. Fourteen years later on September 2, 1901, St. Procopius College was solemnly blessed at its new location on the “rural campus” in Lisle, Illinois.

1890’s

Early courses taught were the classics — philosophy, theology and mathematics, languages — Greek, German and Latin, music, reading; even bookkeeping and typing. Several monks taught an occasional class in topics such as geography.

1900’s

In the summer of 1908, Fr. Cyril Zenisek, O.S.B., attended the University of Chicago specifically to carry his new science knowledge back to campus and what might be called the beginning of formal science education. The monks were serious about science on this campus.

1910’s

By about 1911 the west wing of Benedictine Hall was a west wing to house chemistry, physics and biology labs, circa 1910. The vision that Fr. Cosmas set for the institution in its early years has been a strong force in the University’s history, bringing a good number of the young Benedictine monks to complete doctoral degrees at prestigious universities. The vision would recall how the master teachers of the Benedictine centuries provided an education referred to by Professor Patricia Quinn as “better than that received by the sons of kings” and they desired to continue that tradition by their own contributions as they moved with the University into the future.

1920’s

Early in the 1920’s the science faculty began grouping into semi-formal departments.
To help with the war effort, faculty and students at St. Procopius College were teaching at DePaul University’s Army and Air Force Specialized Training Programs. It is there that Rose Carney met Fr. William — a relationship that would bring her to campus as the first woman faculty member in 1948. The 1946-47 catalog lists Fr. Matthew Herda, O.S.B., as a professor of physics and chemistry and Fr. Edmund as professor of zoology and chemistry. 

Frank Valach, Ph.D., established the first science scholarship effective in 1949-50. Until that time scholarships or memorialshad only been given to theology students.

1950’s  To round out the study of science
Fr. Edmund designed, and Br. Andrew Havlik, O.S.B., constructed, the University’s observatory and its unusual Springfield Mount telescope.

In 1954, the Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL) was organized by Frank Shonka, Ph.D. (formerly of Argonne National Laboratory), with Atomic Energy Commission funding, to study radiation measurement and effects on human tissue. The initial grant was $775,000, which was equal to $5,000,000 in today’s funds.

The labs three main objectives were to:

1) continue work on the Shonka pocket dosimeters to measure personal exposure to radiation
2) develop minute radiation detectors made from ionization of the environment, the biology department established a licensed bird banding station in 1930. With hundreds of traps on the Abbey woods floor, birds are captured, examined, recorded, called them the “Jurica Biological Series.” The company still sells many of these charts for classroom use.

When most teaching consisted primarily of traditional lectures, the biology department began producing detailed, colored charts and drawings of plants, animals and, eventually, more than seven hundred topics. Known as Jurica Charts, they were so well received that textbook publishers printed them nationally. Nystrum Biological Supply Company reproduced the charts and called them the “Jurica Biological Series.” The company still sells many of these charts for classroom use.

In 1925, a second addition was made at the west end of Benedictine Hall to house the burgeoning biology department classroom and laboratory. Referred to as the ‘bugs lab’ it housed much of the biology collection, as well as classroom space.

1930’s  Separate divisions of biological and physical sciences were established but faculty continued to teach in all areas. Fr. Edmund taught physiological chemistry well into the 1930’s.

Fr. Cyprian, William Shonka, O.S.B. (Ph.D. biology, University of Chicago (U of C) 1926), the zoologist, for several years criss-crossed the country during the summer in search of specimens, many of which remain on display in the Jurica Museum.

In 1942, Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., received his doctorate in biology and became the first monk from St. Procopius Abbey and first American Benedictine to receive a doctorate from a secular university. Fr. Hilary, the botanist, and his brother Fr. Edmund (Ph.D. biology, University of Chicago (U of C) 1926), the zoologist, for several years criss-crossed the country during the summer in search of specimens, many of which remain on display in the Jurica Museum.

In 1922, Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., began an 18-year term as the chair of chemistry and immediately moved to expand the position of chemistry in the curriculum. A man with...
The 1960’s produced more students going on for Ph.D.’s in the traditional sciences than any other decade. Medical school acceptances continued to rise.

1970’s

The sixties and early seventies brought a growing influence of lay faculty to all majors. Names like Drs. David Rausch, Joseph Bowe, John Spokas, Ralph Mecker, Wayne Wesolowsky, Duane Busse and many others joined the faculty. Fr. Hilary died in 1970 and one year later the large biology collection was named the Jurica Museum of Natural History. In 1970, Frank Shonka, Ph.D., died suddenly and John Spokas became the head of the physical science laboratory. True biochemistry and forensic chemistry majors were created and were very popular and unique in the Midwest. 

The school’s name changed to Illinois Benedictine College (IBC) and also became co-educational.

The Amoco Technicians Certificate program Technicians Affiliate Group (TAG) was initiated, allowing technicians to take class both at IBC and at the Amoco Naperville site. In 1975, the health science major was created to provide yet another route to medical profession careers in our most successful pre-med program.

John Mickus, Ph.D., joined the faculty in 1978 and would have another route to medical profession careers in our most successful pre-med program. 

1980’s

In 1980, Hazdra was the first director of the nutrition program and acquired space for the first nutrition lab in the now closed physical science laboratory. The radiation research program was moved off campus to a private company.

In 1986, the old science building — then called Procopius Hall — was removed to make room for the much needed Krass Student Center.

1990’s

The prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute does not accept applications for grants, but rather invites organizations with unique programs to apply. In the 1990’s the University was invited, and received three major grants, totalling almost $2,000,000.

The first grant under Mickus focused on the development of microscale techniques for all the organic chemistry labs, drastically reducing the amount of hazardous materials used and therefore materials disposed. The school was awarded the Illinois Governor’s Award for Hazardous Waste Reduction in 1987.

Edward Winkler, Ph.D., became the second director for the nutrition program and acquired space for the first nutrition lab in the now closed physical science laboratory. The radiation research program was moved off campus to a private company.

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2000

A new century brought yet a third new science building — the Birch Hall of Science with new laboratories, state-of-the-art solvent and materials handling facilities and a new commitment to teaching and research.

With the opening of the academic year in the fall of 2001, Benedictine University began its 101st year on the Lisle campus. As with the spirit of the past, the professors in the various scientific disciplines recognize that everything starts with good classroom teaching.

In 2002, Dr. Allison Wilson instructs a student via high-tech computer software.
The Science Department

by Laura Vilim, with special thanks to John Patterson, Ph.D., and John Mickus, Ph.D.

AN EYE ON PROCESS

More than 60 years ago, the insight and innovative theories of Frs. Edmund and Hilary Jurica, O.S.B., helped lay the foundation for the strong undergraduate research programs available in Benedictine University’s science departments. Today, professors continue to build on the Jurica brothers’ firm belief that science should be taught through “hands-on” methods of instruction. With the availability of new technology and expanded space in the new Buck Hall of Science, the institution is in a position to offer more research opportunities for undergraduate students than ever before.

Life Sciences and Classroom Technology

Currently, there are seven areas of life and physical sciences at the University: biology, biochemistry, health sciences, molecular biology, environmental science, physics, and chemistry. Whereas the Jurica brothers were among the early leaders in hands on teaching, using preserved specimens and flip charts in their teaching, graphic computers are allowing students to visualize the processes of science in entirely new ways. “I think we were one of the first institutions in the area of the sciences that placed a strong emphasis on the use of technology in the classroom,” says Donald Taylor, Ph.D., professor of molecular biology.

Benedictine uses computer technology in the classroom for courses in molecular modeling, anatomy and cell and molecular biology. One of the unique learning opportunities Benedictine offers is the ability to use both computer technology and the human cadaver to study human anatomy. John Mickus, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has written a curriculum that utilizes a software package called the Adam Interactive Anatomy that students use in the anatomy classroom. “The students use the Adam program to dissect a computerized cadaver. They have access to the program on the University’s network anytime, and by utilizing the program, can visualize the parts of the body they are studying,” says John Patterson, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, who teaches human anatomy. “When compared to having only a reference book, the program is more interesting and the students get much more out of it.”

The Adam Interactive Anatomy program is used by college and medical school students across the country. Many teachers from the Chicago area have come to Benedictine University to learn how to implement this technology in their own classrooms. Mickus has written three of the slideshows that are on the program.

Advances in computer technology make it possible for ‘hands-on’ research to become an integral part of the learning experience at Benedictine. Instead of relying solely on textbooks and lectures for information, professors in every area of the sciences are turning to a problem-based learning format. Rather than sitting through lectures exclusively, students now work to solve current problems through cooperative learning and by conducting research in the laboratory. Increasingly, faculty are abandoning “cook book” laboratory manuals and leading students through research projects that look for the solution of a real problem. Research and classroom exercises are further intertwined because students can use new, modern instruments to conduct research and then they “learn how to conduct experiments by doing real experiments in the lab,” says Jeff Jankowski, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry.

Research Opportunities

With the money from several important grants, professors have begun to implement unique research opportunities for undergraduates along with strengthening traditional classroom studies. “We’ve had a long standing history of extramural funding from agencies like the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and others in the corporate sector, that have provided students with the opportunity to work with faculty on research,” says Taylor. This set Benedictine apart from larger schools where graduate students conduct the majority of the research. “We can accommodate many of our students with personal interaction (through research),” says Jankowski.

Clay Runck, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, agrees that students benefit from having “one-on-one” work time and that working independently gives them a “sense of confidence and accomplishment.”

The research conducted by students and professors alike seems to involve nearly every area of science. Funded through the NSF’s Research Experience for Undergraduates program, Patterson and his students are conducting experiments aimed at improving the quality of parts through use of biotechnology. Taylor’s students, funded through the HHMI, are working with him to develop compounds that can be used to design drugs for blood clotting. Allison Wilson, Ph.D., received a three-year grant through the NSF to study human bone cells in culture to look at ways to prevent osteoporosis.

Mickus has been working on two research projects with students: one concerns finding an additive to methanol that would allow flames to be seen when it burns and the other involves finding an indicator other than cholesterol to prevent arteriosclerosis.

The vast differences in these few examples of research demonstrates the diversity in areas of study available to students. Undergraduates have been able to travel and present the results of their research at national and even international meetings,” says Taylor. “Being able to present at meetings is a privilege usually reserved for faculty researchers and graduate students. Having this research background as undergraduates makes students from Benedictine more attractive to graduate and medical schools across the country.

Cutting Edge Technology

Another strength of Benedictine’s science faculty, with the support of the administration, is that they are developing new, interdisciplinary programs at the University. “We were one of the first institutions in the area, and in the state, to offer programs in biochemistry, molecular biology, as well as an environmental science program that offers opportunities for students to obtain training in OSHA.”

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Dr. Rick Poro, O.S.B., campus minister, believes “the chapel meets the spiritual needs of not only students, but faculty and staff, as well. It gives people an opportunity to get away from their busy lives to contemplate, meditate and pray, no matter what faith they may be. The chapel renews the importance of Benedictine spirituality.”

**Great Issues-Great Ideas Continues to Impress**

The Richard C. Becker Great Issues-Great Ideas Lecture Series began in 1995 as an issues-oriented program, providing thought-provoking and lively discussions regarding the nature of the state of the Union, race, peace and adventures in space. The series has grown into a renowned program featuring bona fide American heroes, prominent world leaders and inspirational religious personalities.

This fall, the University is proud to welcome the 107th mayor of New York City, Rudy Giuliani, on Sunday, September 29, 2002. He will be the latest speaker in the lecture series, now in its seventh year.

Chemistry professor and Benedictine alum, Dr. Wayne Wesołowski, has motivated science students for more than 25 years. The Honorable Rudy Giuliani was chosen as Benedictine University’s 2002 featured speaker because of his recognition as Time magazine’s 2001 Person of the Year, as well as the work he did as New York City’s mayor and his leadership during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Giuliani will deliver a speech entitled “Leadership in Difficult Times.” He will reflect on the challenge of providing leadership to such a complicated and diverse city. He will reveal the lessons he has learned in a lifetime of public service and how they came together to provide strength at a defining moment in America’s history.

During his two terms as mayor, Giuliani made New York into the great city it once was with his ideas, management and goal-driven style. But his toughest challenge would come at the end of his reign as mayor. With the tragic events of September 11, the rest of the world found out what New Yorkers already knew — that Rudy Giuliani was a determined leader who could bring them remarkable strength and stability at a time of great uncertainty. During the crisis he became, “America’s Mayor.”

“This lecture series provides once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for the general public. These lectures provide occasions to hear, first hand, about great accomplishments, and also to know the person behind those acts. Additionally, local students are given the chance to meet and be instructed by history-making men and women. Now that’s incredible,” states Barb Dwyer, director of community development at Benedictine.

“Rudy Giuliani’s agent is overloaded with requests for his appearance. Being part of Benedictine University’s Great Issues–Great Ideas Lecture Series has become so prestigious that Mr. Giuliani made himself available to join us, in September, to observe a tragedy this country will never forget,” concludes Dwyer.

This year’s event is sponsored by Nicor and the Chicago Tribune. The event is also supported by the City of Lisle, the Becker Endowment, the Borse Family Endowment and Calamos Investments.

Benedictine University pledges to continue to bring to our community renowned, relevant and respected guests in an effort to advance our commitment to diversity and outreach, and to enhance awareness of our community to the world and our world to the community.

For more information about this lecture series or Guiliani’s visit, please contact Barb Dwyer at (630) 829-6003 or bdwyer@ben.edu. For ticket sales, contact Ticket Heaven at (630) 260-0626 or www.TicketHeaven.com.

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**ST. BENEDICT CHAPEL MAKES A MOVE**

The St. Benedict Chapel is moving into its new home. The chapel is moving from Benedictine Hall to the lower level of the Krasa Center and will open this fall. The stained glass windows have been removed and are currently being restored so they can take their place in the new location. The new chapel is being designed with a multi-faith feature.

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A Note From Advancement

To Benedictine alumni, friends and supporters:

A lot of people ask me, “What is Advancement?” The easy answer is anything that deals with advancing the University forward. First, there is the fundraising activity as a whole for the University; second, there is the alumni association activity; and lastly, there is the issue of communications and publications. The president of the University has also asked that I become involved in some legislative relations in order to secure additional funding that will help support the University. Therefore, “advancement” is really anything that is going to help make Benedictine University the best that it can be.

The Office of Advancement at Benedictine will be involved with several events throughout the year. By the time this issue of Voices hits your mailbox, the President’s Golf Outing will have taken place on July 22. More than 140 golfers and corporate sponsors will have had the opportunity to golf with President Carroll and others, and they will have helped raise funds that support the President’s 21st Century Fund. My thanks to all of our new and renewing corporate sponsors for their commitment to the University.

The weekend of September 27, 28 and 29 will be an extremely busy time for everyone at the University. Homecoming activities will be held Friday and Saturday and we will be hosting alumni from many different classes during alumni reunion weekend. We hope that our new approach to Homecoming will appeal to all alumni, their family and friends.

On Sunday, September 29, we will hold the latest presentation of our Great Issues—Great Ideas Lecture Series. Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City, will talk on “Leadership in Difficult Times.” This event comes just after the one-year anniversary of the September 11 tragedy. No one in America is better suited to be the next speaker in our Lecture Series than Rudy Giuliani.

Finally, on Saturday, November 2, we will host the 37th Annual Benedictine University Scholarship Ball which will be held on campus. But the most important thing happening this summer is not associated with a special event. The most important thing happening is the planning for this year’s annual fund. I know everyone is saying to themselves, “Here comes the fundraising pitch.” With this year’s annual fund campaign, you are going to learn why your annual gifts are so important.

The history of Benedictine University has been shaped by the hard work of the monks from St. Procopius Abbey. They built the buildings, taught the students, ministered to all of our needs and did so without monetary compensation. In 1961, that all started to change. In order to service our growing student population, additional faculty and staff were added. Operating expenses, as with many private colleges and universities, have steadily increased. It is with the generous gifts of alumni and friends that we have been able to continue in the Benedictine tradition.

I would ask that when you receive your letter or phone call asking for your support of the annual fund, to please consider what your time and your education here have really meant to you. A gift to the President’s 21st Century Fund will help support the values-based education that you received when you or your child attended classes at St. Procopius, Illinois Benedictine College or Benedictine University.

Your contributions allow us to continue to provide one of the very best liberal arts educations in the nation. Thank you,

Mike Wall
Vice President of Advancement

Help Grow the Rausch Endowment Fund

The Dr. David Rausch Chemistry Department Endowment Fund is a resource for the chemistry department to draw on for various program needs that are not covered in the department’s regular budget.

Five percent of the total endowment funds balance will be made available annually for use. The intention is that this will be a fund that will exist in perpetuity.

The fund is essential for the following science advancements:

Faculty research projects often require more funding than what the school’s regular budget has available. The Rausch Fund helps to provide the needed funds for student research. Money may also be used to meet requirements of matching grants for the purchase of major chemical instruments.

The fund will be used when “beyond the norm” supplies and equipment are needed to aid in classroom instruction.

The fund will support the operating expenses for a 300 MHz NMR spectrometer, selected by Rausch, are about $5,000-10,000 annually. The new spectrometer is needed as a research tool for faculty and students, an important education tool and asset for accreditation.

Rausch is a Benedictine alumnus, CSJ, who has dedicated his career to teaching in the science department and helping countless students achieve their goals in pre-med and their advancement into medical school. This endowment is intended to honor his contributions to the Benedictine science department, while helping future generations reach their career goals.

Please contact Mike Wall, (630) 829-6008 or mwall@ben.edu, for more information.

Benedictine’s Future Is In Your Will

A t least half of all adults do not have a will and a substantial portion of those who do, have wills that are out of date. A will is an important part of your estate planning. You want to have resources for you and your spouse during retirement, take care of your family and support purposes that have been important to you.

As you make your will, please remember Benedictine University. Most people would rather reduce the amount of their estate consumed by taxes. Including Benedictine University in your estate will help lessen how much will be taxed.

There are many possibilities when including the school in your will. If you received a scholarship, perhaps you would like to create a permanent scholarship fund to help students who face circumstances today that are much like what you faced when you attended. Perhaps you might like to provide for our campus ministry services to strengthen the Catholic character of our school, or perhaps you might like to provide a gift to create a memorial.

You may even be interested in an endowment fund to support the academic major of your choice or for a special purpose that is particularly important to you.

If you have already included Benedictine University in your will, but have not told us about it, please let us know. You will become a member of our Heritage Society, which offers special distinction and benefits to its members.

For more information, please contact Mike Wall, vice president of advancement, at (630) 829-6008, or Brad Carlson, development director, at (630) 829-6362.
Values philanphtropy

The Eighth Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing

Fun For All

The weather was hot, but there was plenty of fun for all. By the end of the day, the winning team at 59 (13 under), Benedictine President William Carroll, along with Bill Brestal, Scott Robinson and Benedictine trustee Charlie Thurston, walked away with the first place prize of four tickets to see Rudy Giuliani in September right here on campus. Of course, Carroll immediately offered up his ticket for auction.

Other winners of the day were: Gary Buell, Longest Drive-Mens, Maxy Robb, M.B.A. ’92, Worst Tee Shot and Longest Putt-Women; Donna Travis, Straightest Drive-Women; Doug Lombardi, Longest Putt-Mens; and Gary Karafiat, Straightest Drive-Mens.

The Alumni Cup was awarded to the alumni team of Gene Lopez, C81, Chuck Gillett, Coach Mike Murray and Daniel Kuesis, C92.

The day was a complete success, with beautiful weather, a great course and delicious food and drink. But most importantly, the event raised approximately $11,000 for the President’s Scholarship Fund.

The winning team of Bill Brestal and Bill Carroll, not pictured are Scott Robinson and Charlie Thurston (top). The only all female team (above, from left) Pamela Yelnick, Betsy Marier, Coleen Lehman and Julie Richardson.

Chemistry Alumna Solves Crimes

Jeanne Dietrich, C82, has a pretty cool career. She works for the Internal Revenue Service, National Forensic Lab, as an ink chemist/questioned document examiner. She travels all over the country investigating cases and offering expert testimony in courts of law. Before that, she was part of the Chicago Police Department Crime Lab for five years, doing drug analysis.

Dietrich transferred to Benedictine from the University of Illinois, Chicago. She wanted smaller classes and a more intimate campus environment and since science was her interest, she chose the suburban school known for its science program, Benedictine.

Being a chemistry major, she was required to have an internship her senior year. “Dr. Winkler set up a great internship for me at the DuPage County Crime Lab. It gave me invaluable experience and showed me something different I could do with my degree,” states Dietrich.

The day was a complete success, with beautiful weather, a great course and delicious food and drink. But most importantly, the event raised approximately $11,000 for the President’s Scholarship Fund.

The alumni office wishes to thank the sponsors, donors, golf course, golfers and the volunteers who helped make the event a success. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

The Commuter Association’s Las Vegas Night-1980 (l to r) Pat Cawiezel, Frank Steurer, Tom Kmieciak and Joe Payette

Submitted by the collaborated effort of Darryl Boggs, C81, Stephen Grobl, C81, Mike Grecco, C81 and Thomas Beck.

The winning team of Bill Brestal and Bill Carroll, not pictured are Scott Robinson and Charlie Thurston (top). The only all female team (above, from left) Pamela Yelnick, Betsy Marier, Coleen Lehman and Julie Richardson.

That is why she decided to become a part of the AlumniNet program at Benedictine. “I wanted to give back to the University and I wanted to be a resource for students who aren’t sure what to do with that science degree. You don’t have to become a doctor, there is so much out there to choose from,” concludes Dietrich.

Dietrich tries to participate in Homecoming when her schedule allows and stays in touch with her Benedictine classmates. She also enjoys giving back to society. In addition to being a mentor to Benedictine students, she also volunteers on the board of the Guardian Angel Basset Rescue group that helps to provide foster homes and permanent homes for unwanted and mistreated Bassets. She co-chairs the annual fundraiser, the “Illinois Waddle,” every September.

While at Benedictine, Dietrich was on the volleyball and track team. She was a part of the first volleyball team to go to national and was recently inducted into the Benedictine Sports Hall of Fame. “The school was very willing and supportive of me being a student and an athlete. Academics were stressed, but there was an allowance for other interests. I’m very grateful to Dr. Winkler and the science faculty,” adds Dietrich.

Dietrich feels the hands-on experience she received at Benedictine and her internship helped to prepare for a career in forensics. “When asked to do experiments on the job, you know exactly what you need to do, because you did them in school,” continues Dietrich.

“I love my job because quality matters, you get to travel all over, there is a lot of flexibility and the day-to-day challenges are always different and interesting,” says Dietrich.

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Moser Left His Mark on Institutions, Hearts & Minds

The late Harold Moser never attended classes at Benedictine University, but he is considered an alumnus. He began his relationship with the school in the 1950s. During the more than 40 years Moser was involved with the University, he spent time as a trustee, trusted advisor and trustee emeritus, but on a larger scale he was a friend. He was 100 percent dedicated to improving on the greatness of the school. In 1966, he was the recipient of an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters and in 1980, received the highest award the school bestows on a person, the St. Benedict Medal.

"Mr. Moser was a mentor to me. He was a huge and constant friend to this University and always supported the school through his financial contributions. He wanted to develop things for the good of the community. In my opinion, his legacy is his energy. He infused energy into this institution and lived out the school motto of "Today, Transforming Tomorrow, Informing Minds & Hearts," states William Carroll, Benedictine University president.

September 23, 1944, and spent the rest of his life in various ministries, including teaching at Benedictine High School in Cleveland. Fr. James Forgas, O.S.B., died on February 18, 1991. His memory, however, lives on in the graffiti he left behind. Do you have any stories or know anyone whose graffiti is included in these pictures? Maybe Pat Cawiezell will tell us about his ancestor whose name and year (’59) remain proudly as part of the room’s eaves. Who was ‘Bob’ in 44-45-46-47? We do see the ‘O’dock’ name. It isn’t only ‘old stuff’ that is up there, someone wrote ‘Class of 2002.’

We welcome your thoughts.

In 1981, when the first school year started, no doubt all the student (and possibly teacher) trunks went into that room to avoid clutter in the living areas. It must be remembered that prior to 1950 and the building of Jaeger Hall, everybody lived in Benedictine Hall, and we can well imagine the many people that went in and out of the trunk room. Some time back we went into the trunk room with a camera and took a variety of pictures of the graffiti on some of the beams. We are sure that a whole history could be written from the names and messages.

One prominent name is that of Albert Forgas. Some might pass by without a thought, but Forgas, as is the case with others whose names are there, has a history tied in with Benedictine, short though it may have been.

Albert Forgas was born in Youngstown, Ohio, on April 15, 1918. He came to Saint Procopius College in the fall of 1936 and completed the pre-divinity college program. He joined St. Andrew’s Abbey in the summer of 1938 and pronounced his monastic vows as Fr. James in 1939. He was ordained a priest on September 23, 1944, and spent the rest of his life in various ministries, including teaching at Benedictine High School in Cleveland.

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We welcome your thoughts.

Harold Moser was one of those rare people that everyone spoke highly of and they really meant it.

We welcome your thoughts.

The Trunk Room by Fr. David Turner O.S.B.

If The Walls Could Talk

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We welcome your thoughts.

Harold and Margaret Moser enjoyed meeting former President George Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush during the Great Issues-Great Ideas Lecture Series.

"The theme of my presidency has been ‘recognizing the founders.’ Year in and year out, there are founders…modern day founders as well as original founders. Mr. Moser was one of those modern day founders. He is the giant on whose shoulders we now stand,” states Carroll. "And if I know Mr. Moser, he is still helping us out right now.

Moser was an example of a person who wasn’t afraid to give of himself to help others grow. His legacy proves that a University is only as strong as those who are willing to give back.

The Benedictine community will miss Harold Moser and his wife, Margaret, but are greater for having known them.

Harold and Margaret Moser
Steven Wesolowski, Ph.D., C96

Steve Wesolowski, Ph.D., is a scientific machine. He is a NIH postdoctoral research fellow at Yale University and has been published enough times (25 and counting) to challenge Tom Clancy or John Grisham, albeit his works are based on notoriety in theoretical chemistry, research presentations at eight international conferences, and scientific publications in theoretical chemistry. He attributes his success to his start at Benedictine, but with the social life any university offers, he confesses Wesolowski.

Benedictine offered him a well-rounded course schedule that included art appreciation. “I still can’t go to an art museum without hearing Fr. Michael’s interpretations in my head,” confesses Wesolowski.

He attributes his success to his start at Benedictine, but with 25 scientific publications in theoretical chemistry, research presentations at eight international conferences, and several PhDs. He attributes his success to his start at Benedictine, but with the social life any university offers, he confesses Wesolowski.

Alyson Kurosaki, M.D., C97

After a second year medical resident at Duke University, Kurosaki admits, “I’m surprising myself on a daily basis.” Kurosaki feels well prepared for the medical challenges she meets and credits Benedictine for helping her become an educated, well-rounded person with leadership skills that have proved essential in her career path.

Kurosaki was going to attend the University of Chicago (U of C) for her undergraduate degree. “My father ended up having a conversation with a U of C professor that eventually led to my attending Benedictine.” He told my father that Benedictine was highly regarded in the sciences and had a very high medical school acceptance rate, and that it was a great alternative to traveling or living downtown to attend U of C,” remembers Kurosaki. Now, she concedes it was the best decision she could have made.

“Alice Sima was very influential in my life. Through the science fair she organized, I was introduced to Midwestern University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine, where I eventually attended. I was also able to intern at Edward Hospital in Naperilville, which included experience in the emergency room, surgical department and clinical preparation,” continues Kurosaki.

While at Benedictine, Kurosaki was in the Scholar’s Program, the student council, the cross-country team and Tri Beta. “A life lived in balance is a main emphasis at Benedictine and this allowed for a varied school experience. Studies were always number one and other activities were worked out around that, making it possible for a student to have a more varied lifestyle. I recommend the University to anybody,” concludes Kurosaki.

She hopes to work in psychiatry/medicine or forensics psychology and have a private clinical practice. ♦

Andrea Kane, C01

Andrea Kane was relieved to discover her first year of medical school wasn’t going to be the nightmare she had envisioned. “I used many of the same classes like microbiology, immunology and cell biology will be of great advantage to me next year as well,” states Kane.

Kane is entering her second year of medical school at Rush Medical College. This fall and credits Benedictine for her ease in getting into such a great school. “Many of the interviewers (1 meet with for medical school acceptance) inquired about the variety of my classes. I was able to respond confidently in how they shaped my view of community and others. All of Benedictine’s extracurricular activities, clubs and sports aided me in learning to juggle and balance my life. That has been priceless now in medical school. I know how to balance studying for exams with having a social life and being involved in the community. I would like to thank Benedictine for all of that,” concludes Kane.

She credits the professors in the science department for preparing and supporting her throughout the process of studying for the MCAT, interviewing for the Health Science Recommendations Committee, the Praxim program and the application process.

Patricia (Trish) Heywood, M.D., C99

A singing, obstetrician/gynecologist (OB/GYN) who speaks French! It’s not too unusual for a Benedictine alumn to have such varied interests. Patricia “Trish” Heywood, M.D., is a high-risk obstetrician who began a romance with music while at Benedictine. She studied under Benedictine voice coach Rosalie Ledding and has recently sung with the Park Ridge Gilbert and Sullivan Society. She can also deliver babies and properly order a meal at a French restaurant. “Benedictine provided a place for me to learn to be independent. I met some of my best friends there and had more fun than any human being should be allowed to have (while working). I learned as a medical assistant that I could handle emergency situations and discovered that deep down I am an adrenaline junkie (why else would I choose high risk OR for a living?). I met people who had faith in me and helped push me to achieve the things they knew I was capable of doing (Dr. Mckass, Fr. Ted, Dr. Ferroni, Mrs. Ledding, just to name a few). I went into medical school having taken more courses from more departments than most of my colleagues,” states Heywood.

Heywood can remember some great stories from her Benedictine days, but she also has a real appreciation for the strong science program that helped prepare her for her life’s work.

Heywood was a health science major in the Scholar’s Program with a minor in French. She is on staff at Loyola, until this fall, when she will return to Sinai Samaritan Medical Center in Milwaukee, where she did her residency. She has presented several workshops to the American College of OB/GYN and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. She also manages to be married with three children, a three year old and twins under the age of two. ♦

Tom Huberty, M.D., C90

Tom Huberty, M.D., is a very successful physician and surgeon. He is a founding partner in Castle Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Aurora and is a skilled orthopedic surgeon.

Huberty is not shy to say that the early graduating classes at Benedictine went a long way in cementing the reputation of the school as a “pre-med” school. A lot of doctors and health care professionals came out of the school during those years and they went on to be influential in the medical profession.

He credits David Rausch, Ph.D., for guiding him through his school years. Rausch saw the potential in several students at that time and challenged them to switch their majors from biology to biochemistry. “He told us it would be a lot harder, but that if we succeeded, we could write our own tickets,” states Huberty.

Huberty took Rausch’s advice and soon learned upon entering the University of Illinois Medical School in Chicago, that he was right. “I was very prepared and hardly had to study for biochemistry and pharmacology courses,” adds Huberty. “Dr. Rausch went to bat for me on several occasions, he went above and beyond his responsibility to be there for me and I’m proud I’ve made a success of it.”

“I was a regular person who worked through college. I had to commute to school and work a lot of hours at my job, but the professionals at Benedictine got to know me and they helped me work through the situation,” states Huberty. “The interpersonal relationships make a huge difference. The quality of the education and the smallness, set you up for what you need to do in your life. All in all, education is a people business and that is what a good physician is about.”

One could say that Huberty was “born” to be a surgeon at Mercy Hospital in Aurora. He was, in fact, born at Mercy Hospital. He took a job cleaning up operating rooms at Mercy when he was 16, and later went on to become the chief of staff for Mercy Hospital. He now serves on the board of the Provena Health Systems, of which Mercy Hospital is a member.

Huberty lives in Sugar Grove with his wife and two children. ♦
Benedictine Voices
Fall 2002

Benedictine: A Family Tradition

Ron Arnone graduated from Benedictine University in 1974 with a degree in biology. He used his degree to work for a major pharmaceutical company. He feels his strong biology background has given him a huge advantage and allowed him to be successful in the medical field. He is currently the director of operations and marketing for a large health care system and speaks confidently with doctors and other medical professionals about very complex issues.

Arnone is an active alumnus and believes in contributing to the University's financial needs. He brought his love of the University to his wife and children.

In 1997, his wife, Pina, joined the staff of Benedictine University. In her position as a department secretary, she has become a true part of the Benedictine community and is a strong advocate of the school and its goals. “The strong sense of community here is a driving force that makes you want to help the students and your fellow employees however you can,” states Arnone.

Their daughter, Carla, knew instantly that she had found her school when visiting her father's alma mater. “There are many advantages of a small academic environment. There is more one-on-one communication between faculty and students and this helps you focus on being your personal best,” concludes the junior Arnone.

“My very proud that Carla chose Benedictine. I felt really good knowing she was getting a great education, not just because of my past experience with the school, but because Benedictine continues to amaze me. They keep bringing themselves to the cutting edge of education while still holding on to their Catholic/Benedictine heritage,” concludes the senior Arnone.

The Arnone family has truly made Benedictine a family tradition.

Remembering Father Christian

by: Fr. James Flint, O.S.B.

When I came to St. Procopius College as a freshman history major in 1970, disturbing rumors circulated about the crew-cut monk who chaired the department. “Immensely difficult” was among the gentler of the phrases used to characterize Fr. Christian Ceplecha’s courses. Some spoke humorously (more or less) about “throwing lions to the Christian.”

I learned soon enough what was meant. The first time I visited Fr. Christian in his office, he asked what languages I knew. When I replied that in high school I had studied French, he pulled from his shelves a journal, found an article in French, and had me translate (or try to) for what seemed like a very long half hour.

But, as I and a generation of other history majors came to appreciate, Fr. Christian's high standards and occasional sarcasm about the “so-called scholar” seated before him were accompanied by a genuine personal interest in those committed to his charge. He loved to see his students succeed, and he stayed in contact with many of them decades after he had sought to instill in them his own love for history.

Fr. Christian began teaching in the college’s history department in 1957, and he served as department chair during most of the 1960s and 1970s. He continued to enjoy teaching, especially his beloved Constitutional History of England course, until 1990. After that time, he worked mostly at the Abbey, but he remained involved part-time at the University as archivist. Having overseen the move to the Kindlon Hall of Learning, he was continuing to organize the archives in their new location up to the time of his death.

Though Fr. Christian could be severe and demanding, if the situation so required, he will also be remembered for a great deal of kindness and quiet humor, for his special diet that kept 50 years of cooks on their toes, for the helpful and other flowers he took such pains to cultivate and for certain stock phrases that peppered his conversations (“My good man, tell me what history books you are reading. None? My stars, how can that be?”). He was an unforgettable character, and a great blessing upon both the Abbey and the University, which not long before his sudden death honored him for his decades of service. (“Indeed.”)

FR. CHRISTIAN CEPLECHA, O.S.B.
1927-2002

Alumni Web Site

Have you visited the alumni section of www.ben.edu lately? On this site you will find a new way to change your address, let us know about your marriage, new birth or that recent promotion. Go to the alumni page entitled ‘Keeping In Touch’ and simply type your information on the form, then press send. It’s so easy to keep in touch with Benedictine University. Don’t forget to send us your input on the Web site — we welcome your ideas and opinions.

“Centennial” Lithograph

There are still some lithographs of “Centennial” by Franklin McMahon available. This 32” x 24” lithograph depicts Benedictine Hall on its 100th birthday. There were 300 printed and each one is numbered. To get your lithograph of the building that holds so many memories, you can phone the alumni office or e-mail dsmith@ben.edu. The cost of the print is $300.

Fiscal Year Donations

Benedictine University’s fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31. All contributions to Benedictine University must be made by May 31 to be considered in the fiscal year.

AlumniNet Program

Networking is imperative in the current economic climate. The alumni office is working in conjunction with the Office of Career Services to address this issue through our AlumniNet program. This database of volunteers not only helps other alumni with career issues, but also pairs volunteers with students in the form of mentoring.

By filling out the AlumniNet volunteer form you may discuss your field of interest and contacts will then be pulled from the database to match your request. In addition, the Office of Career Services can give contact tips and interviewing techniques as well as resume help.

September 27-29, 2002

Friday — class reunion golf and tennis outing.
Saturday — brunch, football game, after game reunion parties and a Hawaiian Luau Dinner.
Sunday — Great Issues-Great Ideas Lecture Series featuring former New York City Mayor, Rudy Giuliani.

For more information, contact The Office of Alumni Relations at (630) 829-6080 or alumni@ben.edu.
Model United Nations Wins Award

The 2002 Benedictine Model United Nations (UN) team won an award at the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City, held in March. Their mission was to be the Saudi Arabian Delegation in the week-long simulation. This was an extremely challenging assignment given the tumultuous events following the September 11 terrorist attacks. They handled that challenge with distinction. Only 10 percent of the 210 delegations win awards for their work and given the difficulty of their assignment, the Honorable Mention award they received was quite impressive.

Mary “Priya” Roberts did a spectacular job as the head delegate and was recognized for that effort as the recipient of the Model United Nations Leader Award for 2002.

“This program informs students about major issues and problems of world politics, many of which are extremely important to millions of people, while remaining virtually unknown to Americans due to our relative isolation and success as a nation," states Joel Ostrow, Ph.D., chair and associate professor, international business and political science.

The Model United Nations program is another example of giving Benedictine students the advantages and experiences they need to succeed and develop themselves as students and people.

The Suburban Emergency Management Project (SEMP), funded by a generous two-year grant from the Grace Bersted Foundation, is conducting the activities of the SEMP, including its monthly newsletter, Securitas, and its Web site at www.ben.edu/SEMP or contact Dr. Lederman at mlokay@ben.edu.

Invaluable to Benedictine students because it teaches them about international organizations and the process of diplomacy. It gives students exposure to, and compels them to, immerse themselves in other states and cultures. The program also helps to develop research and writing skills, speaking and negotiating skills and both leadership and team-building skills.

Principal investigator, Margaret O’Leary, M.D., M.B.A., associate professor of management at Benedictine University, said, “One of the greatest challenges in accomplishing what we have set out to do is successfully blending the many organizational cultures brought to the SEMP table. For example, some organizations value information sharing, while others value secrecy—both in good faith. Some organizations believe that bystanders at the disaster scene are in the way and must be controlled, while other organizations believe that bystanders are an asset to be tapped. We try very hard to develop consensus by remaining focused on the needs of citizens of DuPage County.”

For further information on the activities of the SEMP, including its monthly newsletter, Securitas, readers can access its Web site at www.ben.edu/SEMP or contact Dr. Lederman at mlokay@ben.edu.

This is a format of attaching two and one half hours of directed practice workshops to three courses that historically have been “roadblock” courses for beginning directed students. These courses have presented formidable difficulties for freshman students for a variety of reasons, such as inadequate preparation in high school, unfamiliarity with the course content or inadequate study skills specific to the course content.

The three identified courses are Math 108, Economics 101 and Chemistry 123. It costs the students no more to enroll in these sections, but their programs are less than satisfactory. For example, some organizations value information sharing, while others value secrecy—both in good faith. Some organizations believe that bystanders at the disaster scene are in the way and must be controlled, while other organizations believe that bystanders are an asset to be tapped. We try very hard to develop consensus by remaining focused on the needs of citizens of DuPage County.”

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I was surprised to learn that even in America, only 25 percent of adults have college degrees. At a time when people around the world are struggling to achieve basic literacy, we have received a college education.

Often in the past four years, I have questioned why I deserve any of those advantages. I often find myself asking: why have I, have we, been so blessed? After much thinking, I have an answer. This is a test: God is testing us to see what we will do with blessings He gave us. That is why I am also convinced that all of us have a duty, a necessity, to our community, and to those without our opportunities, to use this gift wisely.

To use our education wisely, I think we must first realize the value of the lessons we have learned. Recognize that the courses we took to get to this day were more than just hurdles in our path. Our classes expose us to the roots of our culture and the reasons behind many of the conflicts in the world right now. Now that we know about the history and the problems of the world, we must not close our eyes to them. Our education has given us the duty to be aware of and make the connections between the present and the past, the near and far, and understand the impact of our actions.

To use this education well, we must also realize that the lessons we learned in the past four years were not meant to make us technicians. What counts is what you learned about yourself, about your world as you learned these things. Years should be an educated view of the world, one both analytical and insightful. It is now your duty and mine to question the world around us and work to reform its problems, to eschew this blinding by being unsure or apathetic.

We all know that there is a great deal of diversity in our school, that there are people of different cultures, religions and ethnicities attending Benedictine and learning together. Coming from a community in which people from these diverse backgrounds intermingle and discuss and grow together, we should be particularly alarmed when the world begins to murmur about the “clash of civilizations.”

... we here at Benedictine are unique because, for the most part, there is no “other” here. All the “others” are one: they are, simply, the Benedictine community. Instead of attacking civilizations I see bridges here and we must all recognize that such bridges need to be built on a global scale...
Class of ’69 Jerry R. Polek, Economics, has joined Richter Realty in Lake Geneva, WI, as a real estate broker. He and his wife, Samantha, reside in Lake Geneva.

Class of ’70 Florian J. Burbi, will be a co-honoree for the prestigious Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Humanitarian Award in September, 2002. He is being honored for his civic, social and humanitarian services over the past 25 years. Burbi is chairman of the board, president and CEO of First Nations Bank of Wheaton, PNC Bank Chicago and Bank of Bourbonnais.

Class of ’73 Michael McDonnell, Social Science, was recently named regional manager of Illinois for Barton Brands, Division of Constellation Brands, Inc. He and his wife, Margaret, reside in Aurora.


Class of ’89 Cynthia D. Hasck, Mathematics, received her M.A. in school counseling and guidance from Lewis University in May, 2001. She is currently a school counselor for Argo Community High School District 217 and resides in LaGrange Park.

Class of ’91 Stacy Swimmer, Spanish, has accepted a foreign language teaching position in the Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163. She resides in Downers Grove.

Class of ’92 Dawn K. Meyers, M.B.A., has recently been named a vice president at The Northern Trust Company in Chicago.

Rhett J. Allan, Physics, earned his Ph.D. in physics in North Carolina State University in August of 2001. He is currently assistant professor of physics at Southeastern Louisiana University. Allan and his wife, Ashley, live in Hammond, LA with their daughter, Abigail Ruth.

Bruce Coleman, Biology, earned a doctor of study degree in 1996. He and his wife, Natalie, reside in Lawrenceville, GA with their 2-year-old twin boys, Liam and Ross.

Kevin J. Krause, International Business and Economics, recently completed his master of aeronautical science specializing in aviation/aerospace management at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. He also was recently promoted to manager, marketing and contracts at Hamburg – SUD. Krause and his wife, Pamela, reside in Sparta, WI.

Class of ’93 James A. Gibbs, Nuclear Medicine, was recently named coordinator of nuclear medicine department and hospital radiation safety officer. He and his wife, Anne, reside in Creek, WI.

Class of ’96 Anne Marie Illinusk, Finance, completed work on her M.B.A. in April, 2002. She resides in Stickey, IL.

Kathleen Buchman, MSIS/MIB, and Ph.D., Organizational Development ’99, was awarded the Willis Harman “Spirit at Work” award on behalf of Wheaton Franciscan Services, Inc.

Class of ’97 Stefanie Ahrens, Health Science, graduated in August 2001, from Midwestern University with a master’s of medical science in physician assistant studies. She resides in St. Louis, MO.

Nicholas Greco IV, Psychology, is a clinical research associate for neuroscience in the Global Pharmaceutical Research and Development Division of Abbott Laboratories. He also is the editorial group review chair for the Psychology Review Service of DuPage Publishing and a part-time faculty member at College of DuPage. Greco recently co-authored a published article on imagery for the journal Imagination, Cognition and Personality.

Jennifer Larson, Mathematics, graduated from Concordia University in December, 2001 with a master’s in curriculum and instruction. She is the correlations coordinator at McDougall Littell. Larson resides in Chicago.

Class of ’98 Don J. Pokorny, M.B.A., was recently promoted to global electronic marketing manager with CommsWorks, a 3Com Company. He and his wife, Lynnette, reside in Woodridge.

Class of ’99 Maggie (Barko) Augustynt, D.D.S., Molecular Biology, received the first annual Lina Tharp Award from Omicron Kappa Upsilon Sigma Chapter in recognition of her companion and commitment to the practice of dentistry, her student leadership and her adherence to the highest standards of dental ethics.

Jennifer Hottendorf, Special Education, won the Poet of Merit award from the International Society of Poets with her poem “Dedication.” She presented her poem at the spring poetry conference in FL. The poem was published in two poetry anthologies and professionally recorded on the “Sounds of Poetry” compact disc. Hottendorf is a special education kindergarten teacher at Emerson Elementary School and resides in Wheaton.

Class of ’00 Hugo Lopez, Marketing, is a sales supervisor for Eulcid Beverage. He resides in Aurora.

Shannon Nelson, MS Clinical Psychology, is a counselor for Mooreheart Child Care and School. She also is an instructor for both the National Safety Council and the Wheaton College of Technology. Nelson resides in Romeoville.

Class of ’01 Travis Yuricich, Accounting, accepted a foreign language teaching position in the Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163. He resides in Downers Grove.

Jennifer Powers, Physics ’00, announces her upcoming marriage to John Clark in July, 2003. She is currently a research assistant at the University of Kansas and resides in Lawrence, KS.

Antonio Baito, Sociology ’80, was married November 2001 to Rence Konczal. The Baitos reside in Chicago.

Henry Garcia, International Business and Economics ’93, and his wife, Kelley, welcomed their first little eagle, Miles Joseph, on August 10. Amos currently is a senior telecommunications network analyst for Sony Computer Entertainment (PlayStation). The family resides in San Diego, CA.

Robert Tracy, Business and Economics ’84, and his wife, Mary Kay, announce the recent birth of Kevin Edward Bridget, Bobby and Megan helped to welcome their new brother to their Oak Lawn, IL, home.

Antonio Baio, Sociology ’82, and his wife, Steve, brought home a son, Matthew Steven, in October, 2001. The family resides in Oak Park.

Stefanie Ahrens, Health Science, was recently named regional manager of Illinois for Barton Brands, Division of Constellation Brands, Inc. He and his wife, Margaret, reside in Aurora.

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Tina Blair, Nutrition ’99 and MPH ’01, announces her upcoming marriage to Joseph Koral in September, 2003. She is currently a research associate for the American Medical Association and lives in Downers Grove.

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Fall 2002

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Keep in Touch

What’s new in your life? A marriage or a child? A new job or promotion? Have you been published or honored? Let us know!

First Name
Middle Name/Laname
Last Name
City
State
Zip
Home Phone
Work Phone
Email Address

Tell my classmates that . . .

The rain couldn’t dampen the spirits of this group of Golden Eagles. An enthusiastic group of 33 Eagles and their wives enjoyed a wonderful lunch and reminisced of days gone by. As they paged through their yearbooks, the names and faces of those unable to attend were remembered. They shared stories of the monks and the nuns during their time at Benedictine. A few stories of going into a favorite Lisle establishment even surfaced. ♦

Rev. Mark Houdek, Philosophy ’93, passed away on April 1, 2002.
Ronald Haydancik, St. Procopius Academy ’50 and Economics ’54, passed away on April 1, 2002.
Richard Nelson, Philosophy ’54, passed away on April 17, 2002.

Hugo R. Merritt, Social Science ’58, passed away the beginning of this year.
James S. Novak, Computer Science ’85, passed away on June 20, 2002. ♦

Colleen (Anderson) Bruven, Psychology ’98, and Bryan Bruven, Psychology ’98, announce the birth of their first child, Cheyenne Kyle, in July of 2003. They also announce the expected arrival of their second child in January, 2003. They are at home in St. Charles, IL.

Melanie (Bertrand) Koreman, Psychology ’00 and MCP ’01, and her husband, Paul, announce the birth of their first child, Isabella Marie, in February, 2002. They are at home in Franklin, IL. ♦

Alexandra Lynn, in September, 2001. They are at home in Earlville, IL.

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Keep in Touch

What’s new in your life? A marriage or a child? A new job or promotion? Have you been published or honored? Let us know!

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Middle Name/Laname
Last Name
City
State
Zip
Home Phone
Work Phone
Email Address

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Alexandra Lynn, in September, 2001. They are at home in Earlville, IL.
Catherine Stein Arnold, M.S., R.D., L.D. (Nutrition) presented “Balities for Evaluating Performance Based Outcomes” to the ADA Dietetic Education Practitioners at the annual regional conference in Indianapolis, Indiana on April 4. She has also been elected as President-Elect of the Illinois Dietetic Association and took office in June 2002. She will assume the role of president in June 2003.

Christine Palumbo (Nutrition) attended, by invitation, the American Dietetic Association Meeting of Leaders May 3-4 in Chicago.

Julie Davis, M.S., R.D. (Nutrition) has been awarded the “Outstanding Educator” award by the Illinois Dietetic Association for her leadership, teaching, mentoring, and leadership activities of faculty in ADA accredited programs.


Mardelle Fortier, Ph.D. (Literature) recently won a fiction contest sponsored by the College of DuPage. The prize for the short story was $200, which allowed Fortier to attend writers’ conference at the Wyndham Hamilton Hotel in Orlando. The College of DuPage plans to publish the winning stories.

Chuck Gabula, Ed.D. (Business) had an article published in the April 2002 issue of The National Credit Review. The National Credit Review is a journal aimed at those employed in corporate finance. “Changing the Face of Credit Management: Credit Scoring Models at the R. R. Donnelly Company” was published in the United States. “Changer l’optique de la gestion du credit Modèles de pointage de credit chez R. R. Donnelly” was featured in the Canadian edition.

Faculty and staff pitched in to help beautify the campus during this year’s Campus Sweep held in May. 1, 11, and 13. Sorensen and Taeger also served as chairs of the OD Task for the Midwest Academy of Management Annual Conference on April 18-20 in Indianapolis, Indiana. In total, Benedictine University students, faculty and alumni appeared more than 20 times on the program, which included participation in papers, panels, session chairs and discussants.

Alicia Cordoba Tait, DMA (Fine and Performing Arts) was a guest clinician and performer for Double Reed Day at Morehead State University in Kentucky on March 9. This clinic featured Tait in oboe technique and performance master classes and in the final recital with the chamber ensemble Arbitro. She also performed with the student participants and members of Arbitro in the Double Reed Ensemble, which concluded the day’s events. Tait also performed with the East Meets West Ensemble in an orchestra, member and oboe solo at North Central College on April 8. She was the featured western soloist on works written by Dr. Fengshi Yang, music director and conductor of East Meets West Music Arts. She also performed with the Naperville Concert Chorus on April 13 at North Central College. Tait performed the last concert of the season in Urbana, Illinois as the principal oboist with Sinfonia da Camera on April 30. She has been invited to perform as a soloist in their 2002-2003 season.

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The Telle VIB grant application for Western Kentucky University for which Margarete Roth, Ph.D. (International Business and Economics) was the consultant and editor, was funded by the United States Department of Education. The University received the highest amount of money of all prerequisites this year.

Larry Smolucha, M.A., MFA (Scholars Program) was first author on a paper presented in England at the International Association of Literary Semantics conference held at the University of Birmingham on April 8. The paper, “Semiology of Childhood,” examines dialects and their phonetic transformations across associated semantic fields.

Sedoxo established April 1-7, a company-wide week devoted to fighting hunger. Several members of the campus services staff volunteered their time for the Northern Illinois Food Bank on April 3 to help sort and package donated food.

John Mickus, Ph.D. (College of Arts and Sciences) made a presentation and led a discussion on the feasibility of interstellar space travel for the Midwest Committee for Rational Inquiry (MCRI) in Franklin Park on March 18.

Mardelle Fortier, Ph.D. (Literature) recently won a fiction contest sponsored by the College of DuPage. The prize for the short story was $200, which allowed Fortier to attend writers’ conference at the Wyndham Hamilton Hotel in Orlando. The College of DuPage plans to publish the winning stories.

Chuck Gabula, Ed.D. (Business) had an article published in the April 2002 issue of The National Credit Review. The National Credit Review is a journal aimed at those employed in corporate finance. “Changing the Face of Credit Management: Credit Scoring Models at the R. R. Donnelly Company” was published in the United States. “Changer l’optique de la gestion du credit Modèles de pointage de credit chez R. R. Donnelly” was featured in the Canadian edition.

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Carin Cieslowski was named Benedictine University’s 2002 Female Athlete of the Year. Cieslowski played on the Benedictine volleyball and softball teams.

In the fall, Cieslowski and the Lady Eagles captured their fourth straight Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) Volleyball Championship with a 9-0 conference record. After each season, fall, winter and spring, points are given based on the final team standings in the 12 NIIC sports (men’s cross country, women’s cross country, men’s soccer, women’s soccer, volleyball, men’s tennis, women’s tennis, men’s basketball, women’s basketball, baseball, softball and men’s golf). The institution that wins the championship earns 14 points, 12 for second, 10 for third, eight for fourth, six for fifth, four for sixth and two points for a last place finish.

The Eagles, who compete in 11 of the 12 NIIC sports, tallied 126 points for the 2001-2002 athletic season. Three teams brought home their respective championship titles, including volleyball, softball and women’s cross country. Four teams came away with second place finishes: men’s cross country, women’s tennis, baseball and men’s golf. Men’s and women’s basketball finished third in their team standings and men’s and women’s soccer came away with fourth place finishes.

Cieslowski led the Lady Eagles with a .403 batting average while also leading the team in hits (62), runs (40), triples (10), home runs (5), slugging percentage (.675) and stolen bases (16). At the conclusion of the season, Cieslowski won many awards. She was a National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-Region second Team selection and a NCAA Midwest Regional All-Tournament team selection. Cieslowski was also named the 2002 NIIC Softball Player of the Year. She received an accolade for her academic success as well, landing on the Verizon Academic All-District Second Team.

The Benedictine University softball team concluded their regular season in May, when they defended their Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) title going 3-1 at the conference tournament that was hosted by Eureka College. The Lady Eagles, who finished with a 14-3 NIIC record, brought home the title for the third consecutive season. The Lady Eagles entered the tournament as the number one seed.

In the week following the tournament, the NIIC named its 2002 All-Conference Softball team with Benedictine’s softball team landing seven players on the team, while also bringing home NIIC Player of the Year Honors. Amber Briddick, Carin Cieslowski, Jen Heggaton and Cari Zalesiak took home NIIC All-Conference honors, while Colleen McNicholas, Kari Pfeifer and Nikki Schade received honorable mention recognition. Cieslowski was named the 2002 NIIC Player of the Year. The All-Conference team is based on statistics from NIIC games only.

The recognition continued as the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) announced its 2002 Division III All-Region teams for eight regions including a first, second and third team classification. The Lady Eagles landed four players on the Great Lakes All-Region Team. Heggaton and Zalesiak earned first team recognition, while Briddick and Cieslowski brought home second team honors.

Shanahan has been named Benedictine University’s 2002 Male Athlete of the Year. Shanahan started all 10 games at linebacker for the Eagles football squad.

At the conclusion of the season he was an Illini-Badger Football Conference (IBFC) second team All-Conference selection. The Eagles finished 4-6 overall during the 2001 season. In conference, the Eagles went 4-3 for a third place finish.

News from the Eagles’ Athletic Department by Jill Redmond

Benedictine University athletics has achieved something that it has not done since 1999, which is bringing home the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) All-Sports Championship trophy. The Eagles came away from the year long race with an eight-point margin of victory over the second place institution, Clarke College.

In the fall term with a 3.75 G.P.A. and followed that up with a perfect spring term that yielded a 4.00 G.P.A.

In the fall, the Benedictine University football team concluded their regular season in November, when they defended their Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) title going 3-1 at the conference tournament that was hosted by Eureka College. The Lady Eagles, who finished with a 14-3 NIIC record, brought home the title for the third consecutive season. The Lady Eagles entered the tournament as the number one seed.

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Eagles Take Second At NIIC Tourney And Win Awards

The Benedictine University baseball team wrapped up their season going 2-2 at the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) tournament finishing second, just as they did during the regular season.

The Eagles concluded their 2002 campaign with a 15-7 NIIC record and a 25-17 overall record. When the NIIC announced the 2002 All-Conference teams the Eagles were pleased to learn that seven players received recognition.

Seniors Brad Astrouski and Mike Pitello, juniors Ryan Buchanan and Sergio Puente and sophomore Brian Nelson were All-Conference selections, while freshman Brian Manering and junior Kevin Ryan received honorable mention recognition.

Manering and Ryan received NIIC All-Conference honorable mention. He went 3-2 on the mound in 30.0 innings of work. His record included 28 strikeouts and a 3.60 ERA. Ryan played in the outfield and finished with a team high 31 hits. He scored 25 runs and added eight doubles, one triple, two home runs and 17 RBI while averaging .369 at the plate.

Three Lady Eagles Named To The All-Tournament Team

The Benedictine University softball team concluded their 2002 season when Lake Forest College eliminated them from the NCAA Softball Championship Tournament. The Lady Eagles fell in a re-match against number one seeded Lake Forest by a final score of 2-0.

The Lady Eagles were one of 16 teams to compete in a regional championship game. At the conclusion of the tournament, three Lady Eagles landed on the NCAA Midwest Regional All-Tournament Team. Senior Jen Heggaton was selected as a pitcher, senior Carin Cieslowski as shortstop and junior Tara Coleman as an outfielder.

Eagles Earn Second At NIIC Golf Tourney

The Benedictine University men’s golf team competed in the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) Men’s Golf Championship in May and came away with a second place finish. The Eagles were the host of the tournament that was played at Tamarack Golf Club in Naperville.

Freshman Justin Hatch, who shot 84 in the opening round and an 80 in the final round, came away with a third place finish. Sophomore Erik Miller, who finished with a combined score of 172 (88/84), was the only other Eagle to finish in the top 10 as he tied for the eighth place spot.

At the conclusion of the tournament, both Hatch and Miller earned NIIC All-Conference recognition.

Murnane Tops Last Season’s Amazing Feat

Benedictine University’s Tracey Murnane has added National Championship Competitor to her list of accomplishments as a member of the Lady Eagles’ track and cross-country teams. Murnane, who concluded her junior year as an elementary education major, posted the nation’s best time in the 10,000 meter race the first weekend of April and automatically qualified for the National Outdoor Championships in May, at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her time of 36:19.05 was also enough to claim the Outdoor Chicago-Land Championship title in the 10,000 meter race.

Last year, Murnane captured every single record for the women’s outdoor track team including the 1,500, 3,000, 5,000 and 10,000 meter races. This year, she has duplicated that accomplishment, breaking every record she already held.

This fall, Murnane became the first ever NIIC women’s champion for Benedictine along with being named the NIIC Cross Country Female Athlete of the Year.

You are cordially invited to attend the 37th Annual Benedictine University Scholarship Ball.

The black-tie Scholarship Ball will be held on campus again this year, as it was such a huge success last year. Cocktails hour begins in Kindlon Hall where co-hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Rhodenbaugh and Mr. and Mrs. W. Brand Bobosky will welcome the guests. Then everyone will proceed to the Krasa Center for dinner.

A fantastic meal will be served and then dancing will begin to the sounds of the Marshall Vente Band. The band plays everything from big band and swing, to Motown and the hits of today.

There will also be the popular live and silent auctions.

Of course, the best part of the Ball is that all of the proceeds go to fund scholarships for our Benedictine University students. They are the true stars of the night.

For more details about “A World of Education: Embracing the Future” Scholarship Ball, please contact the alumni office at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu. There are many sponsorship opportunities available for discussion.