Benedictine Voices
The News From Benedictine University

FROM FATIGUES to Degrees
The First Responder Program Expands
Vision

“There are two ways of exerting one’s strength: one is pushing down, the other is pulling up.”
— Booker T. Washington

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Earlier issues of *Voices* magazine introduced you to the University’s First Responder Program. An update on this program is contained in the following pages of this issue, for it is still very prominent in the Benedictine curriculum. In addition to our “local” first responders, another group of men and women are now being included, for they too are first responders. These are the military men and women from Illinois who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

How did all of this start? In the summer of 2001, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity of training with the local Lisle-Woodridge Fire District — even being carried out of an upper-story window by a firefighter. I was struck by their camaraderie and concern for fellow human beings. These phenomenal people protect us every day. The seed for the First Responder Program was planted at that time.

By working with the firefighters and from the ever-present media coverage surrounding the events of September 11, 2001, I began to realize that these men and women are often unable to complete and/or afford a college education, especially, at a private institution. There is something very troubling in knowing that those who protect our institutions cannot afford to send themselves or their families to the institution they protect.

To thank the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District for its service and partnership over the years, the University instituted a firefighter scholarship for $15,000, the cost of one year’s tuition at that time or several part-time enrollments. The University left it up to the firefighters whether the award would be for a single firefighter, several firefighters or members of their families.

They discussed it as a team and then asked us how many instructors $15,000 would support if classes were taught in the firehouse. Their creativity forced the University to think outside the box, and it developed into an associate of arts program, a bachelor’s program and eventually a Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior (M.S.M.O.B.). The firefighters pay only for their textbooks while the University absorbs all other costs. Of the 103 firefighters in the department at that time, more than half applied to the program. The first graduates earned their degrees in spring 2004. The program now includes all first responders in Illinois.

Life as a first responder is difficult. In addition to strenuous and dangerous work, the hours are long and the pay is low. So many often have second jobs to supplement their income. By the time they reach their 40s, their physical prowess begins to wane and for many their days in the profession are numbered.

To maintain a high level of professionalism among first responders and to attract new members and retain those already in the profession, we need to ensure that they are not penalized when age forces them to leave the job. They deserve the same educational opportunities as their counterparts in the “civilian” world.

Just when I began to think that the University’s outreach to first responders had peaked, I realized that there was another group of first responders who were having a very difficult time — the men and women in the armed services in Iraq and Afghanistan. No matter what one’s position is on the military presence in these countries, these volunteer first responders put their lives on the line in service to their country. As a result, their lives have been interrupted.

As they worked in teams on battlefields and walked together among tense crowds, they will work in teams in Benedictine’s liberal arts-based curriculum. The skills garnered from this education: evaluation, comprehension, synthesis and judgment (problem solving/critical thinking) are the very skills first responders need to deal with life- and property-threatening situations they encounter daily. The program encourages students to become more self-confident in academia and to examine major situations before they encounter them in the work-world and daily life.

Inviting Iraq/Afghanistan veterans into the program is the right thing to do. They have faced terrifying destruction of lives, property and unrest in daily life. The money the government offers them when they leave the service falls far short of enabling them to get their lives back on track. The veterans put their lives in extreme jeopardy for us and we should do better by them.

While many military personnel used the Montgomery G.I. Bill to pay for college on their return home, many did not. Those who have become eligible for veteran educational benefits may still not have the resources to begin or complete college. [Editor’s note: Federal legislation is currently pending to expand the benefits offered by the G.I. Bill and may not have taken effect by the time of this printing.] The only cost at Benedictine to the veteran is the cost of textbooks.

The testimonials, enthusiasm, skill building, team building and community spirit generated by this program have been phenomenal.
The groundswell of interest from local firefighters and police has been remarkable.

As the news of the inclusion of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans spreads, the interest will grow accordingly. The program has been greatly helped by Congress with an appropriation of $1.9 million in July 2005 and another $1.25 million in 2008. More than 400 first responders have been admitted and are actively enrolled in the program. As of May 2008, 100 have graduated.

The old adage “success breeds success” is true of the current initiative. As the program gained notoriety, additional requests have been received throughout Illinois for access. As a result, we expanded the program throughout Illinois. This, however, poses some difficulty. Unlike the collar counties around Chicago, the more rural counties do not have the same concentration of first responders. In addition, a sparser populated geography makes it more difficult to garner the necessary critical mass of first responder students to enable classes to form. To resolve this difficulty, the University developed regional academic centers within existing fire/police stations that draw students from a much broader area than in the Chicago area, where every firehouse could be a classroom.

Finally, the inclusion of veterans is important in the relationship between higher educational institutions and the military. For at least 50 years, higher education and the military have had a relationship that might be termed tenuous at best. Yet the higher educational structure that is so important and powerful today can thank the veteran’s benefits available to World War II (WWII) veterans for its very existence. In fact, Benedictine University, then St. Procopius College, was a direct recipient of significant revenues directed to the institution by the returning WWII veterans. What better way of saying thank you than to open our doors to a new generation of veterans!"
full benefit during the 10-year limit following their discharge. Some 30 percent of veterans never tap into their G.I. Bill funds at all.

Benedictine University has decided to do something to help Illinois veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan earn a college education.

Thanks to a $750,000 grant from the federal government secured by U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), in Spring 2008 the University extended its First Responder Program to Illinois Armed Forces veterans — active and reserve — returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Illinois veterans who participate in this program will be able to pursue an Associate of Arts in Business Administration (A.A.B.A.) or a Bachelor of Arts in Management (B.A.M.) degree. By extending these benefits to Illinois veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, Benedictine will provide them with a college education that will enhance their employment opportunities. The program will also ease the financial burden many of them would otherwise face while earning a degree, particularly those veterans with families.

The University will also extend half-tuition benefits to members of reserve units who are not deployed, to prepare them educationally prior to deployment, and extend half-tuition benefits to college-aged children of reservists who are deployed while participating in the program.

The first phase of Benedictine’s First Responder Program has been underway since 2001 and has provided an unparalleled educational degree program that gives Illinois police and fire personnel access to affordable and quality higher education. There are no tuition costs. Classes are held in fire/police stations and corporate centers throughout the Chicago area. Students run the gamut from support personnel to fire chiefs to watch commanders. The life of a first responder is difficult. In addition to strenuous and dangerous work, the hours are long for the salary they earn. To maintain a high level of professionalism throughout their lives, including after they leave the station, they must acquire the same educational opportunities as the people they protect. A liberal arts college education gives them the skills to deal with the life- and property-threatening situations they encounter every day. It also prepares them to continue serving communities in other areas.

Currently, more than 80 public service organizations are represented by the more than 400 first responders enrolled in the program. Among the organizations participating in the program are: Cook County Sheriff, DuPage County Sheriff, Illinois State Police, and police and fire departments from Aurora, Batavia, Bellwood, Downers Grove, Forest Park, LaGrange, Lisle-Woodridge, Lombard, McCook, Naperville, Oak Park, Schiller Park, Westchester, Wheaton and Wood Dale.

Classes meet at firehouses and central locations in order to make earning a college degree as convenient as possible for the busy lives of first responders.

All First Responder students may pursue the A.A.B.A. and B.A.M. degrees that are offered in their communities. Fire and police personnel are also eligible for the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) and Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior (M.S.M.O.B.) that are offered on Benedictine’s Lisle campus.

For more information about any aspect of the First Responder Program, contact Tanesha Pittman, associate dean of the First Responder and Professional Development programs, at (630) 829-6125.

[Editor’s note: As this issue of Voices was going to press, we were notified of an additional $500,000 grant secured by U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) in support of the program.]
First Responders Discuss the Program

Christopher M. Biggs, B.A.M. C07
Police Officer, Oswego Police Department

My future interests involve business and entrepreneurship. I am currently involved with two significant business interests (Raging Waves Water Park in Yorkville, Ill. and the Johdar Corporation) and wanted to prepare myself for a second career as I transition from the police field to the business world.

I graduated from the program in December 2007. I would like to continue my education with Benedictine in the Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior program if that opportunity becomes available. I am thankful for the opportunity I have had earning my Bachelor of Arts in Management degree.

The program has opened new doors at the police department. By earning my degree, I was able to test for the position of sergeant and I tested near the top of the current list. I hope that the education I received will continue to open doors in the business world as that is my current passion. The program is important to me and others in my field because it is necessary for advancement within each of our respective departments. However, I wanted to earn my degree as a sense of personal accomplishment with the intention of progressing forward in my passion for entrepreneurship.

I found the program very convenient and accessible. As a working adult with a full-time and part-time job, along with a wife and two small children, my available time is extremely limited. At times I took on 18-22 credits per semester just to accomplish my goal. I believe that nothing worthwhile comes easy. It takes hard work and discipline to accomplish your goals and challenges. Overall, I was impressed and very thankful for the opportunity.

Suzette Marie Quintell, B.A.M. C08
Operations Director for the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference
(former 911 dispatcher)

When the program originally came out, it was only for firefighters, then it became available for police officers and finally for 911 dispatchers. I was so excited that I contacted the University the day that I saw the information. I must have sounded crazy, but I was so excited about the opportunity.

This program has been the most incredible blessing. I believe that things happen for a reason, and I know that I was meant to attend Benedictine. As long as I can remember I have wanted to adopt a child out of the foster care system. With my hours at the police department, that was going to be very difficult, if not impossible. Once I had completed my degree requirements, I was able to apply for positions that otherwise may not have been reachable. I obtained a position at the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference in April of this year. This job not only offers me the hours that I need to be a good foster or adoptive parent, but also the opportunity to work with a wonderful group of people. This program has offered and provided me with the keys for a better future for myself and hopefully a child in need.

This program offers intelligent people — with responsibilities for families and public safety jobs — an opportunity to change their lives. Unless you have worked in public safety as a police officer, firefighter, paramedic, dispatcher or records clerk, you cannot truly understand what is sacrificed to provide the public with a safe environment. Imagine not spending holidays, birthdays, parades, festivals, weddings, etc., with your loved ones. It is sometimes taken for granted that someone will be there to protect us, but there are real men and women giving up Christmas morning with their children in order to provide us with that security.

The program is so important because it gives options that are generally workable for public safety personnel. Providing an education, without most costs, and making it work by requiring only two four-hour blocks of time per week, takes away any possible excuse for not creating a better life for yourself and your family.

The program was very convenient. Tanesha (Pitman) worked with me initially to see where I lived and worked, and found a location that required minimal travel. Everything was incredibly well-run. From the first call that I made, to every instructor in the program, we were treated like first-class students. I am so eternally grateful for everything that Benedictine has done for me through this program. I know that this was a blessing from God, but I also know that without the hands of many people at Benedictine University, this would not have happened. Thank you.

Michael Veseling (currently in B.A.M. degree program)
Battalion Chief, City of Naperville Fire Department

After 25 years with the Naperville Fire Department, I was presented with the opportunity to join this new program at Benedictine. I decided to sign up because of the great things I heard about it from other students.
enrolled in the program, because of the convenient location and because I felt that I should finally finish my degree...before my kids do. (My son, Aidan, is 10 and my daughter, Rachel, is 13...so I guess I'm going to do it.) I am finishing the last few classes for my Bachelor of Arts in Management (B.A.M.). We should be done with coursework in October of this year.

The program has offered me the opportunity to gain new knowledge and understanding in many areas of study, to be exposed to the knowledge and experience of many great instructors, and to learn with and from many great partners in the learning team program. As for the future, I hope that the program will help to create new and interesting opportunities for me and to help me to continue to learn and explore areas of study to which I have not previously been exposed.

The importance of any quality degree program is that it helps you to stretch yourself and your perspectives so that you can understand the complexities of the world and all those we interact with daily. I believe that my student partners and I have gained new perspectives and insight as well as having increased our base of knowledge in many areas of study. These new perspectives help in day-to-day activities and also aid in preparing for future promotions and career development.

This has been an excellent opportunity for me. Many of the instructors have not only provided excellent delivery of the material, but have also demonstrated that they are committed to the program and the students and that this commitment is a life-long one. The instructors have been understanding of our schedules, have offered and provided additional assistance outside of normal class hours, and have acted as mentors to many of the students in the program.

The backbone of this program is definitely the incredible instructors from whom we have had the pleasure of learning. I am very grateful for the privilege of being involved and I thank God for providing yet another blessing to me and my family.

[Editor’s note: Responses have been edited for space and/or content.] †
Why Interreligious Dialogue is Necessary

The Benedictine campus always seems to be hosting an event of one kind or another. The topics can include the environment, business, science or politics, among others. Other events have focused on honoring African American History Month, Islamic Awareness Week and “Go Roman,” a week focusing on various aspects of the Catholic faith. This wide variety of events represents the diversity that makes this University so strong and relevant.

These events focus on the various aspects of humanity. However, some events that focus on religions other than Catholicism tend to bring up questions whether these events strengthen or weaken the University’s Catholic identity. This is a legitimate question especially since Pope John Paul II’s document “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” (From the Heart of the Church) insists that “everyone in the community helps...toward maintaining and strengthening the distinctive Catholic character of the institution” (No. 21).

Archbishop Michael Miller, formerly the Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education in Rome, delivered an address on October 27, 2004, in which he suggested that principles contained in the Vatican II Declaration “Nostra Aetate” (The Declaration on the Relations with Non-Christians) needed to be understood because of the ways in which interreligious dialogue would truly help strengthen the Catholic identity of an institution of higher education.

Archbishop Miller maintained that “a university’s Catholic identity is strengthened when it fosters interreligious dialogue, especially by introducing students to knowledge of other religions and encouraging professors to engage in it through research. It is more necessary today than ever for the university community to promote the firm Catholic convictions of the common vocation of humanity and the one divine plan of salvation in Christ....”

The discussion begun by Archbishop Miller developed into an examination of the “four forms of dialogue frequently mentioned in various magisterial documents: the dialogue of life, of action, of theological exchange and of religious experience.” Examining each of these areas will demonstrate how well Benedictine University is already engaged in this work.

The dialogue of life implies a “concern, respect and hospitality” toward those of other religions. Here we see lived out one of our most important institutional values: the tradition of hospitality. Archbishop Miller asked, “How well is this lived in our Catholic institutions? Are they truly open to others, ready to receive the ‘other’ as gift?” This dialogue of life should also “help non-Christians to live in fidelity to the authentic values which they embrace.” Here again we need to go back to “Nostra Aetate” and remember the principle that “the Catholic Church rejects nothing of what is true and holy in these [non-Christian] religions” (No.2). The “dialogue of action” or “dialogue of works” deal with what “Nostra Aetate” spoke of as the need to “preserve and promote peace, liberty, social justice and moral values” (no. 3). We thus see the importance of working with others to reach “goals of a humanitarian, social, economic and political nature which are directed toward the liberation and advancement of humankind.” (Dialogue and Mission, No. 31). We can see how the Catholic institutions of higher learning are called upon by the Church to work for the achievement of these goals which will benefit all peoples.

The third point, “dialogue among experts,” includes academic courses along with workshops and other dialogical activities directed toward questions of faith interacting with reason. In addition to a variety of dialogical presentations, many experts on religion have been a part of Benedictine’s programs, including a Catholic Scholar in Residence who focused on the Church’s activities within the Muslim world.

The final area of concern, “the dialogue of religious experience,” ties in with the matter of the “experts” mentioned above though “it reaches deeper into the personal experiences of sharing prayer, contemplation, ways of searching for the Absolute and faith.” It is that dialogue which “can be mutual enrichment and fruitful cooperation for promoting and preserving the highest values and spiritual ideals.” (Dialogue and Mission, No. 35).

Archbishop Miller stressed that “fostering the dialogue of religious experience can also be a way of strengthening an institution’s Catholic identity.” On many occasions, Pope John Paul II stressed the importance of “interreligious dialogue to which we shall be committed in the new millennium, in fidelity to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.” In being faithful to the principles of interreligious dialogue, Benedictine also partners with the monks of St. Procopius Abbey who have answered the Church’s call for Benedictine and Cistercian monks and nuns to reach out to the monastics and others in the non-Christian world.

Again, we recognize St. Benedict’s call “that all guests be received as Christ,” and the importance of hospitality that the other person will be received with genuine love, care and respect. In that way, we in no way weaken our own identity but instead strengthen it and offer that strength as a true gift to the world.
Stay Connected

Upcoming University Events

We are making alumni events bigger and better than ever before. Contact your fellow classmates and represent your class at these upcoming events.

**OCTOBER 9**
Octoberfest and Beer Tasting in the Coal Ben

**OCTOBER 17-19**
Homecoming Festival
see page 18 for details

**JANUARY 19**
14th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

**FEBRUARY 1**
Super Bowl Party in the Coal Ben

**FEBRUARY 5**
Wine Tasting in the Coal Ben

**FEBRUARY 17**
Alumni Board Meeting

**FEBRUARY 20**
College of Science Reunion

**APRIL 23**
Caribbean Night at the Coal Ben

**MAY 17**
Commencement and Golden Eagles Reunion

For updates on alumni events, go to www.ben.edu/alumni or call (630) 829-6077.

Look for the “Carry the Light” logo throughout this issue for examples of giving back in time, talent and treasure.

A Letter from The New Alumni Board President

I want to introduce myself as the new Alumni Board President at the University. I am a 2001 graduate of Benedictine and I have worked as a residential loan officer for the last seven years. I have served the Alumni Board since 2002 and recently assumed the role as president. I am very excited to have accepted this new responsibility and look forward to making a positive difference for our alumni community. I am honored to be given the opportunity to address you, the Benedictine University alumni community, through our alumni magazine, Voices. I would like to take this opportunity to familiarize you with “what’s happening now” at our alma mater.

Benedictine University has grown over the years and with this growth we enjoy an alumni base that extends beyond our local community to a national and international level, part of which extends to the University’s programs in China. We, as a Board, need to reflect this national/international growth with appropriate representation, not only from the institution’s Lisle campus, but from this new, broader perspective as well.

We have begun to identify areas throughout the United States where there is a heavy population of alumni. Once identified, we will encourage the development of Chapters of the Alumni Association. Our hope is to have representation from each of these Chapters seated on the Alumni Board. It is imperative we now instill a more global membership. If you feel that you are able to commit your time, talent and/or treasure to this effort, I encourage you to contact me to discuss potential opportunities. With active participation from the Board, we can help influence the direction of the University. By offering our time and talent we can expand our geographical presence. I am very confident that we can spread the level of excitement and become more active in taking Benedictine alumni to the next level of recognition.

The purpose of the Benedictine University Alumni Association and the Alumni Association Board of Directors is to promote a continuing and mutually beneficial relationship between alumni and Benedictine University. The Board establishes the overall strategic direction for the Association, represents the Association within the University community and provides advice and counsel to the staff. Board members interact with administrators, faculty, staff and alumni to increase their knowledge of the Alumni Association and to advocate for current and future needs and goals.

As an alumus of this University, you are very important to the growth of this institution and this is an excellent opportunity to make a difference. The support of the Alumni Board and the Alumni Association will speak volumes as Benedictine University moves into the future.

I want to open a line of communication between myself and the alumni community. Please feel free to contact me at my personal e-mail listed below either with a simple “hello,” questions and comments, or with your address and personal updates so we can keep your information at the University accurate.

Please keep in touch and don’t hesitate to visit our beautiful campus for an event or “just because.” You are always welcome here. A list of events can be found at www.ben.edu or look for our periodic mailers highlighting special events. I would love to see you at Homecoming this year and hope you will introduce yourself to me. I always enjoy a conversation about BU…or IBC…or SPC for that matter. ♦

John Parker, C01
Alumni Board President
john_parker05@yahoo.com

(See his alma matters story on page 13.)

Remember: Even after you graduate, you are still connected here!

Fall 2008 7
Delali Ohui Blavo, C00
B.S. Biology

Tell us about the work you are doing in Ghana.
Who would have thought the most common cause of maternal and neonatal mortality anywhere in the world in the year 2007 would be tetanus? To help combat this dilemma, a Tetanus Immunization Project (TIP) was implemented last December in an underserved and impoverished African district of Tafi under my supervision. The initiative was planned and developed by several people including Jonathan Coleman, an NSU pre-med student; mentor Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H., T.M., FACOP, director of the Master of Public Health program at NSU; a collaboration with a not-for-profit organization called International Health Initiatives; and the Ministry of Health in Ghana, West Africa.

Tetanus was identified, through a needs assessment by health authorities, as the most common cause of maternal and neonatal mortality in the region. Neonatal tetanus, which occurs in the first month of life, has a case fatality rate of 70 to 100 percent and has been associated with women who do not have access to vaccination services. Maternal tetanus is usually acquired through unsanitary birthing conditions that result in the contamination of wounds with dust and coming into contact with unsterilized surfaces. The toxins produced by the bacteria, clostridium tetani, cause debilitating clinical signs and symptoms that include severe painful muscle spasms and convulsions that manifest as a fixed smile, locked jaw and an arching back. Studies have demonstrated that immunization of women of child-bearing age is the most effective way to reduce the incidence of maternal and neonatal tetanus.

A fundraising effort undertaken by the TIP planning team enabled 20 public health nurses, directed by a district medical officer, to administer the tetanus vaccination in December 2007 to 1,170 women ranging in age from 15 to 40 years in five villages — Tafi Atome, Tafi Abuife, Tafi Mador, Tafi Agome and Tafi Konda. Traditional drums were beaten in the villages to announce the event, which took place using portable coolers to store the vaccines because of a lack of electricity. The single well in the village was the only source of water. As a result of a community-endorsed health promotion and vaccination education efforts preceding the event, the compliance rate for the tetanus vaccination was remarkable at an estimated 60 percent participation of the targeted population.

The TIP initiative served as an eye-opening experience for me and was very well received by the chiefs and elders of the villages, the district health authorities and the community as a whole. In June 2008, we followed up with the second of three immunizations we will be providing for the women. This will be followed up by a health promotion/education campaign to improve obstetrical practices.

We are also developing a comprehensive health care system in the Tafi region, with a clinical facility that has already been built. We are in the process of establishing a pharmacy and a community-based health preventative services facility.

Why did you choose to give back?
I saw this as an opportunity to fulfill a childhood dream of mine by returning to my native hometown to provide health care to the impoverished and underserved.

I also believe in charity, which requires that you give to others. We are all blessed with unique gifts and talents. I would encourage everybody to find their gift and use it to the benefit of others.

My pre-medical education at Benedictine University provided me the foundation to do this work. I am also extremely grateful to the University for the education, experience and opportunities it accorded me.

It is hoped that these stories of those who give back help inspire others to go forward and help those in need.

If you know someone who is “Carrying the Light” in the Benedictine spirit of giving back, please let us know about them. E-mail lhale@ben.edu.
Career Development/Alumni Relations Networking Reception

On March 26, the Offices of Career Development and Alumni Relations hosted a wine and cheese networking reception for students and alumni seeking new employment opportunities. More than 80 people met with prospective employers, seven of which were represented by Benedictine alumni. Employers attending the event were Robert Half International, University HealthSystem Consortium, Sears, Edward Hospital, Downers Grove Sanitary District, Benedictine University, First Midwest Bank, Argianas & Associates, Inc., National City Bank and Chicago North Financial.

More of these collaborative events are being planned in the near future. Watch the alumni Web site for dates and times. If you are in need of employment assistance including job opportunities, resume writing or interviewing skills, contact the Office of Career Development at (630) 829-6040 or Julie Cosimo at jcosimo@ben.edu.

Women’s Tea Focuses on Safety

In partnership with the Office of Student Life, the annual Women’s Tea took place on March 27. Elizabeth Kerin from the Chicago Police Department demonstrated ways that women can keep themselves safe in parking lots, walking and jogging at night or being alone in their cars. Several women took part in the demonstrations and learned first-hand how to protect themselves. The wonderful tea and sandwiches were a great compliment to the informative session.

Comedy Night at the Coal Ben

It was a fun night at the Coal Ben on March 27 as the comedy group “You Can Make Me Laugh” entertained students and alumni for several hours. After a short stand-up routine by each of the three comedians, it was the audience’s turn to do whatever they could NOT to laugh. With some of the funniest routines students and alumni have seen, people volunteered to sit in a chair for two minutes and try not to laugh. If they succeeded, they earned $25. There were a total of eight very brave winners that night.

Men’s Alumni Baseball Reunion

A beautiful spring afternoon brought out baseball alumni to watch the Eagles play the Aurora Spartans in a double-header, as well as to celebrate Coach John “O” Ostrowski’s 800th win. With more than 25 guests in attendance, alumni watched as the Eagles experienced some exciting game play. Between the games, the alumni gathered for food and conversation in the south suite of the Sports Complex. Stories of past games, times spent at school and catching up with friends made for a great time. This is an annual event and alumni relations would like to see more alumni participate next year. Watch the alumni Web page for more information or contact Julie Nelligan, alumni relations director, at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu.

New “Benedictine in Paradise” Event

It was cold and rainy outside on April 10, but inside the Coal Ben it was warm and tropical for the first annual “Benedictine in Paradise” event for students, alumni and staff. Hosted by the Offices of Student Activities and Alumni Relations, as well as Sodexo Dining Services, activities began at lunchtime with a limbo and a “tacky tourist” contest. Tropical food was offered for lunch while everyone enjoyed music from a steel drum. The limbo contest winners were student Kevin MacKaben and Elsie Yuan, director of the China Institute. The tackiest tourist winner was Mercy Robb, M.B.A.’02, executive director of Marketing and Communications.

While the rain was pounding the new Coal Ben patio, everyone felt like they were in the islands while enjoying each other’s company. The fun continued with free appetizers and a host of tropical drinks to purchase. The reggae band, Roots Rock Society, entertained the crowd with great Jamaican music that resulted in a lot of dancing.

Watch for news of next year’s “Benedictine in Paradise” event.
College of Science Alumni Reunion Honors Meeker

On April 18, science alumni gathered at the Jurica Nature Museum for drinks and appetizers and then for dinner in the Krasa Center to renew old acquaintances and honor a longtime friend and professor, Ralph Meeker, Ph.D., C67.

Eighty alumni enjoyed great stories and remembrances shared by Don Taylor, Ph.D., University Provost; Dan Nohl, Ph.D.; John Spokas, Ph.D., C52 and John Weizcorick, C81. All shared wonderful stories about Meeker from him being their classmate, friend and coworker, to their professor and mentor. Meeker, his wife Pamela, son Mark, daughter Michelle Wesolowski, Ph.D., C93 and son-in-law Tony Wesolowski, C93, were all on hand to enjoy the festivities.

It was a great time as everyone congratulated Meeker for his many years of service to Benedictine University.

History, Philosophy and Religious Studies Awards Dinner and Reunion

On April 24, the Department of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies hosted its second annual Senior Awards Banquet. The banquet is an opportunity for faculty, parents and alumni to recognize graduating seniors for their accomplishments. The Department also recognizes an alumnus for their achievements in their chosen career and their support of the Department.

This year the Alumni Service Award went to the keynote speaker Frank Bucaro, History, C71, founder and president of Frank Bucaro and Associates. Bucaro is one of the nation’s leaders in helping companies create values-based, high-performance cultures. The Student Excellence Award went to Musil Shihadeh, a double-major in philosophy and mathematics. Recognition was also given to the following seniors who graduated with Departmental Honors: Joseph Hallman, Social Science/History; Shefy Alexander, Social Science/History; Musil Shihadeh, Philosophy; George Shimko, Social Science/History; and Sharon Ramey, Social Science/History.

Department of Music’s Third Annual Awards and Recognition Dinner

Music and excitement permeated the air as the new director of the Department of Music, Luis Loubriel, Ph.D., welcomed eight awardees and more than 50 guests to the Department of Music’s Third Annual Awards and Recognition Dinner. The dinner and awards ceremony were held on May 3 in the Krasa Center.

As guests arrived at the fellowship reception, they were delighted by the smooth sounds of the Benedictine University Student Jazz Trio featuring Nick Dobes, piano, Matt Foster, drums and Robert Jones, bass. Before dinner, Professor Emeritus Fr. John Palmer, C.S.V., offered the opening prayer. Benedictine music students then displayed their talents by performing the following: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Prayer of St Francis)” featuring Marcella Frustaci, clarinet; Kaleeya Furlow, soprano and Panah Nabili, piano; “Porgi amor (Le Nozze di Figaro)” featuring Kaleeya Furlow, soprano and Maryann Flock, piano; as well as Franz Schubert’s “Impromptus in E-flat Major, Op. 90, No. 2” featuring Panah Nabili, piano.

Music alumni Ron, C73, M.B.A.’83 and Christine, C73, M.A.’03, Paryl, delivered a personal appeal to all alumni to participate in the “Creating a Legacy in Music” fundraising effort which is focused on honoring Fr. Palmer by raising the remaining funds required to fully endow a scholarship in his name. Once this fund is endowed, the Department of Music can begin offering scholarships to music majors and minors.

The 2007-2008 award recipients were:
- Kaleeya Furlow, C08, Senior Performance Award
- Marcella Frustaci, C08, Outstanding Service Award
- Andrea DiOrio, Teacher Excellence Award
- Anne Kreft, Teacher Excellence Award
- Alicia Cordoba Tait, D.M.A., Model of Integrity Award
- Beverly Frier, Friend of the Arts Award
- Maria de la Camara, Ph.D., Distinguished Honor Award
- James M. Brown, C78, Distinguished Alumnus Award

This year’s event was sponsored by the Department of Music, Lt. Commander Richard Becker, C76 and his wife, Therese Becker, C76, as well as University trustee Rosemary Wisnowsky.

2008 Senior Class Gift

We thank the more than 110 members of the Class of 2008 and their families who donated toward their class gift. The Class of 2008 raised money to purchase computers for student use in the study area of the lower level of the Krasa Center. Adding these computers will enable more students to utilize the technology services offered on campus and will enhance their learning in a quiet area. Congratulations to the Class of 2008 for “Carrying the Light” to a whole new group of students.
Golden Eagles Reunion
At the 115th Commencement Convocation on May 18, the class of 1958 alumni were honored as the newest Golden Eagles. After commencement, a lunch was hosted by the Alumni Association to honor the newest Golden Eagles by awarding them the coveted golden eagle pin. Stories were shared about the old days of St. Procopius College, the farm and the fun they had together. The alumnus from the earliest graduating year was attendee Martin Skelly, M.D., C50, from Denver, Colorado.

Congratulations to these Golden Eagles. The University thanks them for continuing to “Carry the Light.”

2008 Alumni Picnic: Benedictine Spirit Shines Through Rain
Sunday, June 29 started out sunny and beautiful for the Annual Alumni Picnic. With 100 people in attendance everyone enjoyed lunch in the new Coal Ben or sat outside on the many picnic tables. Lawn games, bean bags, volleyball, basketball and canoeing were just a few of the activities that were offered for the afternoon.

When Mother Nature decided it was time for some rain, many activities were moved indoors to the Coal Ben, including a competitive bean bag tournament. In true Benedictine spirit, the alumni wouldn’t let the rain stop the fun as attendees shared stories and talked about how to make the alumni picnic even bigger next year.

Great Opportunity to Get Involved: The Office of Alumni Relations is seeking alumni input and participation to assist in planning next year’s event which is scheduled for June 28, 2009. Please contact Julie Nelligan, at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu with your ideas and suggestions.
Distinguished Alumni Award

David, B.A. Business and Economics, 1991 and Patricia Bushland

In recognition of outstanding achievement in a career field or personal endeavor, the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award goes to David and Patricia Bushland.

The Bushlands are the founders of the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI). This organization was started to provide education, emotional support and networking opportunities for parents of visually impaired children, such as their daughter Mary Rose. The organization raises more than $50,000 annually in order to provide summer camps, scholarships and other financial support for the families. David was recently named to the national board of directors for this organization and also sits on the Associate Board for the Foundation for Retinal Research. He is also involved with United Way and is a youth sports coach for basketball, baseball, football and soccer.

David graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Business and Economics in 1991 and went on to earn an M.S. in Finance from the University of Wisconsin, as well as an M.B.A. from Wake Forest University. Patricia attended Benedictine University for two years and transferred to Rush University Medical Center earning her B.S.N. She received the Arkansas Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired Distinguished Advocate Award in May 2007. The Bushlands were awarded NAPVI’s National Shining Star Award in December 2007. In 2007, they raised more than $100,000 for visually impaired causes.

The Bushlands reside in Bella Vista, Ark. with their children Jason-15, Sara-13, Matt-11, Danny-8 and Mary Rose-2.

Alumni Awards 2008

Alumni Spirit Award


Given to alumni that serve and have served the University with their time and talent, the 2008 Alumni Spirit Award goes to William Tonne, D.D.S.

Tonne has been an active alumnus almost from the moment he graduated in 1968. Upon completion of his D.D.S. degree from the University of Illinois Dental School, he became very active in many professional organizations including the U.S. Grant District Dental Society, the Illinois State Dental Society, the American Dental Association and the Chicago Dental Society. He also has been a faculty member at the University of Illinois Dental School and donates his services to a local nursing home as well as at the Department of Human Services.

Tonne is also very active with community organizations including the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus, Jo Daviess County Board of Health and the village board. While a Benedictine student, he was vice president of his freshmen class, president of his sophomore class, homecoming chairman, on the student government academic committee and also played baseball and hockey. He has continued donating his time by organizing all his class reunions, hosting the Class of 1968 reunion in the Sports Complex Skybox each year at Homecoming, and attending and supporting the annual golf outing and Educare Ball.

Tonne lives in Hanover, Ill. with his wife, Peggy, and has practiced dentistry in Savanna, Ill. for more than 35 years. The couple have two children, Karen Greiner and Lara Walters, as well as five grandchildren.

Alumni Service Award

Carol (Antonini) Arthurs, B.S. Biochemistry, 1974

The Benedictine Service Award is given to an alumnus who has exemplified the Benedictine values of service, hospitality and dedication to their personal and/or professional life. The 2008 award is given to Carol Arthurs.

Arthurs has given her time both as a high school biology and chemistry teacher at Benet Academy and to her community. At Benet she assists the music department with ticket sales, ushers and parent volunteers for marching band performances, concerts and musicals. She coordinates the Musical Parents organization and assists the director of music when needed. She is house manager for the spring musical in which she oversees the volunteer parents and student ushers at each performance. She also volunteers with the Benet Environmental Club by helping sort paper, cans, bottles and glass, and then hauls it all to the recycling dumpster. As moderator of the Benet Environmental Club, she appoints club officers and supervises students in sorting recyclables and promoting conservation of the environment.

In her community, she is a religion teacher at both St. Michael’s Parish and St. Scholastica Parish and volunteers her time for many church activities too numerous to mention. Arthurs and six of her family members are alumni of Benedictine.

She earned her Master of Education with an emphasis in Science from Northern Illinois University. Arthurs currently resides in Woodridge with her husband, Robert. They have three children, Karen, Kathleen and Kristen.
John Parker, C01  
B.A. Business Management and Organizational Behavior

John Parker has always been an active member of the Benedictine community – during his years at school and as an alumnus. He is currently a residential mortgage loan officer at National City Mortgage, but still finds time to help promote the goals and needs of the University. In the answers below, he explains why his “alma matters.”

How have you ‘stayed connected’ to Benedictine since graduation?
One way I stay connected is by attending Homecoming and baseball games. I feel at home when I am on the campus. I’ve also been serving on the alumni board since 2002 (currently as president) and I still spend weekends and take trips with many of my classmates and old baseball teammates.

I also support the school financially. Along with staff member and fellow alumnus, Joan Henchen, C91, I started and helped fund the John Ostrowski Leadership Endowment Scholarship. I have also referred a star student and great addition to the women’s basketball team, Jennifer Bren, to the University. I am living my past through her as she moves up the ladder at Benedictine.

Why did you decide to ‘give back’ to the University?
It was natural to me to give back. During my time at the University, I had many great memories and developed lifelong relationships with fellow students, faculty and baseball teammates. There are many great people associated with this University, from coaches to faculty to administration.

Over the years I have enjoyed staying close to the University as an alumnus. I enjoy my relationships with Coach “O” (Ostrowski), Coach (Dave) Swanson, Marco Masini, Julie Nelligan, Deb Smith, Pat Ariano, Joan Henchen, and of course Fr. Dave (Turner) and Luba Baranivsky! That is my short list of people who make me continue to love this place. Every time I am on campus I look forward to seeing these individuals.

Also, it is easy to give back because I can see progress in the overall development of the University. Benedictine is advancing and expanding in a wonderful fashion. I love the fact that I am currently playing an important role in the future of the Alumni Board. All the changes that are being made will result as a positive in the future and give the future students the facilities they need to have a memorable educational experience at Benedictine.

Also, the setting of the school is important to the closeness you feel for it. I remember freshman year when my mom would pick me up almost every Friday after my 10:00 a.m. class. I couldn’t wait to see her walking down the hall in Jaeger. How quickly it went from going home every weekend to looking forward to the weekend on campus. In the setting at Benedictine you make friends quickly. We all started our little “BU” family. It was great having the weekends to be with each other. What a life that was. Little did we know that we were building a future for ourselves and for our future families. I love and cherish my time at Benedictine. Not many days go by when I don’t think about someone or something that came into my life there.

Why do you think others would enjoy giving back as well?
Giving back will make you feel good and greatly benefit the future of the school. Giving back financially will not only help the University with future improvements, but it will also solidify that this University is here to stay. When I am asked where I went to school, I can say with pride and confidence — “Benedictine.”

By giving of your time, talent and treasure, it helps the University constantly stay ahead of the competition by providing students with everything they need and then some. In addition, you help to build the sense of community that is so strong here. Alumni play a big role in keeping the University productive, challenging and closely connected.

What are the benefits of staying connected to your alma mater?
I love to stay connected because Benedictine cared for me when I was a student. But there are other benefits as well, like networking. The University has a very diverse group of alumni, so this makes job searching more accessible. You might run into someone who is hiring, you may be looking to hire someone yourself, or you can relate to each other’s college experience and grow a business bond.

There are also services and discounts alumni receive, job search help, access to campus services and facilities, and the chance to continue to be a part of a community that cares.

Even my parents were involved in the Benedictine experience. I never took for granted when I saw them in the stands for a baseball game. I will never forget when my dad and I built shelves for Coach Swanson in the baseball shed. Having my family so close to my educational experience made me proud of what I was doing. I am lucky that my family got to know and feel my passion for the University then and now. My parents played a huge part in all the success I have in my career and in life, and I’m glad they could be such an active part of my college experience. ♦

The Alma Matters feature highlights alumni who have chosen to donate their time, talents and/or finances to Benedictine in order to support the school’s goals and needs.
Get Your Alumni Class Involved!

“Carry the Light” by using your time, talent and/or treasure.

**Alumni Events:**

There are many great opportunities to get your alumni class involved with events on campus, foster long-time friendships and share your time and talent with others.

- Encourage your class to attend an alumni event as a group, such as at the Annual Alumni Picnic, Golf Outing, Homecoming or other event. Let us know, so we can honor you during the event.
- Organize a get-together to tour campus and have lunch.
- Organize a competitive game of volleyball, basketball or any sport using the University facilities and unwind and catch up afterward.
- Organize a get-together at the new Coal Ben.
- Organize a group of classmates to mentor or speak to current students about job opportunities and advice in your field.
- Host a speaker or informative event on campus.

If you would like to spearhead a gathering or project for your alumni class, please contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu. We will help you contact class members and aid in communication and organization efforts.

**Fundraising Projects:**

Here are some suggestions for alumni class-giving. We will work with you to pull it all together and aid you in fundraising efforts through promoting your idea to fellow classmates.

- Consider an alumni class gift.
- Start a scholarship or contribute to one.
- Remember a classmate or honor your entire class while beautifying campus through the memorial bench and tree program.
- Spearhead a classroom rebuild or equipment purchase.
- Contribute to a campus growth project.

If you have an idea for a fundraiser, would like suggestions for a gift or have already gathered together an interested group of classmates, please contact Jill Poskin at (630) 829-6366 or jposkin@ben.edu. Let us help you pull it all together by aiding with announcements and fundraising efforts.†

**Donate**

You can donate to the **Laboratory Equipment Fund** and help students in the Chemistry department.

The Department of Chemistry was recently able to purchase a computer-controlled Epsilon electrochemistry workstation for voltammetry and polarography methods from Bioanalytical Systems, Inc.

A generous donation of $5,000 by Joanne Bartos helped to purchase this new piece of scientific equipment. The instrument, which is located in a research laboratory in Birck Hall, is used by undergraduate students for bioanalytical chemistry research as well as for teaching undergraduate students in the Chemical Analysis courses.

This new research-grade instrument has enabled more students to get trained on common electrochemistry methods in the laboratory which will enhance their research abilities.

**We are Looking for Your Input:**

The Educare Scholarship Ball is taking a hiatus this year. We are looking to either revitalize the concept of the Educare Ball or create a whole new event to replace it, either of which will serve the necessary function of raising the needed scholarship funds for our students.

Your thoughts and ideas are welcomed by Deb Smith, Director of University Events, at (630) 829-6080 or dsmith@ben.edu.†

Remember: Even after you graduate, you are still connected here!
Generous Donation From the Heart

Michael (Mike) Flynn
B.A. Political Science, 1980; M.B.A., 1986

Mike Flynn is no stranger to Benedictine University. He earned two degrees at then Illinois Benedictine College and is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. in Organization Development program at the University. He and his wife, Nanci, Communication and Literature, C83, donate much of their time and resources to causes close to their hearts. Flynn wanted to make a big impact at the place he felt gave him so much in life, as well as to aid students who need financial help to secure a great education. He did so with a generous $20,000 gift to the President’s 21st Century Fund.

Flynn realizes the benefits he receives from this gift are not only personal but fiscal as well. “The benefit I have personally received from my donation is both financial and spiritual in nature. I considered and made my donation from a present and future perspective. Presently, my donation will be helpful to me in the context of this year’s taxes. If I have the choice whether to give to Caesar or to God, I’ll choose God all day long. For the future, and when the time comes that I go home to the Lord, giving sooner rather than later means I will not have any concerns that I could be leaving my family with a serious problem in the form of burdensome estate taxes.

Morally, I feel compelled to give to Benedictine so that the University can help those students who may someday remember what was given to them, and who may in turn continue the process of giving. In other words, I see myself as nothing more than a farmer who plants the seed and leaves it to God and the University to cause the seed to grow for harvesting at a later date,” he explained.

While Flynn was earning his M.B.A. he worked for Official Airline Guides, a subsidiary of Dun & Bradstreet, as an International Cargo Tariffs Analyst/Manager. After earning his law degree from John Marshall Law School in 1990, he formed the law firm of Business & Banking Services where he concentrated their practice of law in the areas of banking and corporate and commercial construction/real estate. He is now semi-retired from the firm and is busy working on his Ph.D. as he limits his legal practice to what he calls “family building law through the ministry God planted in my heart over many years.”

This past April, Flynn formed a not-for-profit foundation called SDG Adoption & Child Advocacy Center. Through SDG (the name comes from Soli Deo Gloria — for the glory of God alone) he serves families with special needs and terminally-ill children. He also handles domestic and international adoptions and acts as a court-appointed guardian ad litem for children in the court system. He feels this is truly his passion and calling and takes pride in showing off his “Board of Angels” filled with the photos of families that SDG has helped build.

Flynn and his wife prefer to direct their charitable contributions to organizations whose mission is to serve children who need help the most. Aside from contributing to SDG, the Flynns have also made financial and professional donations to an organization called The Red Thread. This organization, comprised of volunteers, provides medical and surgical assistance to orphans in China and other international locations so that they may be adopted by loving families who could not afford their medical costs.

“The passage from scripture that motivates our actions is Matthew 18:4-5: ‘Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven and whoever receives a little child like this in my name receives me. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me,’” explained Flynn.

Donating money to help others is not always an easy decision. Many times people hesitate in parting with their savings because they worry they might need it one day. “Throughout our 28 years of marriage, Nanci and I would give to the Lord when we didn’t have the foggiest idea how we were going to put food on the table. This was particularly so while I was in law school and for a number of years afterward while I was working for myself. Every time we took that step of faith, we were blessed ten-fold. Similarly, I encourage everyone to take that step of faith. Giving is not easy and is often times frightening, but freely giving is truly rewarding to ourselves as well as to others. As an example, when I am asked to be a pallbearer for a young child that I have represented, it is incredibly painful, just as it is painful to give when you are broke and it hurts to turn even a penny loose. But that pain is eventually replaced with a deep sense of purpose and wonderful memories that you will treasure for the remainder of your life. Life is much too short to put off or delay the important things. Besides, when all is said and done, money will not provide any comfort when you are alone or in your final hours of life, and in the meantime it can do a great deal of good,” said Flynn.

The University holds many memories for Flynn and his family. He was in a rather unique situation as a student in that he was a married man with two young children when he and his wife were in school. Flynn’s wife, Nanci, is now retired from her career as a litigation assistant in Chicago as well as from Flynn’s firm in Downers Grove. She writes from time to time and presently has “The Children of Propria’s House” listed on Amazon.com. To this day, Nanci enjoys a treasured friendship with Rosemary Coleman, a retired Benedictine literature professor who has become a member of their family. The couple has two granddaughters, Rebecca and Lauren, who Flynn hopes will someday attend Benedictine.

“I want to do whatever I can to preserve and grow this academic home in case they decide to do just that,” said Flynn.

Carry The Light:
If you would like to know about making a gift to the University, please contact Jill Poskin at (630) 829-6366 or jposkin@ben.edu. ♦
The 14th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing brought together beautiful weather, a gorgeous course, a top-notch golf coach and hundreds of alumni and friends of the University. The golfers and attendees gathered at Cress Creek Country Club in Naperville and were treated to the expert golf coaching advice of Hank Haney, golf coach to the world’s No. 1 player. Haney also conducted a golf clinic during the lunch break which was well received by the 230 golfers. During the awards dinner, Haney spoke to the crowd about his coaching career and relayed many stories about working with top golf professional, Tiger Woods.

Golfers taking away wins for the day were: Justin Hatch, C05, Men’s Longest Drive; Jennifer Ferrell, Women’s Longest Drive and Women’s Closest to the Pin; and Mike Wickiser, Men’s Closest to the Pin. The winners of the 1st Place Mixed Team were from Alliance Drywall & Acoustical and included Jim Diorio, Kim Morrison, Dave Schremser and Liza Dhamer.

The Men’s 1st Place Team included Benedictine President William Carroll, Bill Brestal, Tom Hagmeyer and Lenny Lombardo.

The Alumni Cup was awarded to the team of John Parker, C01, Cory Ferrell, Jen Ferrell and Ben Nachtwey, C02. Not only will their names be added to the Alumni Cup, which is permanently on display in the Office of Alumni Relations, but they were also awarded 2008 Alumni Cup Champion wind shirts. The team is

Donors’ Generosity Was in Full Swing

At the Hank Haney Clinic, expert golf tips were offered.

Hank Haney (center) with the Alumni Cup winning team: (L to R) Cory Ferrell; Jen Ferrell; John Parker, C01; and Ben Nachtwey, C02.

invited back to defend their win at the next Golf Outing. In order to qualify for the Alumni Cup you must have one alumnus/na on your team. This year there were 33 alumni among the 230 golfers. Make plans now to get your alumni team involved in the 2009 outing.

**Though this event was a fun-filled day, the real reason it is held is to raise scholarship funds for Benedictine students.** This year the University was blessed with many donors who wanted to step up and “Carry the Light” to help students fulfill their educational goals. This year’s event raised more than $75,000 for student scholarships.

Mark your calendars now to join us for the 15th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing on Monday, June 29, 2009 at Cress Creek Country Club in Naperville. Look for updates at www.ben.edu/golf.

For information regarding sponsorship opportunities, please contact Deb Smith, director of University events, at 630-829-6080 or dsmith@ben.edu. †

Below: Charlie Gregory presented Will Gillett and Bill Carroll with a donation check.

**Sponsorships Make Events Successful**

The University would like to thank the event’s major sponsors: Benedictine University Online and Sodexo as Gold Tee Sponsors; Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, First DuPage Bank, Human Resource Management Systems LLC, and Ice Miller LLP as White Tee Sponsors; Corporate Strategies & Solutions, Inc. as Wine and Cheese Reception Sponsor; National Van Lines as the Dinner Sponsor; National City Bank as the Lunch Sponsor; Benedictine University Alumni Association as the Cocktail Hour Sponsor; and Paul Gauvreau, University Trustee, as the Putting Contest Sponsor.

Additionally, the University thanks the following sponsors:
- Putting Green, DLR Group;
- Longest Drive Contest, HRH;
- Scholarship, Harbour Contractors;
- Breakfast, Marriott Hickory Ridge Conference Hotel;
- Golf Carts, U.S. Bank;
- Photography, Wolf & Company LLP.

The Premium Hole Sponsors were:
- Allegiant Asset Management Co.; Art Littlefield, University Trustee; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois; Delta Dental of Illinois; Will Gillett, Chair, University Trustees; The Kevin McGirr Family; Quaker, Tropicana, & Gatorade (QTG) Sales, a Division of Pepsico; Stock, Carlson, Flynn & McGrath LLC; Sodexo; UGL-Unicco; and Wolf Electric.

Gratitude is also extended to the following:
- Hole Sponsors ATI Physical Therapy, KJWW Engineering Consultants, Liberty Mutual, Lisle Savings Bank, NECA-IBEW LOC 701 and Sendra Service Corporation; Beverage Station Sponsors ROC, Inc. and Sodexo; Invitations Sponsor Minuteman Press, Naperville; Signs Sponsor FastSigns of Naperville; Media Sponsor The Sun; and Accommodations Sponsor Lisle/Naperville Hilton.

The holes-in-one were provided by:
- Fox Valley Marine, Gerald Nissan and Gerald Subaru/Kia.
The University is grateful for the many endowments that have been created by individuals and groups to further the education of students at Benedictine. Endowments can serve many purposes such as to help relieve financial burdens on students and increase their learning capabilities through the purchase of up-to-date equipment and supplies.

For instance, they can help to pay lab fees in the study of music for undergraduate students, such as the Fr. John M. Palmer, C.S.V. Endowment Scholarship for Expenses in Applied Music, or they can add to the Chemistry department's resources to aid in faculty and undergraduate research projects as well as to purchase major chemistry instruments, such as the David J. Rausch Chemistry Endowment Fund.

These are just a couple of examples of the many wonderful endowments established to help students attain their educational goals. But as helpful as endowments are for the many students that they aid, they first need to be funded to do their job. For instance, in order for the University to award scholarships to students from the Fr. Palmer endowment mentioned above, there must first be a base of $10,000. Once this has been achieved, scholarships can be awarded to qualifying music students. In the Rausch Endowment, there is a set goal of funding $500,000 in five years in order to keep this endowment in service.

That is where friends and alumni of the University can become involved. All the current endowments that have been established are listed on the Web at www.ben.edu/endowments. There are descriptions of the endowments and how they serve the Benedictine community. Donors can find the cause that means the most to them and contribute to its success through either a one-time contribution or a pledge for a specific amount, which can be automatically deducted from a bank account each month.

Visit the endowment Web page today and see how you can “Carry the Light” and make a difference in a student’s life.

If you would like to learn more about endowments, please contact Jill Poskin at (630) 829-6366 or jposkin@ben.edu.

Get involved with a Great Cause: Donate to Endowments at Benedictine

(Learn more at www.ben.edu/endowments)

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For instance, they can help to pay lab fees in the study of music for undergraduate students, such as the Fr. John M. Palmer, C.S.V. Endowment Scholarship for Expenses in Applied Music, or they can add to the Chemistry department’s resources to aid in faculty and undergraduate research projects as well as to purchase major chemistry instruments, such as the David J. Rausch Chemistry Endowment Fund.

These are just a couple of examples of the many wonderful endowments established to help students attain their educational goals. But as helpful as endowments are for the many students that they aid, they first need to be funded to do their job. For instance, in order for the University to award scholarships to students from the Fr. Palmer endowment mentioned above, there must first be a base of $10,000. Once this has been achieved, scholarships can be awarded to qualifying music students. In the Rausch Endowment, there is a set goal of funding $500,000 in five years in order to keep this endowment in service.

That is where friends and alumni of the University can become involved. All the current endowments that have been established are listed on the Web at www.ben.edu/endowments. There are descriptions of the endowments and how they serve the Benedictine community. Donors can find the cause that means the most to them and contribute to its success through either a one-time contribution or a pledge for a specific amount, which can be automatically deducted from a bank account each month.

Visit the endowment Web page today and see how you can “Carry the Light” and make a difference in a student’s life.

If you would like to learn more about endowments, please contact Jill Poskin at (630) 829-6366 or jposkin@ben.edu.
GREENING BENEDICTINE

In chapter 64 of the Rule of St. Benedict, abbots are warned to steward resources, human and material, carefully: “… remember to whom [you] will have ‘to give an account of [your] stewardship’” (Luke 16:2). Just recently, Pope Benedict described new sins, including ecological abuse and excessive consumption, and now the Vatican has been equipped with solar panels. Tending to environmental issues is the natural nexus between faith and reason, between science and humanities, and between humans and creation — the place we prize so highly at Benedictine University.

Scientists warn with increasing urgency that we may be reaching a tipping point in climate change. Babies are born contaminated with a toxic array of pesticides, phthalates and other environmental chemicals; cancer, Parkinson’s Disease, autism, asthma and other environmentally linked diseases are on the rise. According to the World Health Organization, more than one billion people use unsafe water sources. The time is right for Benedictine University to go green and step-up its environmental efforts.

As part of a three-year, campus-wide effort to green Benedictine, the University is planning an array of courses, events, speakers and activities. Elizabeth Kolbert’s book "Field Notes From a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change" will kick off the first year, with students, staff and faculty reading the book and discussing the problem of climate change. Courses for the fall include “Ecology of a Changing Planet,” “Readings in the History of Biology,” “Disease and the Environment,” “World Religions” and Core courses. Each semester, students and faculty in these courses will meet and discuss links among different disciplines. Faculty will address connections between environment, faith and institutional identity at six Center for Mission and Identity colloquia throughout the year.

This fall, the Global Studies Program, having addressed climate change and the population explosion in spring 2008, will lead a forum on “Faith and Reason: What’s Sufficiency?” Benedictine will host the Sustainable Cities Symposium on October 24, 2008. For the fourth consecutive year, Benedictine will host the DuPage Conservation Foundation Environmental Summit in January. In addition, a major speaker, student presentations and other activities will cap the year in April.

As part of these environmental efforts, the University has begun examining its own carbon footprint and environmental practices. Last spring, Jay L. Stuart (Sodexo) director of campus services, accepted a Clean Air Counts award on behalf of Benedictine for helping to reduce ozone problems in the Chicago region.

Benedictine was also recognized for a reduction in energy consumption made possible by a grant from The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to increase lighting efficiency. The Jurica Tallgrass Prairie supervised by Larry Kamin, Ph.D., was also recognized. In addition, 75 percent of the demolition rubble from Kohlbeck Hall was diverted from landfills and will be recycled in various ways, which will support LEED certification of the new building (story on page 21). Sodexo, also the campus dining services provider, buys Fair Trade coffee and uses potato- and corn-starch disposable items.

At the heart of the University’s institutional mission is a commitment to prepare people “for a lifetime as active, informed and responsible citizens and leaders in the world community.” There is a growing need for enlightened business leaders who are able to find creative ways to benefit not only their organizations, but also society as a whole. In the upcoming academic year, the University’s M.B.A. program in the College of Business will offer two new concentrations to help prepare the next generation of business leaders: Sustainable Business and Sustainable Leadership (see story page 23).

Because environmental concerns like clean air, water and food are basic to the health of the public, Benedictine’s Master of Public Health program requires students to take the Environment and Public Health and Biology and Public Health courses to assess the soundness of local environments. The College of Liberal Arts and the College of Science are exploring an Environmental Studies major that emphasizes economic, social and policy issues of environmental science.

Each year, the University will present a full slate of educational opportunities, identify additional ways to reduce its institutional footprint and start conversations that will lead to best practices in sustainability. All parts of the University will be engaged in this effort — academic and business — as this exciting process begins.

St. Benedict admonished abbots, as well as the rest of the community, to listen not just to the most senior of the monks, but also to the youngest, the least in rank. The University hopes to model for its students a better way of co-existing with the world and also to provide them opportunities to take the lead in caring for this precious gift — Earth.
More than 1,050 students were awarded associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees this graduating year. The 115th Commencement Convocation was held on campus at the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex on May 18.

The featured speaker at this year’s event was Judith A. Whinfrey, a member of the Board of Directors of Hewitt Associates and a trustee of Benedictine University. When Whinfrey began her career at Hewitt Associates it was a small actuarial consulting firm. It now has grown to become a $3 billion global firm specializing in human resources consulting and outsourcing. She is also the chair of the Academic Affairs Committee at Benedictine, the chair of the Board of Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield and a board member of S&C Electric Company of Chicago.

**Procopian Award**
**Amina Tahira Waheed** (Lisle)
The Procopian Award is the highest honor the University can bestow upon a graduating senior. This award is given for consistently outstanding curricular and extracurricular activities while at the University.

**Thomas J. Dyba Leadership Award**
**Kiera O’Brien Vizza** (Evergreen Park)
The Thomas J. Dyba Leadership Award is awarded to a student for outstanding ability to initiate and organize worthwhile activities, to encourage and direct the cooperative efforts of others and to command respect as a campus leader.

**Service Award**
**Ericka Estelle Sanders** (Chicago)
The Service Award is awarded for outstanding service to the University in general and to fellow students in particular.

**Community Service Award**
**Leia Marie Roeges** (Oak Park)
The Community Service Award is awarded for outstanding service in religious, educational, social or political activities.

The recipients of the Awards in Academic Honors included:

Anne Elisabeth Perkins (Alpena, Mich.), College of Business
Bradley Thomas Callard (Rolling Meadows), College of Education and Health Services
Kristyn Danielle Bales (Downers Grove) and Debra Ann Witcza (Darien), College of Science
Gail Catherine Bush (Elmhurst), College of Liberal Arts
The 115th Commencement at the University celebrated the graduation of students from many diverse backgrounds who came from all over the world to be a part of the Benedictine family. There were also several family stories written.

It was a proud moment for Ron Arnone when he watched his youngest child receive a diploma from his alma mater. The Arnone family has been part of the Benedictine family for many years. Ron Arnone, Biology, C74, sent both his children to Benedictine — Carla, International Business, C02 and Dave, Communication Arts, C08. In addition, his wife, Pina, has worked at the University for 11 years and helps carry the Benedictine tradition in their lives.

It was important to the Arnone’s that their children experience Benedictine. “I wanted Carla and Dave to have the same great education I did, while in a close, caring environment,” said Ron.

Carla now works at a major food company and Dave is looking for a position in his field.

Another family story from Commencement 2008 was that of Joyce Cecchi and her son, Vince. They are the first known mother-and-son team to graduate together from Benedictine. Joyce, 59, graduated cum laude with a degree in Organizational Leadership, and Vince, 24, earned his degree in Psychology.

As more and more adults go back to school to improve their marketability in the working world, perhaps this story won’t be as unusual in the future. But for Joyce, she admits that sometimes she got very tired and almost quit, but she didn’t want to let her son down. Vince is the one who convinced her to share the spotlight at graduation with him, knowing how hard she had worked to earn her degree. She is now starting courses for a Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior degree and with her youngest son, Anthony, working toward a Marketing degree with a sports marketing concentration at the University, she may be making history twice.

If you know of a family who has a strong Benedictine connection, let us know. E-mail Linda Hale at lhale@ben.edu.
Trustee Profile: Michael J. Birck — Pioneer, Risk-taker and Entrepreneur

It was a 1974 conversation with a friend and business colleague at a Fourth of July barbecue at the Birck home that would eventually lead to the large Tellabs building on Diehl Road, and to Mike Birck’s contributions to the master plan of this company.

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University, and a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from New York University, Birck went to work as an engineer at Bell Laboratories but left there after a few years to work for a company with the potential for equity ownership. The ownership concept remained only in the talking stage but led to that very important Fourth of July conversation.

Birck and his six partners collected all of the money they could from mortgaging homes and selling stock to accrue $110,000 which allowed them to get a loan from Citizen’s Bank of Downers Grove. They took no salary for the first year, relying on their wives (who were working) to support their families. The Birck sons, Kevin and Christopher, began working at Tellabs after college. They still recall early days of sitting around the kitchen table stuffing envelopes of information to send to prospective customers.

When an AT&T supervisor inspected the production of a proposed product in 1978, Birck and his partners had only a handful of employees, so they drafted family members and friends so it looked as though about 25 people were working the assembly line. They got the job and they were on their way. Even though Birck thrives on competition, whether it is building a company, playing golf or watching a football game, his competitors and friends describe him as a down-to-earth CEO with no pretensions or arrogance.

Birck is currently Chairman of the Board and Executive Chairman of Tellabs. He is the historian of the company and preserves the culture of the corporation.

In the 1980s Birck began putting research and development dollars into “digital cross-connects” — software-controlled switching devices that handle large volumes of high-speed voice and data traffic on telephone networks. The product was called TITAN and it became key to the growth of the company.

Initially, Tellabs’ best-known products were “echo cancellers” that improve voice quality over phones, including cellular phones. Today, the company is best-known for its optically-based access and transport products which advance telecommunications networks to meet the evolving needs of users. Solutions from Tellabs enable service providers to deliver high-quality voice, video and data services over wire-line and wireless networks around the world.

When Birck’s youngest son, Joni, the middle child, graduated from Purdue University and initially worked at Tellabs in sales. He is now a part of an operations group. Joni, the middle child, has an engineering degree from Purdue and is currently raising four children.

Birck followed Joe Kindlon as Chairman of the Board at Benedictine and headed the search committee that hired William J. Carroll, current president of Benedictine. The contributions to the University by Birck and his wife, Kay, have been memorialized by naming the Michael and Kay Birck Hall of Science after them.

The role of Trustee is taken seriously by Birck and he is faithful in attending three annual meetings as well as serving on the Executive Committee. Trustees oversee the mission and vision of the University, appoint its president and CEO and confirm appointments of other administrative officers and faculty. Trustees also approve the University’s business planning and budget as well as granting both earned and honorary degrees. The Board reports to certain groups and agencies, such as the State of Illinois, the monks who founded the University and education accrediting agencies.

Birck also serves on the Board of Trustees at Purdue University and the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Molex Incorporated in Lisle.

With all of the time and effort spent building the company, he still found time to spend with his family including coaching his sons’ baseball teams. He enjoys tennis and golf and currently spends part of the year in Naples, Fla. with his wife. Prior to her retirement, Kay worked as a head nurse at Women’s Health Care of Hinsdale.

Birck demonstrates the best qualities of a trustee, pioneer, risk-taker and entrepreneur. He gives of his time, talent and treasure to help “Carry the Light” of the University.
NATIONAL BOARD GIVES NOD TO NURSING PROGRAM

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) program at Benedictine has received initial accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

The CCNE Board of Commissioners awarded the maximum five-year term to the B.S.N. program for registered nurses (R.N.). CCNE is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education to accredit professional nursing education programs.

“The commission, through this accreditation, is demonstrating its belief in our program and the efforts by our faculty and staff to continually improve,” said Ethel Ragland, Ed.D., chair of the Nursing and Health Department at Benedictine. “They are also expressing their confidence that the program will continue to grow and be successful.”

Benedictine’s R.N. to B.S.N. completion program has partnered with community colleges to provide registered nurses with the skills and knowledge necessary to undertake leadership positions where they work and further their education at the graduate level.

The accelerated one-year program builds on previous knowledge, emphasizes critical thinking and grants credit for prior learning. Classes are offered in an evening and weekend format, and are held at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn and at Triton College in River Grove. The program offers a private education at tuition competitive with state schools.

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AND SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP CONCENTRATIONS

At the heart of Benedictine’s institutional mission is a commitment to prepare people “for a lifetime as active, informed and responsible citizens and leaders in the world community.”

Few managers emerge from business schools prepared to be values-driven leaders and to integrate broader societal change into business opportunities. In response to this challenge of preparing the next generation of business leaders to effectively shape the future of corporations to benefit society as well as the bottom line, two new graduate business concentrations will be offered during the 2008-09 academic year: Sustainable Business and Sustainable Leadership.

Sustainable Business will prepare students to excel at the leading edge of the new sustainability revolution. This concentration offers courses that focus on understanding the broad impact of sustainability issues, identifying the strategic opportunities that are emerging, and successfully integrating sustainability principles throughout the organization.

The Sustainable Leadership concentration will explore various models of leadership and help students analyze their own leadership qualities, current case best practices of corporate responsibility and sustainability integrating corporate responsibility/sustainability within their own industries, and the changing global demands placed on contemporary leaders.

For more information, contact Susan Stackley, at (630) 829-6210 or sstackley@ben.edu.

NEW THEOLOGY MAJOR AND CERTIFICATE

The study of theology plays an important role in the dialogue between faith and reason and helps students relate faith-based beliefs to issues of day-to-day life at work and in society.

Beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year, the University will offer a Bachelor of Arts in Theology. The program will prepare students with the communication skills and general knowledge to succeed in a wide variety of careers.

The program is designed for those who seek a critical, academic engagement with Roman Catholicism. Theology was once known as the Queen of Sciences at medieval universities, and its revival at Benedictine will allow the University to revitalize the subject matter and bring theological education into dialogue with the other disciplines at the University, such as the Transformation Seminars.

Although theology is usually taught as preparation for ministry, Benedictine’s theology program is designed for students who want to pursue careers in law, business, education, science or communications. Students should be as intellectually sophisticated about their faith as their secular career.

Students who choose a theology major can combine it with other programs to allow them to graduate with a dual major, or they can major in theology and minor in education, science or business. They would also be qualified to pursue advanced degrees in theology or pastoral ministry.

Benedictine is also offering a certificate program for adults in theology. The Theology in Life Certificate Program aims to present Catholic theology in a course structure designed for a lay person who desires a deeper understanding of the application of Catholic theology to the great questions of human life.

The certificate program requires students to take four courses: “Theology of Love” which examines the concept of “God is Love” as the basis for all theological work; “Theology of Freedom,” which examines the concept of freedom as it relates to the problems of evil, human action and creativity; “Theology of Justice,” which examines the idea of justice in relation to the redeeming death of Christ and issues of individual and social justice; and “Theology and Science,” which examines the relationship of faith and reason.

For more information about these programs, contact the College of Liberal Arts at (630) 829-6247 or visit www.ben.edu/programs/liberal arts.
University launches Center for Values-Driven Leadership

Business leaders like David Packard of Hewlett-Packard and James Burke of Johnson & Johnson are admired not only for their capacity to build great enterprises but for their commitment to integrity and service to society. They were innovators and entrepreneurs who harnessed opportunities to win in the marketplace but also led from a deep sense of purpose and a profound commitment to their core values — values like honesty, integrity, discipline, stewardship, dedication to customers, care for people and social responsibility.

Today, there are hundreds of leaders and corporations — such as John Deere, McDonald’s, Motorola, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Advanced Micro Devices, NIKE, Intel, Interface, Dell, Herman Miller and many others — who share these values-based commitments. They are fiercely competitive and focused on excelling in the marketplace, but they also believe that corporations exist for a higher purpose, and that purpose includes responsibility for all stakeholders — shareholders, customers, employees, communities and the natural environment.

This year, with the active support of Benedictine President William Carroll, and under the direction of Sandra Gill, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business and Jim Ludema, Ph.D., professor of Organization Development, the University has launched the Center for Values-Driven Leadership.

The Center is designed as a dynamic learning alliance in which Benedictine faculty, staff and students will collaborate with top universities, corporations, executives, thought leaders and other partners to study the dynamics, tell the stories and develop the capacities of values-driven leaders worldwide.

“Consistent with Benedictine’s growing international stature and reputation, our vision is to make the Center one of the world’s leading providers of practitioner-oriented research and education on values-driven leadership, sustainable business and corporate social responsibility. It will shape the College of Business for years, if not decades, to come,” said Gill.

The following educational programs, research initiatives and outreach opportunities are planned for the Center.

Educational Programs
The Center will offer four different educational programs. All will be led by faculty, distinguished visiting scholars and executive guests. They include:

M.B.A. Concentrations — two new concentrations in the M.B.A. program targeted at supervisors and managers, Values-Driven Leadership and Sustainable Business.

New Executive Education Programs — high-level workshops that can be taken individually, rolled into a certificate program (series of three workshops), or rolled into an M.B.A. degree, if desired. Focus will be on Leadership Development, Executive Coaching and Sustainable Business and will target managers, directors and vice presidents.

Executive Roundtables — one-day events, held two times a year, for 20-30 senior leaders from select corporations for informal benchmarking and idea sharing around “hot topics” of common interest, such as how to build a values-driven organization, how to build organizational bench strength for the future and how to make sustainability profitable.

Ph.D. Program in Values-Driven Leadership — a state-of-the-art three-year program for senior executives modeled after our award-winning Ph.D. program in Organization Development, is planned to begin in fall 2011. The program will focus on executive leadership development, leading high-performing organizations, sustainable business and leading in today’s global political economy.

Outreach Opportunities
In the area of outreach, the Center will offer:

Values-Driven Leadership Summit — an annual conference (planned to begin in fall 2009) designed to attract top scholars and executives to explore new frontiers in leadership and sustainable business.

Executive Field Corps — opportunities for executives and retired executives to serve as advisors and fellows of the Center to conduct field visits with the aim of leveraging business knowledge and methods to build capacity and success in field sites.

“I am very excited about the Center and its potential for making a significant and enduring impact on a global scale in the areas of sustainability, social responsibility and values-driven leadership. The world is calling for this kind of business leadership, and there’s no better place to study it and develop it than at Benedictine University. The Center and its mission are fully congruent with our Catholic heritage and offer a bold, new and timely expression of our core Benedictine values,” said Carroll.
Taylor Named New Provost

Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D., former dean of the College of Science at the University, has been named Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

“I am excited by the opportunity to lead our faculty who are strongly committed to excellence in liberal arts and science, graduate and professional education,” Taylor said. “I care deeply about Benedictine University, our students, faculty, staff and alumni. I look forward to working with the community to help Benedictine maximize its incredible potential.”

“Dr. Taylor brings energy, dedication and a sincere and honest concern for Benedictine to this position,” President William Carroll said.

University in 1992 as an assistant professor and two years later was named the William M. Scholl Endowed Professor in Health Sciences. Taylor was named a full professor in 2000, served as chair of the Department of Biology from 2002-2005 and was named dean of the College of Science in 2005.

“I strongly ascribe to the notion that a key role of the Provost is to secure the necessary resources to hire, mentor, evaluate and promote the highest quality faculty possible. Our students deserve nothing less. I also believe strongly in securing the necessary resources to move our academic programs to a higher level,” Taylor said.

“I believe in being innovative and taking measured risks for the achievement of academic success,” Taylor added. “We must empower faculty, staff and students to strive to continue to enhance the quality of education and not rest on our laurels.”

He and his wife, Lechia, have a son and live in Sycamore, Ill. †

Benedictine Gives Back: The Tanzania Project

The Benedictine community is continuing its outreach to the two villages of Sisters Beatrice Kayombo and Afra Mgwama in Tanzania.

The faculty and staff of Benedictine, thanks to efforts championed by Isabel Lobo (Economics), contributed money that helped to purchase sewing machines, cloth and material for roof repairs in Tanzania in 2006. This past year, Warren and Margaret Roth (professor emeritus) were able to gather funds from their church community to provide a much-needed washing machine. In addition, the Benedictine University Unity Foundation contributed “Benedictine Cares” T-shirts for the children of the village orphanage.

As part of their RHET 103 service-learning project, Benedictine students made and sold crepes to raise funds for a fact-finding trip to Njombe, Tanzania this year. This trip enabled volunteers to see how the University community can continue to work with the Sisters and their villages to help improve conditions there.

The latest efforts involve partnering with Global Family Rescue to see if the Sister’s dreams of a new orphanage and medical clinic can come true. In addition, through the added efforts of Benedictine alumna Karen Maloney, M.D., C79, and her heart for mission work, efforts are being made to organize ongoing mission trips to the area so Benedictine health science majors and all other interested students can gain clinical hours doing service learning.

Because of the generous contributions of many people, the volunteer group that recently set off to Tanzania had suitcases filled with clothing, shoes and school and medical supplies, including a microscope donated to the Sisters as their first piece of medical equipment for the hospital.

These volunteers in the Benedictine community are making a significant difference in the world by “Carrying the Light” to those in need. To learn more about this project and how you can help, contact Carol Swett at cswett@ben.edu. †
The University’s Center for Mission and Identity (CMI) has focused its efforts on promoting the characteristics and values that enhance the institution’s Catholic and Benedictine identity. This was a phenomenal year for bringing the University into the spotlight as both a powerful force in promoting Catholic teaching as well as becoming a leader in Benedictine pedagogical discussions.

“Catholic colleges and universities have been attempting to gain a stronger sense of their unique mission and identity as Catholic institutions of higher learning since 1990 when “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” was issued by Pope John Paul II,” said Alicia Cordoba Tait, director of the Center for Mission and Identity at the University.

“The association of Benedictine colleges and universities has been studying the uniqueness of a Benedictine education by focusing on a common set of hallmarks,” she added. “As Catholic schools rich in the Benedictine tradition, we provide our students with an education that is current and relevant yet reflective of the Benedictine emphasis on service and prayer.”

CMI addresses faculty, student and staff needs relevant to the integration of Christian beliefs and practices into the curriculum and in all facets of campus life. Through programs and activities, CMI discusses and encourages adherence to and maintenance of elements of Catholic identity throughout the University, as presented in

Ex Corde Ecclesiae while also developing common terms and understandings of the values set forth by the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities (ABCU). The University supports and provides resources for scholarship in the Catholic Intellectual and Benedictine Wisdom Traditions.

This past academic year saw CMI host the 2008 Convocation for Faculty and Administrators from Chicagoland Catholic Universities and Colleges. One-hundred-eighteen people attended the event from local Catholic schools including DePaul, Dominican, Lewis, Loyola, St. Francis, St. Xavier and Benedictine. Engaging Islam in Chicagoland Catholic Universities and Colleges in 2008 was the theme. A thought provoking panel presentation along with a question-and-answer session was led by His Eminence Francis Cardinal George and Bishop Peter J. Sartain. The panel also included faculty members from Dominican and DePaul, a chaplain from Loyola and Amina Waheed, Political Science, C08.

In May, Benedictine hosted the Second Annual Benedictine Pedagogy Conference. In the inaugural year of the event, only four schools attended and most of the participants were from our own institution. This year, 11 academic institutions were represented from all over the country. Sixty-four participants listened to and/or presented on issues focused on how Benedictines express themselves as particularly Benedictine. Representatives attending the conference discussed the significance of the set of values or “hallmarks” common to Benedictine academic institutions, and how those hallmarks — love, prayer, stability, conversation, obedience, discipline, humility, stewardship, hospitality and community — affect teaching, research and personal and institutional spirituality.

Another successful component of CMI again this year was the Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought Series. The University welcomed two speakers, Melanie Morey and Sr. Eva Hooker. Morey focused on women’s issues in the church while Sr. Eva discussed the Catholic imagination through poetry.

The theme of Globalization and the Catholic Church permeated most of the rest of the year’s events. The monthly Conversatio Round Table Discussions were so well-attended that a larger venue will be needed for the next one. The Faith and Reason Symposium held in March brought a distinguished group of faculty together to present on issues from global warming to overpopulation. The same weekend, CMI and the Department of Music co-hosted a Concert for World Peace. All of the musicians donated their time for the performance of works representing the faiths of Islam, Judaism and Christianity to support the work of Beit Benedict Peace Academy. The end of the year Summer Faculty Workshop brought faculty from various disciplines and faith backgrounds together to discuss the roots of the Catholic tradition and their application to teaching and scholarship.

CMI also was involved in promotion and discussion of ideas that “Carry the Light” of the University’s Catholic and Benedictine traditions. The Benedictine community is encouraged to participate in upcoming events. For more information and event dates please visit the CMI Web page at www.ben.edu/cmi.
Paul Rusesabagina drew huge crowds to the Rice Center on campus as he recalled his life story during a presentation titled “Hotel Rwanda: A Lesson Yet to be Learned,” during the Third Annual Civic Leadership Conference sponsored by the Center for Civic Leadership this past April.

In 1994 in Rwanda, large-scale genocide was executed by the Hutu tribes against the Tutsi tribes. One million people were killed, but many were saved by the efforts of ordinary people like Rusesabagina. His willingness to help those in need was the inspiration behind the 2004 film “Hotel Rwanda.”

He did not go along with many of his fellow Hutu tribesmen who believed that all Tutsis were “cockroaches” that deserved to die. At the war’s outbreak, Rusesabagina was only a hotel manager with some modest connections. Nevertheless, he managed to save more than 1,200 lives from certain death and worked hard to do the right thing.

As the hotel manager, Rusesabagina dealt with all the different problems that arose. For instance, no fresh water meant boiling the swimming pool water and consuming it for survival. Also, due to a limited and dwindling food supply, everyone was given a ration of two small meals per day. Because the hotel was attacked many times, Rusesabagina’s main concern was to provide security and protection for all the occupants. Genocide is considered a crime against humanity and is still happening around the world in places like the Darfur region of Sudan.

“To solve such problems, the solution will not be by the gun or by force, but by the power of words. Only 30 people have been caught in the 14 years since the genocide in Rwanda occurred. Many of those responsible have escaped justice. We will never be satisfied until justice has been served. We believe in truth, the power of words and in finding an everlasting solution to the problem of genocide,” said Rusesabagina.

In addition to the movie, Rusesabagina has brought attention to the problem of genocide in other ways as well, including founding the Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation which provides support to the women and children affected by genocide.

“The most important things a person can do to help are raise awareness, donate funds, sign petitions and attend rallies. Do anything, but do something,” said Rusesabagina.

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University hosts National Day of Prayer

Renowned theologian Rev. Dr. Erwin Lutzer was the guest speaker at the National Day of Prayer Breakfast held in May at the University. More than 200 people attended the breakfast, which marked the celebration of an event created in 1952 and designated as a day when people of all faiths pray to the God of their understanding.

Lutzer spoke to those who sought to “commercialize” God following 9/11.

“God is being banished in America,” he said, alluding to movements to eliminate references to God from daily life. “Although after 9/11 God is back, but he is not the God of the Bible. He is more a civil God, as in, ‘God bless our economy.’

“The question is not, ‘Is God on our side.’ The question is, are we on His?” Lutzer said. “I do not believe that we as a country have a claim on God, but I do believe that God has a claim on us. He has a claim on us because He has blessed us.”

The National Day of Prayer Breakfast at Benedictine also featured the music of the DuPage African Methodist Episcopal Church Praise Team under the direction of Sam English and a benediction by Rev. Cindy Karas of the Knox Presbyterian Church of Naperville.

Model UN team named “Distinguished Delegation” and “Honorable Mention” at NY conference

The United Nations delegations from Benedictine University continue to out-perform real-world counterparts.

Members of the 2008 Model United Nations Delegation included: head delegate Jennifer Amy Erickson, head delegate Ayesha Farooq and project leader Amina Waheed.

The members of the Angola delegation winning “Distinguished Delegation” were: Payam Abbassian, Laura Elizabeth Baier, Suzanne Bonnevoy, Mona Desai, Sadaf Fatani, Vincent Francois Harmonic, Shan Hussain, Angel Morata, Adnan Mujagic, Bill O’Brien, Sarah Sharara, Mehreen Sherwani, Nabiha Siddiqui, Ewelina Stachulak, James Thompson and Amy Zayed.

The members of the Palestine delegation winning “Honorable Mention” were: Basil Ali, Zachary Augustine, Marine Comte-Trotet, Tauseef Ehteramuddin, Remy Genet, Matt Kunz, Tetyana Napora, Tim O’Connell, Adil Saeed, Kamran Sherwani, Fadi Shihadeh and Rama Wahood. 
Class of 1940
Stephen S. Pribil, Academy, celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary with his wife Agnes. He is a retired farmer residing in Bison, OK.

Class of 1966
John T. Doody, Jr., Political Science, is a circuit court judge in Cook County, IL. He presides over criminal cases at the 26th and California Criminal Courthouses. He is also the former mayor of Homewood and a former State Representative. He has been married to his wife, Janet, for more than 32 years and has two children and two grandchildren. He was recently inducted into the Village of Homewood Hall of Fame and the Mendel Catholic High School Hall of Fame.

Illinois Benedictine College
Class of 1976
Mike Rahn, Mathematics, is retiring after 32 years as an actuarial consultant. He will enjoy his time playing golf, fishing and visiting his new grandson.

Class of 1975
William J. Conley, Business and Economics, is vice president of labor relations for Indalex in Lincolnshire, IL. He and his wife, Denise, reside in Oak Lawn, IL.

Class of 1977
Frank V. Aguille, M.D., Biology, is the recipient of the Southern Illinois University’s School of Medicine’s distinguished alumni award for 2008. Currently, he is the clinical associate professor of internal medicine and chair of the cardiology division at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, IL. He also has a full-time practice with Prairie Cardiovascular Consultants in Springfield.

St. Procopius Academy/College
Class of 1978
Bill Lisowski, Literature and Communications, M.B.A. ’83, has accepted the position of senior vice president of vendor management with IPT of Hartford, CT. He will be managing a staff of 30 people and assisting in their efforts at procuring service providers.

Class of 1982
John Foley, Political Science, is the author of the successful novel “Hoops of Steel.” In addition to this book, he wrote a sequel called “Banning With the Wind,” and his most recent novel, due for release in the summer of 2009, is tentatively titled “A Mighty Wall.” He has also written an Alaska memoir called “Tundra Teacher.” His current day job is teaching English at Ridgefield High School in Washington. He lives with his wife, Julie, in nearby Vancouver.

Class of 1986
Donald Sciacchitano, Literature and Communication, has officially announced his bid to seek the village presidency in Lansing, IL. Sciacchitano is a former village trustee and life-long resident of Lansing and is seeking the position on a newly-formed independent ticket.

Maurice Bell, Political Science, has accepted the position of senior manager — sales strategy for the Gatorade/Propel Business Unit at PepsiCo. Bell has held various positions in finance and sales for the company’s food service and vendor business, acted as senior key account manager — small format, and most recently as manager — division field sales for Gatorade in its central division.

Class of 1988
Stephen Rittenhouse, M.B.A., was selected for the Woodland Hall of Fame. He earned his undergraduate degree form Illinois State University. Rittenhouse served as chief financial officer/chief operation officer for a national architectural firm, as director of finance for another national architectural firm and as director of finance for an international law firm prior to forming Consolidated Operation Group, Inc. (COG), of which he is president and CEO. COG provides consulting services to businesses in the areas of human resources. Rittenhouse currently serves on the board of directors to several groups including COG, 4240 Architecture Inc., Heilman & Associates Inc. and Chicago Users Group. He also belongs to many professional organizations including American Institute of Architects Association of Legal Administrators, QuickBooks Pro Advisor, Society of Human Resource Management, Toastmasters International, Deltek Affiliated Partners and Chicago Vision Users Group. He is a member of Bethany Lutheran Church and holds his private pilot’s license. Currently, he resides in Naperville with his wife, LeeAnn.

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Class of 1990
Stephanie M. Jones, M.D., Nuclear Medicine Technology, is an internal medicine physician practicing in Topeka, KS. She tries to help people “live simple” and is currently learning how to farm.

Class of 1991
Diane Ogliela, Ph.D., Psychology, earned her doctoral degree in Speech-language Pathology at Michigan State University in May 2007. In fall 2007, she began a research fellowship at the University of Texas-Dallas. She and her husband, John Ader, M.D., C89, Spanish, are currently living in Carrollton, TX with their son, Logan (7), and daughter, Marlena (3).

David C. Tantillo, M.P.H., M.B.A. ’94, has been appointed senior director, marketing and sales for Synvista Therapeutics in Montvale, NJ. He is responsible for planning and implementing commercialization of the company’s haptoglobin diagnostic test. Commercial launch of this product is scheduled for mid-2009. Prior to this, Tantillo was the director of strategic marketing at Alpharma Pharmaceuticals.

Class of 1993
Andreas Papakostas, Health Science, has three beautiful children, Mateo (9), Marcos (6) and Malina (4). Her international home business is doing extremely well. She also owns an upscale spa in Evanston, IL, as well as a holistic center in Plainfield, IL.

Kim Michael-Lee, M.B.A., has been hired as the director of the business division for the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). She will function as the chief financial officer and is responsible for providing the vision, strategic planning, leadership, development, implementation and ongoing management of the financial functions of the AVMA. She previously worked as vice president of finance for the national Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Class of 1994
Jeffrey A. Bockman, M.B.A., created Alenjes Publishing and has authored and published the book, “Give Your Family A Gift That Money Can’t Buy/Record & Preserve Your Family’s History.” The book encourages people to save documents and photos as well as telling the stories that make their family “their family.” He is also a lecturer and a contributing editor for the Everett’s Genealogical Helper magazine.

Jill Beda Daniels, Spanish, has left her law practice to stay home with her three children, Harper, Ellie and Tate. She has also started a Web-based business, Stitches So Sweet, which specializes in custom embroidery and gifts.

Voluntary Subscriptions to Voices
You can help supplement the cost of publishing and mailing Benedictine Voices, the alumni magazine. Your tax-deductable gift of $20 helps defray the mounting costs of production. This is strictly voluntary. You can enclose your donation in the attached contribution envelope. ♠
Benedictine University

Class of 1998

Vikas Arora, D.O., Molecular Biology, graduated from medical school at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine earning her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree. She completed a three-year residency in adult psychiatry at the Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in North Chicago, IL. She also did a post-doctoral fellowship year in child and adolescent psychiatry at the Yale Child Study Center of the Yale University School of Medicine in 2007. Arora completed an addiction psychiatry post-doctoral fellowship at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in June 2008. She received a partial tuition scholarship at the Harvard School of Public Health where she will work to obtain a Master of Public Health degree.

Christopher B. Mays, Special Education, recently resigned from the Detroit mayor’s office after serving as an assistant to the mayor for three years. He now works as an impact training specialist. Mays has two-year-old twins.

Class of 1999

Tammy Johndro-Pressley, M.S.M.O.B., Health Administration, has been named director of external communications at Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, IL. Her responsibilities include government relations and public affairs, community education, ThinkFirst injury prevention and media relations. Prior to this, she was manager of business development at Provena Mercy Medical Center in Aurora, IL.

Class of 2000

Kimberly Skarr, History, has been promoted to director of student life and leadership at Kendall College in Chicago. She has had several roles at Kendall including adjunct instructor in Multicultural Dimensions in Society and most recently as a member of the Academic Advising Team.

Class of 2001

Charles Paul T. Anonuevo, D.D.S., Molecular Biology, has been deployed to Iraq to support the mission of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is a dentist with the 31st Medical Company and has served in the military for two years.

Class of 2003

Jeffrey Benedek, Finance, is currently taking online courses at the University of Maryland, University College to work on a Master of Science in Accounting and Financial Management.

Amy McPherson, Biology, graduated with a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in June 2008. Her residency will take place at Loretto Hospital in Chicago.

Class of 2004

Kimyada Wellington, M.B.A., was promoted in February 2008 to Sergeant First Class in the Illinois Army National Guard and celebrated 19 years of service in May 2008.

Jessica Thompson, Special Education, earned her master’s degree in Literacy (M.A.E.D.) along with a certification as a reading specialist from Dominican University. She is a special education/reading specialist at an alternative school, grades 9-12 in Palatine, IL.

Class of 2006

Jessica Rojas, M.C.P., is currently working at the Linden Oaks Hospital as a Lead Resource and Referral Counselor.

Class of 2007

Eileen Monsurate, M.B.A., earned the Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) designation from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) in March 2008. The ACFE’s Board of Regents awards this designation only to select professionals who meet a stringent set of criteria including character, experience and education.

Class of 2008

Todd Anderson, M.B.A., has been named chief financial officer of Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital. Anderson, a Wheaton resident, has a bachelor’s degree in business administration, accounting and finance from Union College in Lincoln, NE and is a certified public accountant.

Births

Illinois Benedictine College

Liza Kane Strain, Psychology C95, and husband, Jaime, announce the birth of their daughter, Clara Grace, on June 24, 2007. She joins their son, Peter (4).

Benedictine University

Sheri (Metzger) Narvaez, Molecular Biology C97, along with her husband, Alfredo, welcomed a baby girl, Ava Rene, on June 30, 2007.

Tracy (Dixon) Richards, Elementary Education C97, and husband, Erik Richards, Engineering Science C00, along with big sister, Natalie (2), welcomed baby brother, Dylan Patrick, on January 7, 2008. The Richards family resides in Naperville where Tracy teaches 7th grade Language Arts at Washington Jr. High and Erik is a Naperville Police Officer.

Beth Anne (Hamilton) Martin, Spanish C98, and her husband, Thomas, had their second child, Ryan Joseph, on December 15, 2007. He joins sister, Maura (3). The family resides in the San Francisco Bay area.

Lynn (Guinta) Housing, Writing and Publishing C99, and her husband, Mike, welcomed their first child, Cade Michael, on November 7, 2007.

Stephen Mares, B.B.A. C00, and his wife, Christine, welcomed their son, Jackson Stephen, on Thursday, July 3, 2008.

Leigh (Nagy) Delhotal, English Language and Literature C04, and her husband, Mark, welcomed their son, John “Jack” Dennis, on April 17, 2008.

Dan Wolff, Sociology C05, and his wife, Katie (Graham) Wolff, Sociology C03, welcomed their baby daughter, Flynn Theresa, on September 27, 2007. Dan is the director of youth ministry for St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Crystal Lake, IL.

2009 Distinguished Alumni Recognition Awards

Nominees Needed:

The Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Recognition Awards:

■ Distinguished Alumni Award
■ Alumni Service Award
■ Benedictine Spirit Award

Submit nominations to the Office of Alumni Relations, Benedictine University, 5700 College Rd. Lisle, IL 60532 or at www.ben.edu/alumni/awards.
Letters to the President:

Dear Dr. Carroll,

Throughout my time at Benedictine, I believe I ensconced myself within the fabric fairly well by serving as editor-in-chief of The Candor, reporting to the community as an anchor for Eye of The Eagle, performing with the chorus and participating in various community-wide events including Educare Ball. A few weeks ago, I attended a Candor event in Krasa and could not believe the incredible progress that has been made not only with regards to the student paper, but to the school in general. It makes me wish I could do it all over again!

I can honestly say now that I work in academia, how amazing Benedictine truly is and how grateful I am for the experiences I had there. I whole-heartedly believe that I am who I am today, and that I am a better person, all because of Benedictine. In addition, I owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to Mr. Peter Seely who served as my guide when I was a student, and who is still today a personal mentor and tremendous friend.

Sincerely yours,

Sam Madan, C00

Dear Dr. Carroll:

What a difference 50 years makes!

That was my reaction upon receiving the 2006-07 annual report issue of Voices magazine. I couldn’t help but dig out my copy of the 1968-69 annual report from St. Procopius College and compare fiscal data, gift income and recalling relationships with many whose names appeared in the honor roll.

My first remembrance with those years was your opening article eulogizing the passing of Joe Kindlon, a man whom I had the privilege of knowing as a newly named trustee and member of the President’s Advisory Council.

The most striking reference was when I skimmed over the financial information: [Figures from 1968-69 verses 2006-07 below.]

- Educational and General Revenue: $2.2 million vs. $54.2 million
- Gifts and Grants: $152,601 vs. $4 million
- Endowment/Investment Income: $15,146 vs. $3.4 million
- Tuition and Fees: $926,084 vs. $53.6 million

It is obvious from just these few comparisons of the mind-boggling events that have occurred over the past 50 years that have contributed to these striking numbers.

In looking over the honor roll, many names popped out that brought back many fond memories for me of my time in the development office on campus.

Ah yes, memories from 50 years ago that could not help but be replayed.

Sincerely yours,

Fred Hodoval, Honorary Alumnus, ’70

(Please note: Letters may have been edited for space and/or content.)

Class Notes Winners from Spring 2008

Diane Barrera, C96 • Monica Thoms, C06 • Aamir Kamal, C99

If your name is listed here, then you have won a prize from the Office of Alumni Relations. Congratulations!

If you are one of these lucky winners, please contact Julie Nelligan at jnelligan@ben.edu before October 20, 2008 to collect your prize. Good luck and keep sending in those class notes!

Letters to the President:

Do you have a memory of your time on campus that you would like to share?
E-mail Linda Hale at lhale@ben.edu.
Reminder: Order yours today!

**Commemorative Silver Medallions**
St. Procopius, Illinois Benedictine College and Benedictine University

Each medallion is 1.5 inches in diameter, contains one ounce of .999 pure silver and is struck in brilliant uncirculated condition. The medallion will be encapsulated in acrylic for protection and presented in a gift box. The obverse side presents a portrait of St. Benedict writing the Benedictine Rule and the reverse shows the shield of the College/University with the appropriate dates. These treasured medallions commemorate the history of Benedictine education in Lisle and should prove to be a store of value.

If you have not already done so, reserve your medallion today. Only $1,000 of each medallion will be made (a minimum order of 300 medals per school name must be placed before medals are made). Each medal is $100 plus shipping. Proceeds will be used for student scholarships. Consult your tax expert on what portion of this contribution is tax deductible.

For more information, call (630) 829-6072 or order directly from the Web site at www.ben.edu/medallions.

These treasured medallions will make great gifts for alumni, students or yourself!

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**Your class notes can win you a prize**

Everyone loves reading class notes, so let us know where you are, where you have been and where you are going. Are you busy in your career? Busy at home with your children? Earning another degree? Getting a great new job? Starting a new business venture? Met that person of your dreams? Finally retired? What are you doing with your time?

Tell my classmates that . . .

Please clip and mail to:
Benedictine University
Julie Nelligan/Alumni Relations Director
5700 College Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532
or send an e-mail to jnelligan@ben.edu

In upcoming issues of *Voice*, three people who appear in the class notes section will be randomly chosen to win an alumni prize (one win per person during duration of promotion).
Bonnie Jean Adams (Language and Literature) has become a member of the editorial group for The South Loop Review, a literary journal of creative nonfiction and art published through Columbia University Chicago.

Zubair S. Amir (Language and Literature) published an article titled “So Delightful a Plot: Lies, Gossip and the Narration of Social Advancement in ‘The Eustace Diamonds’” in the Cambridge University Press-published journal Victorian Literature and Culture (vol. 36, issue 1; March 2008). The article discusses how the Victorian novel envisions the relationship between social mobility and gossip, deceit and other forms of dubious narrative focusing in particular on Anthony Trollope’s 1873 novel “The Eustace Diamonds.”

Catherine Arnold (Nutrition) will present three poster sessions at the national American Dietetic Association Food Nutrition Conference Exhibition in October 2008. Arnold will present “Nutrition Education Increases Self-efficacy for Low-fat Eating” with Beth Panther (M.S.N.W.’06) and Lauren Brett (M.S.N.W.’07), “Nutrition Education in Illinois Public Schools” with Monica Thombs (M.S.N.W.’07) and “Attributes and Barriers of Health and Nutrition Instruction in Pre-service Training of Elementary Teachers” with Kelly Long (M.P.H.’07).

Sharon Borowiec (M.B.A.) hosted George Nassos, director of the Center for Sustainable Enterprise at Illinois Institute of Technology’s Stunt School of Business, in May to speak on the topic of sustainability and embracing environmental issues into today’s Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) programs. Faculty and students from the M.B.A., Master of Science in Management Information Systems and Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior programs attended this provocative discussion. Borowiec also presented her research on communication attributes of effective virtual teams at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference 2008 and the 2008 Western Academy of Management Annual Conference in March.

Jane Crabtree (Business) presented the paper titled “Call Centers Are Becoming Customer-Centric: The Panamanian Difference” in a Management session at the Midwest Business Administration Association (MBAA) International Conference at the Drake Hotel in Chicago in April. The MBAA International conference is a multi-disciplinary conference made up of 11 formal academic and research organizations. Some of the associations represented at the conference are Accounting, Marketing, Finance, Case Research and International Business. It is an opportunity for professors to meet faculty from other universities and share their research interests. Publishers have booths at the MBAA International conference which allows faculty to review new textbooks and order desk copies.

Tim Comar (Mathematics), Isobel Lobo (International Business and Economics), Cheryl Mascarenhas (Chemistry) and Ralph Meeker (Computer Science and Information Systems) were selected to receive Benedictine University Faculty Awards. These awards recognize significant achievements in the areas of teaching, research and service which serve as models for all faculty members. Faculty members were nominated by members of the Benedictine University community (faculty, staff, administration and students) in February. The academic deans and the associate provost recommended the award winners and these recommendations were accepted by the acting provost. Each nomination included three letters attesting to the exemplary teaching, research or service of the nominees. The Faculty Award for Teaching was awarded to Lobo and Mascarenhas, the Faculty Award for Research was awarded to Comar, and the Faculty Award for Service was awarded to Meeker. These faculty members were recognized at the Employee Appreciation event in May and by an appropriate addition to a University plaque.

Kevin Doyle (M.B.A.) has been certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP), culminating more than a year of study, review, testing and experience. The PMP is awarded by the Project Management Institute (PMI) in Newton Square, Pa. and is considered the standard of all project management certifications. Individuals who have passed the PMP certification test successfully and have met the PMI requirements for documenting their professional experience are entitled to use the abbreviation PMP with their names.

Doyle, Christine Fletcher (Theology) and Sandra Gill (College of Business) participated in the seventh international conference on Catholic Social Thought and Management Education at the University of Notre Dame in
“Benedictine allowed me to grow as a person, as a teammate and as a leader.”

Attend a Benedictine University fundraiser and you are likely to bump into Maurice Bell. Go to a homecoming football game, an Alumni Association-sponsored function or just about any event that benefits students or scholarships and you will find Maurice Bell.

The soft-spoken Bell has been an active supporter of Benedictine University for more than 20 years. He works actively with the Alumni Association and the African American Student Union, and is currently seeking to create a scholarship for African American students that would be funded by African American alumni.

Bell was equally active as a student. He was a member of the Benedictine University track and field team, the student government, the African American Student Association and, when not officially representing his school on the athletic field, he was participating in intramural sports.

“Benedictine University provides a great environment to learn and spread your wings,” Bell says.

Benedictine University also prepared Bell for a career in sales management where he deals with people who are as different as lemon-lime and fruit punch-flavored Gatorade. “Benedictine University taught me how to deal with people from various backgrounds and experiences,” says Bell, who also serves on various committees at Benedictine and often speaks at University functions.

“Benedictine University allowed me to grow as a person, as a teammate and as a leader,” Bell says.

Maurice Bell — carrying the light that was passed on to him, and sharing it with others so that they may pass it on to future generations.

Maurice Bell
Senior Manager, Sales Strategy
Gatorade®/Propel Business Unit at PepsiCo
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Pre-Law), 1987
Illinois Benedictine College (now Benedictine University)

“Benedictine’s strongest asset is its people. The faculty and staff genuinely care for the students and want to see each and every one of them succeed.”

Growing up in the small northern Illinois town of Lanark, Holly Wehmeyer appreciated the warm, welcoming feel at Benedictine University. “Benedictine had an Ivy League look to the campus, but the friendly atmosphere was very important, too,” she says. “I didn’t want to be a number.”

The friendly atmosphere and the campus’ rustic appearance are just a small part of what Wehmeyer believes are Benedictine’s best features, however. “Although there have been many, many changes to the campus and the curriculum in the years since I matriculated, I believe Benedictine’s strongest asset is still its people,” she says. “The faculty and staff genuinely care for the students and want to see each and every one of them succeed.”

Wehmeyer participated in concert band and other student organizations, and parlayed her education and the experience she gained working on the Candor staff into a fulfilling professional career.

Yet she says the most valuable lessons she learned at Benedictine were not in the classroom. “The values of living in community and living a life in balance have become more and more important to me over the past decade,” she says. “An undergraduate liberal arts education should teach one how to keep learning and growing intellectually, but Benedictine emphasizes the emotional and spiritual, too.

“To be a well-rounded person, to be curious about the world, to care about more than a job or a paycheck...those are the most valuable lessons of all,” she says.

Holly Wehmeyer — carrying the light that was passed on to her, and sharing it with others so that they may pass it on to future generations.

Holly Wehmeyer
Senior Writer
Grant Thornton LLP
Bachelor of Arts in Literature and Communications, 1994
Illinois Benedictine College (now Benedictine University)
Help Us Be Green: Receiving Duplicate Issues of Voices Magazine?

If you are receiving more than one issue of Voices per mailing, please let us know. By making sure our mailing list is as accurate as possible and by each home only receiving one magazine per issue, we can reduce our mailing costs and help conserve our planet’s valuable resources. Please take a moment and call (630) 829-6099.

Thank you for helping us be economically and environmentally conscious!

Stay Connected.

For information about these and other University events, visit our award-winning Web site — www.ben.edu.

Top 10 “Green” Achievements by Benedictine University

10. Recognized by Clean Air Counts for reducing pollution levels.
8. Instituted a campus-wide recycling program.
7. Received “Green” credit for recycling Kohlbeck Hall rubble.
6. Replaced styrofoam containers with compostable materials.
5. Improved lighting efficiency in campus buildings.
4. Reduced throw-away plastic materials in the bookstore.
2. Conducted major tree planting effort on campus.
1. “Greened” curriculum by revising Core and Cultural Heritage classes.

Voices is printed by a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) printer who adheres to strict environmental rules. In addition, the magazine is printed using soy inks to further our stewardship of the earth.

Please recycle this issue.