St. Benedict’s Rule for Monks begins with a powerful imperative: Listen. And at Benedictine University, we believe in the importance of listening to one another. We therefore have named our magazine Benedictine Voices. We pledge that within these pages, members of the Benedictine Community will speak with candor about issues facing our University and our world. We cordially invite you to enter into dialog with us.

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**Editor’s Note:**
Please let us know your thoughts and comments on this issue. Contact me at lhale@ben.edu or (630) 829-6092.

To view this issue and past issues of Voices online go to www.ben.edu/voices.
“Who is the happiest of men? He who values the merits of others, and in their pleasure takes joy, even as though ‘twere his own.” — JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

AMIDST MANY CHANGES, WE REMAIN THE SAME

BY WILLIAM J. CARROLL, PRESIDENT

Ancient Greek philosophers wrestled with a universe that seemed beset with constant change yet an underlying permanence persisted. Their philosophical acumen tried to explain this phenomenon and thereby set the basis for philosophy itself. This phenomenon of permanence amidst change is not limited to nature, but is also characteristic of viable institutions. Benedictine University is such an institution. Recent days have demonstrated aptly that Benedictine is an institution that is changing yet remains the same. Two recent events on campus bring the point home.

First, the monks of St. Procopius Abbey and Benedictine University celebrated the election of a new abbot—Abbot Austin Murphy, O.S.B., the 10th abbot of St. Procopius Abbey. For more than 1,500 years, Benedictine monks and abbeys have experienced the permanence of the Rule of St. Benedict amidst a changing sea of monks and abbots—the Rule and life persist while the faces of the monks and abbots continue to change. Likewise, Benedictine University continues while its chancellor and others change. We welcome Abbot Austin as the new chancellor of Benedictine University. We offer him our prayers and best wishes as he undertakes this most important role. You can learn more about our new Abbot in an article on page 21 by Fr. James Flint, O.S.B.

The second event that brings home the University’s permanence amidst change is BenFest—a wonderful celebration of our alumni, students, staff and friends. Alumni from across the spectrum of graduating classes celebrated their Benedictine experience, and therein lies the permanence amidst change. Students, faculty and staff come and go, but the University remains the same, offering the best of its Catholic and Benedictine heritage and tradition. I invite you to read more about BenFest in the pages that follow.

Alumni and frequent visitors to the campus often remark that although the buildings and faces may change, the essence of Benedictine University remains constant. If you are an alumnus and have not been back to campus in a while, I invite you to come and see how your University has changed, but most importantly, how it has remained the same.†
I thoroughly enjoyed BenFest. It was all a lot of fun and I like the new campus. I acted as a referee during the bean bags games, ate dinner and watched a great concert. I was able to renew some existing connections and talked to a lot of prospective students about their goals and the school. I will be coming back for Homecoming in October as well. Staying connected helps me keep in touch with the school, the students, faculty and staff—plus it’s just plain fun.

Did you miss Benfest? Watch this video to see some of the fun—www.ben.edu/benfestvideo.

“Get back, get back
Get back to where you once belonged
Get back (Wow) get back
Get back Jo
Oh yeah, oh yeah
Get back”

—Get Back, by John Lennon and Paul McCartney
Kevin Driscoll Sr.,
M.S.M.O.B.'10

My wife and her best friend are huge Beatles fans and were anxious to see the Fab Four. The event also gave me a chance to show off the campus and to convince my wife that I really was going to school all of those evenings and weekends when I left her at home watching television. We came for the picnic, had a couple of beverages at the Coal Ben, and then met some new friends and alumni in the stands while waiting for the concert to begin. We live in Naperville so there will be no excuse for not attending Homecoming.

Alumni-Student Picnic

The picnic allowed alumni to connect with old classmates, meet other alumni, mingle with current students, and meet new and prospective students. Amidst food, drinks, games, children’s activities and a live-band performance by Kingfish, alumni were able to reconnect, reminisce and relax. They were also able to enhance the experience of current and college-bound students by sharing their knowledge and memories with them.

The Fab Four Concert

Big crowds came later in the evening to watch the world-renowned Beatles tribute band, The Fab Four. This special concert was open to the public and was a memorable experience for all. Even with a few glitches in the sound system, the crowd’s spirit could not be dampened as they sang out loud to the songs without any music. Band member Aardy Sardiff (aka “Paul McCartney”) invited the audience to sing along and dance to the tunes. After this fun and rowdy concert, the evening came to a quiet close with alumni, students and friends enjoying a traditional bonfire.

Julie Nelligan, M.S.M.O.B.’06
Alumni Relations Director

I saw people having a lot of fun and enjoying a beautiful day on campus. During the picnic, it was good friends gathered under the trees between the Coal Ben and Krasa Center playing games. Several alumni told me they liked having the students included in the day’s activities because it gave them a chance to get to know our current students and share their stories with them. The band Kingfish did a great job. People really enjoyed the music and were dancing. It added an atmosphere of excitement.
Jack Steffek, Political Science, C69

I thought BenFest was one of the best gatherings we’ve had in a long time. The campus looked great. I would like to see more alumni there next time, but it is a start to build on for future University gatherings. I had a great opportunity to talk at length with Abbot Hugh regarding his new endeavor, and enjoyed seeing classmates. I liked the concert as well. Dr. Joe Siebert, C69, and I actually knew almost all the lyrics to the Beatles tunes and I must say harmonized wonderfully. I plan on coming to Homecoming and, of course, bringing the Port and Graham’s chocolates.

Barbara McConnell, M.S.M.O.B.’07; M.B.A.’09

My husband and I drove from Springfield for the event and stayed overnight at the hotel we use when I’m attending classes (I’m currently studying for my Ed.D. in Higher Education at Benedictine). I was impressed with the Fab Four’s performance and drawn back into the Beatles’ era at this concert. We danced and had a great time. We ended up meeting some lovely people and had great discussions about the programs at Benedictine.

Jacqueline A. Canty, Education (Special Education), C07

I attended BenFest because I want to get more involved at the University. The Fab Four concert was fantastic. What a great crowd-pleasing band! It was wonderful being back, and the campus looked great. The University has a great feeling about it. I brought a friend and she just loved the school. I will be attending my first homecoming football game this year. I believe it is so important to keep in touch with classmates to see what they have been up to since graduation.

Phillip “Cappy” Caponigro, Political Science, C72

To someone who attended Benedictine many years ago, it is difficult to believe it is the same school. When I was a freshman in 1968, the monks were still living in the south wing of Benedictine Hall. The field I played football on has been replaced and the new stadium facilities are significantly better. All in all, what a beautiful campus! I drove to and from Wisconsin in the same day and actually met a classmate who lives just 15 minutes from me. He and I talked about who we have been able to see throughout the years, our families and careers. Both of us were really impressed with the campus and how much things had changed since we attended Benedictine. Aside from renewing old friendships, these events are great for networking for business contacts.

John Murphy, Political Science, C77

I attended BenFest for the picnic and concert. This was a successful first event. The concert was great and I enjoyed meeting a group of younger alumni. My classmates and I spent time remembering our experiences on campus (some of the best of our lives). I like staying connected to the school because it’s important for me to socialize and reminisce about the past, and I also like to keep current on the direction the University is heading. I attend Homecoming every year for these reasons.
GOLF OUTING: Putting For a Purpose

The third day of BenFest Weekend was the 16th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing at Cantigny Golf in Wheaton. This is the biggest fundraiser the school hosts for student scholarships. It has become an extremely important event as more students need scholarships to complete their education.

This year, the special guest was professional women’s golfer Natalie Gullis. She held golf clinics in the morning and graciously posed for photos with the golfers. The Honorary Chair was Benedictine University Board Member Michael Birck. He spearheaded the event because of his strong commitment to help raise scholarship funds for students in need.

It was a beautiful day on the golf course and the mood was very enthusiastic. The coveted Alumni Cup went to the team of Jim Turner, CSO (brother of Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., C59), Ian Hughes, Steve Conklin and Nick Sciplone, C04. (Picture on page 7.)

There were 40 alumni who came out to golf and support student scholarships. In addition, many donors, sponsors and friends of the University participated to help make the fundraiser a success.

Other winners included: Class of 1968 Cup Champions (named for the first year women were admitted to the University and awarded to the mixed team with the lowest score) John Carroll, Kathleen Carroll, David Gagliano and Ryan Gagliano, C09.

Michael Birck Cup Champions (named for our first honorary chair of the golf outing and awarded to the team with the lowest score) Perry Cammisa, D.C., Chris Olson, M.D., Bill Koltman and Larry Kempa. (Picture on page 6.)

Winners of the Prayer’s Cup (awarded to the team with the highest score... for at least trying) Eric Guthrie, M.S.M.O.B.’10, Julie Neiligan, M.S.M.O.B.’06, Tony Lulek, C78 and Russ Pavlok, C78.

Did we mention this band was Fab-U-lous?

The bonfire was so relaxing.

Kingfish Rocked!
Thank you to our Golf Outing sponsors:

Event Sponsor
- Benedictine University Board of Trustees
- Will Gillett, Chair
- Benedictine University Online, Bob King, University Trustee

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- Sodexo
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Dinner
- DLR Group

Cocktail Hour
- International Contractors Inc.

Lunch
- Paul Gauvreau, University Trustee

Driving Range and Natalie Gulbis Golf Clinics
- Michael Birck, University Trustee and Honorary Chair

Golf Cart
- Financial Strategies & Solutions Group, Art Littlefield, University Trustee

Golf Bag Tag
- Benedictine University Alumni Association

Tee Bag
- John Krehbiel Jr.

Closest to the Pin Contest
- Katherine Donofrio, University Trustee

Longest Drive Contest
- Ice Miller LLP

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- Wolf & Company LLP

Putting Green
- Richard Lamb, University Trustee

Hole In One
- Golf Invite

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Mike Birck, University Trustee, Honorary Chair of Golf Outing, Driving Range and Natalie Gulbis Clinic Sponsor

This year’s golf outing was a great combination of good fun and good work. Together, we raised a gross revenue of more than a quarter million dollars—ultimately benefitting scholarships that help students attend Benedictine. We had fun doing it in a wonderful venue. Many thanks to all the folks who participated in, and supported, this event.

Karen Courney, Senior Consultant, Wolf & Company, Photography Sponsor

We have worked with Benedictine since 2001. During that time, we have observed the steady growth of the University and the dedication of the entire Benedictine family. Student welfare has always been a priority for us. When the economy took a downturn, Benedictine was first to provide additional assistance to their students. We are proud to be a partner with Benedictine in furthering their mission.

Will Gillett, Chair, Benedictine University Board of Trustees, Event Sponsor

A college education is one of the most important ways to improve oneself. A lot of qualified potential students don’t have the money for a college education, and this event helps bridge that gap. I know a lot of people who have been helped with scholarships and they are forever grateful. The more people who donate, the more students we can help. There are good students who are not able to afford a great school like Benedictine and we need to help them get there. I always encourage folks to support this important event.

(Pictured above with Natalie Gulbis.)

To see more pictures from the golf outing go to www.ben.edu/golfoutingpics.
Hrozencik, Terry Hannon and Gene Lopez, and seeing my old friends like Donna.

The event itself was great as always, and on a great golf course.

Bruce R. Bronge, C81, President, International Contractors Inc.,

Cocktail Hour Sponsor

The golf outing gives a helping hand to young people who have the desire to continue their education and pursue their passion. I have a good friend who was a recipient of a Benedictine scholarship. Today, he is an executive at a major insurance company. I have seen firsthand the difference a Benedictine scholarship can make in a young persons’ life. There is not a better, more useful way to help young men and women than the gift of education, and better than that, a Benedictine education. The more we can add to the fund, the more lives we can touch in a positive way. Also, the outing is an opportunity to meet others who have a passion for education. Since becoming involved in the golf outing, I have reconnected with a number of my old friends and made a number of new ones.

Jim Friel, Mathematics and Computer Science, C82

I attended the golf outing because it was a great way for me to give back to others after I have received so much from so many over the years. There is also the fun and networking that goes on all day and seeing my old friends like Donna Hrozencik, Terry Hannon and Gene Lopez, all while making new friends.

Tony Lulek, Education, C78

I attended the golf outing to connect with old friends and to continue my efforts to support education for students in financial need. I think this is a great way to give back and I encourage other alumni to attend next year. I really enjoyed the raffles/drawings for prizes, the cocktail reception and dinner.

John Atkinson, C84, Managing Partner, Willis of Illinois, Premium Hole Sponsor

I owe everything to the Benedictine community and to the University. It is the place that literally gave me the education I needed to be successful. What better place to show our corporate support. Scholarships are critical to access a quality education. Without education, the prospects of a good job are almost non-existent. We live in a global world, but only 40 percent of U.S. students go to college, compared to other nations where more than 60 percent of their students complete college. It is not that we have gone down as a nation, but rather other nations have surpassed us in the prospects of a good job. Quality education is vital to competition, to make our community and nation more competitive.

I went to Benedictine due to the generosity of others. I believe strongly that Benedictine is going to make a huge difference in the lives of the kids who receive those scholarships—as it did for me.

Deborah L. Capozzi, Senior Vice President, Manager of Nonprofit and Health Care Group, U.S. Bank Gold Tee Sponsor

U.S. Bank has a strong tradition of proudly supporting nonprofit organizations that carry out valuable missions, such as Benedictine University, with its long-standing rich history in providing the highest quality education to those in our community. It is imperative to be able to provide equal access to top-notch education for everyone.

Had it not been for a scholarship awarded to me, I truly believe the path of my life would be much different. That scholarship was awarded many years ago, however, to this day, I am forever grateful to have received it. I believe the community has a social responsibility to donate as much as possible to scholarship funds to allow students to realize their full potential, which in the end, only gives back to the community.

Benedictine’s golf outing was one of the best I have ever attended for many reasons, but primarily because I was so impressed to witness the high level of support and appreciation of the Benedictine student population that was there. These were highly respectful and professional individuals who were more than willing to chat with us and share their goals and aspirations, which made the outing feel all the more worthwhile.

Way to go!

The coveted Alumni Cup went to the team of Nick Scipione, C04, Ian Hughes, Jim Turner, C80 (brother of Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., C59), and Steve Conklin.
Bill Bartlett, Corporate Strategies & Solutions, A Sandler Training Center, Red Tee Sponsor

I felt that my efforts could have an influence on a young life. The greatest good that my business can do is to help young people move through life’s journey. If my participation touches one life, then it was worthwhile. I know a few students who have received the benefit of a scholarship. Their overwhelming gratitude to the benefactor is very moving. As I followed their careers after college, it is clear that their lives would have been negatively altered if not for the aid they received.

I met a few of the students at the golf outing who were beneficiaries of scholarships, and the feelings they shared and the gratitude they expressed gave me a warm feeling that will extend far beyond the event. Helping these young people would have never been on my radar screen without this marvelous event. The golf course, format, camaraderie, food, volunteers, dinner, etc., all came together to yield maximum fun for the participants, in addition to benefitting the cause we were helping. (Pictured on page 6 holding check with Natalie Gulbis.)

Leonard Piazza, M.D., Biology, C78

The University is my favorite cause because my father, Dr. Sal Piazza, embraced the school and sent all of his children here. We have all done well as health care professionals. We support the school in many ways, but in particular, we like to help the students who need financial assistance. I would like more alumni to reach out to our institution and give back. This has become a great event and is a blast, even if you are not a great golfer. It is fun to see old friends and meet new ones. I enjoyed the event being held at Cantigny this year and think the celebrity host concept is great.†

Make plans to be a part of BenFest and/or the President’s Invitational Golf Outing next year. Renew old connections and make new ones, while networking with professionals and meeting students.

Watch the website for more information at www.ben.edu/golf or www.ben.edu/benfest.

Lessons from a Golf Pro!


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Lessons from a Golf Pro!

M.S.M.O.B. Department Honors Two Long-Time Educators

During the Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior (M.S.M.O.B.) Lecture Series weekend in April, the department recognized two long-time educators for their dedicated work in the field of Organization Development (O.D.). W. Warner Burke, Ph.D., was honored for his many accomplishments and authored works in O.D., as well as his support and facilitation of the lecture series. University faculty member, Therese Yaeger, Ph.D., C95, M.S.M.O.B.’96, Ph.D.’01, was honored for her dedication to teaching, research and writing in the field of O.D.

Approximately 100 alumni and students were in attendance at the dinner. Peter Sorensen, Ph.D. (pictured above to the right of Yaeger and Burke), facilitated the evening with many fun and interesting stories about the honorees, including their personal accomplishments and their dedication to the field. It was a great opportunity for those in attendance to network and meet others in the field. Thanks to M.S.M.O.B. Associate Director Bryan Frederick, M.S.M.O.B.’09, Alumni Relations Coordinator Eric Guthrie, M.S.M.O.B.’10, and Sodexo Dining Services for their help in making this event a success.

College of Business: “A Tradition of Continued Success” Annual Dinner

On April 14, the College of Business, in partnership with the Student Senate, proudly sponsored the annual dinner, “A Tradition of Continued Success.” More than 80 alumni, students, faculty and staff enjoyed a wonderful evening celebrating the year’s successes.

The evening began with a short talk and invocation from Abbot Dismas Kalic, O.S.B., C57, who was instrumental in starting the College of Business. Dean Sandra Gill, Ph.D., hosted the rest of the evening, sharing many of the college’s successes. Adriana Salatova, Accounting/Finance, C09, was the alumni speaker and Jaclyn Dominguez, Finance, C10, spoke from the student’s perspective.

Alumni enjoyed meeting and networking with the students. Several attendees mentioned they wanted this event to continue each year and with even more time for networking.

Many thanks to the Student Senate; Joan Henehan, C91; Julie Cosimo, Ed.D.’09; Patrice Kucia, C91, M.B.A.’96; Eric Goodwin, M.S.M.O.B.’10; Rick Cali and the entire College of Business staff.

Alumni Baseball Reunion and Game

On April 30, the Benedictine baseball alumni met the current junior varsity team in the Sports Complex for the first of, what we hope to be, many games together. The alumni team was comprised of 25 alumni of various class years. In an exciting game that lasted only seven innings due to weather conditions, the JV team won 6-4. All alumni players received a jersey and hat and attended a reception in the Coal Ben afterward.

Scott Kibby, C82 stated, “I will probably feel sore tomorrow, but tonight, I feel great!” Ephriam Fitzgerald, C91, M.S.M.O.B.’10, said, “Thank you for allowing us to play on this beautiful field—I have been wanting to ever since you built it.”

The date for the next reunion is set for April 29, 2011. More information will be available on the website, or you can contact Eric Guthrie at (630) 829-6081 or eguthrie@ben.edu.

“Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate.” — ALBERT SCHWEITZER
My wife Karen and I arrived May 16 at Benedictine University to witness the annual commencement ceremonies. A few of us “Golden Eagles” were honored properly, but when we stood up to be recognized amid the other thousands of attendees there was such a positive response from the audience that—well, it was rather overwhelming, to say the least.

A later assessment of this 50-year-old-plus crowd added up to less than 10 (though a couple more showed up for the luncheon). Age and distance have caught up to many of us. Others are “just missing,” like one of our classmates, Fred Udekwu, from Nigeria. Those who were there included Abbot Dismas Kalcic, O.S.B., the current Chancellor at the time of graduation, and Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B., who was my roommate for a brief time. Dr. John Spokas lives in Lisle and he has about 10 years on me, but he was looking chipper and still plays golf. Jerry Buergel was there with his wife, Judy. Jerry and Judy are professional clowns (A Clown for all Occasions) and live in Alsip. Fr. Ed Kucera was another Golden Eagle, and I knew him from his two brothers, the late Fr. Matthias Kucera, O.S.B., and Archbishop Daniel Kucera, O.S.B., who now lives in Dubuque, Iowa.

Charles Pisoni came from mid-state Michigan to join us. He was our valedictorian and he still loves to talk sports—does a great job at it too. Since Karen and I live in northern Minnesota, we had the longest ride, but a relaxed one since we came by train, and then stayed with friends in Geneva. We all had a wonderful time, and some last-minute excitement when Karen and I realized the University band was at least two percussionists short. Some who were at the ceremony may have wondered how the cymbals and triangle suddenly appeared in the middle of Pomp and Circumstance. That was us.

We volunteered to join and the section leader said “sure.” It had been a while since either of us had played actively in orchestras, but we knew the pieces and it was a blast from the past. The three pieces they used all had parts that ached to be played, and we did all right. They thanked us and we said “back atcha”—the pleasure was just as much ours. In a sense, we reflected what the main commencement speaker said in his 10 points: “Be passionate in what you do. Stick your neck out and believe in yourselves.” We overcame our shyness and did just that, in a small but significant way.

For those who don’t remember our old alma mater, let me point out that our commencement took place in the old gym, with Fr. Alban playing the theater organ for less than 30 graduates. It’s quite an experience to look back and realize we were part of that little acorn of a few hundred students in 1960. It’s just as hard to believe all the branches of the immense oak tree that took root 50 years later!

After talking to a few other old timers, it’s impossible for any of us to say we knew what would happen, but since it has, the new 2010 graduates have the same job we had at our commencement.

Good luck to you all and God bless! ♦

Golden Eagles Reunion

Immediately following the 117th Commencement Convocation on Sunday, May 16, the Golden Eagles gathered for their annual lunch and the induction of the Class of 1960.

L to R, standing: Fr. Edward Kucera, O.S.B., C49; Abbot Dismas Kalcic, C57; and John Spokas, Ph.D., SPA’46, C52; (seated) Charles Pisoni, Ph.D., C60; John Stoessel, C60; and Jerald Buergel, C59.

Career Development Reminder!

We are here to help our alumni.

Remember alumni, if you are in need of assistance for job search, interviewing skills, resume writing, networking or just exploring possibilities, the Office of Career Development is here to help you. All services are confidential and free if you are an alumnus of the University. Call (630) 829-6040 or email career@ben.edu.
Track and Field/ Cross Country Alumni Reunion

It was a beautiful day on April 17 to come out and support the Eagles track team while celebrating the annual Track and Field/ Cross Country Alumni Reunion. Several alumni, along with their families, came out to watch the meet in the skybox of the Sports Complex. Retired coach Jon Wolcott was on hand to talk with former team members and share team stories.

If you didn’t make it out, you missed a great time and we hope to see you at the next reunion. Plan to join us next year by marking your calendars now. Event dates are posted online at www.ben.edu/alumni, or contact Eric Guthrie at eguthrie@ben.edu or (630) 829-6081.

Caribbean Night at the Coal Ben

On April 29 a standing-room-only crowd with many students and alumni in attendance enjoyed a festive night at the Coal Ben with tropical decorations, drinks and food for all to enjoy. The reggae band, Roots Rock Society, entertained the crowd who were keeping busy in the limbo and tacky tourist contests. Winners were: sophomore Slavko Milicevic; Ephriam Fitzgerald, C91, M.S.M.O.B.’10; and staff member Dusty Metty-Montgomery. This is a great event to have fun while meeting students and networking with other alumni. Watch the web for next year’s event.

Annual History, Philosophy and Religious Studies Reunion and Awards Banquet

More than 95 alumni, friends, faculty and staff celebrated the fourth annual History, Philosophy and Religious Studies Reunion and Banquet on May 6. Faculty member Vincent Gaddis, Ph.D., was master of ceremonies and inducted students with a 3.2 GPA and above in the honor societies of Phi Sigma Tau and Phi Alpha Theta. Along with the induction, the department honored Steven Montalto, C10, with this year’s Student Excellence Award. The keynote speaker was Omar Rashad Davis, C01.

Alumni Chapters Update

The Alumni Association took this opportunity to honor Gloria Tysl, Ph.D., with the Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B. Award, for 27 years of service as a faculty member of the Department of History and Dean of Students. This award was created last year in honor of the late Fr. Michael to recognize an alumnus, faculty or staff member who has provided a lifetime of distinctive and exemplary service to the University and its students.

Tysl’s former student, Mark Bonamer, C74, secretary/treasurer of the Alumni Association (pictured above with Tysl), presented her with the award. “I remember Dr. Tysl as being tough, but always fair,” said Bonamer. When presented with the award, Tysl stated, “I am humbled and honored to receive this award. Benedictine University is, and will always be, a part of my life.”
Alumni Day at the Cubs

June 18 was the day for the annual alumni trip to Wrigley Field to cheer on the Chicago Cubs. With almost 100 alumni and friends attending, everyone had a great time watching the Cubs play the Los Angeles Angels in an exciting game. Going into the ninth inning the Cubs were trailing 7-2, they rallied but came up short losing 7-6. In the end, the Angels won, but everyone had a great time cheering on the Cubs. The most “interesting” part of the day was trying to get back to the bus while fighting 70 m.p.h. winds, rain and hail! It was still a great afternoon of baseball, hot dogs and laughs with old friends.

Annual Alumni-Student Picnic (Part of BenFest weekend)

Those who attended the annual alumni-student picnic on June 27 had a great time. Food, games, music and fun was the order of the day. Inviting current and prospective students and their families was a wonderful addition and gave alumni an insight into who our students are and where they hope to go in life. The campus was a flurry of activity and provided many opportunities for reconnecting to classmates and networking with fellow alumni. (See more details about the events at BenFest on pages 2-7.) If you didn’t make it to the picnic this year, mark your calendar and bring the family to next year’s event on Saturday, June 25. Check the website for information about the entire BenFest weekend. ✝

“The school looks different now, but I still feel the sense of belonging and the atmospheres of peace and of fostering education whenever I am there.”

What have you been doing in your career since graduating?


In 1985, I joined the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office, where I served as a prosecuting attorney for more than 21 years. This was a front seat on the greatest ride a lawyer could have. I worked in Criminal Appeals, Traffic Court, Juvenile Court, Felony Review, Preliminary Hearings, Felony Narcotics Courts and the now-dissolved Narcotics Nuisance Abatement Unit. I tried more than 50 felony jury trials and won two-thirds of them. My greatest accomplishment was a conviction in the first aggravated stalking case to go to trial in Illinois after the law was enacted.

Since October 2007, I have been working at the Bass Pro Shop in Bolingbrook. While this has nothing to do with my education, it has plenty to do with my hobbies. I also have a K-12 teaching certificate I earned at Benedictine and at some point I hope to teach or do some sort of support work in academics.

How do you stay connected to Benedictine?

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, one of my greatest treats was coming out to Benedictine to work the Phone-A-Thon. I also served on the reunion committee for the Class of ’76.
Alma\textit{m}atters

David G. Fischer, C76
\textit{Psychology}

For the past four years, I have served as a table host at the annual scholarship dinner, and I enjoy this immensely. It is such a pleasure to meet the incoming students and see such intelligence and energy in young people who can achieve their academic and career goals with a Benedictine education. I have also been volunteering at the Alumni Association table at Homecoming.

Earlier this year, I was invited by the Office of Career Development to counsel a student contemplating a Juris Doctorate degree. I was also invited by the Pre-Law Club to assist in preparing for a moot court murder trial. Trial prep was the best part of my career and I was grateful to be a part of this. In March, I spoke to prospective students and parents about why I attended Benedictine. The decision was made 39 years earlier, but I still remembered clearly why I chose Benedictine.

In the spring of 1971, my older brother was looking at colleges, and we went to visit Benedictine. When I got out of the car, I felt an atmosphere of peace and purpose and a sense of belonging like nothing I’d ever experienced before. I decided that this would be my college. The school looks different now, but I still feel the sense of belonging and the atmospheres of peace and of fostering education whenever I am there.

I have also donated to the Phone-A-Thon over the years, and I made a contribution to the new campus chapel fund in my mother’s memory. It’s important to do what you can to help the University stay on track and meet goals.

**Why do you feel it’s important for you to stay involved with your alma mater?**
The main benefit of staying connected is the sense of belonging, of being affiliated with an organization that exists to help people prepare for their careers and to serve as an asset to the surrounding community. I like to think that today’s Benedictine students are enjoying an academic and social maturing experience much like we did in the early 1970s. It is also fun to socialize with the alumni who have had those same experiences.

I formed a long-lasting relationship with the school because the school refused to give up on me. In my first semester, I was doing very badly in a math course and it looked like I might fail. The late Dean Thomas Dyba advised me to work hard to pass the course, he pointed out that even though I was going to receive a poor grade, the math requirement for my major would be met and I could move forward. I took his advice, passed the course, and went on to graduate. I can’t tell you how many times that lesson of accepting a less-than-perfect result is okay as long as it helps us move forward, has come in useful in the years that followed.

**Why would you recommend others stay connected?**
A Benedictine education helps bring you together with similar people and there is still much fun to be had. We remain sociable even though the formal education phases of our lives are past. I particularly recommend that if you have life and work experiences that may help current students, or if you can mentor or provide “shadow days” or internships in your work, that you do so. All of us want to see our professions left to capable successors like another Benedictine graduate.

**Any memories you would like to share?**
I made some of the best friendships of my life at the college, friendships that still flourish today. I also remember how pretty the campus looked in all seasons. There is something about Benedictine’s trademark red brick that looks good whether it is framed by lush spring and summer green, bright mixed autumn colors, or plenty of glittering fresh snow.

My daughter, Meg, is a student at Benedictine now and enjoys the school immensely. It pleases me to see her making great academic progress. I hope she graduates with the sense of belonging and value in education that I always have felt. 

Carry the Light: Alma Matters features alumni who have chosen to donate their time, talent and/or treasure to Benedictine in order to support the school’s goals and needs.
A MESSAGE FROM . . .
The Alumni Board President

Whether it’s Homecoming or another upcoming event, take some time to come home where you spent years building connections and you have common ground with so many others.

For the past few years, I have had the privilege of addressing the graduating seniors at the annual Commencement Convocation. It has truly been an honor to deliver the important message of giving back to our future alumni, but this year was even more special for me. As many of my friends and family know, Benedictine University has been and will continue to be a big part of my life. I spend countless hours attending events, meetings or just visiting the growing campus—the connections enhance my life. But the highlight of my volunteer time was on May 16 when I welcomed my fiancé, Maura Gulling, M.P.H.’10, into the Alumni Association. It’s not every day that you can congratulate your fiancé on the completion of her master’s degree, and I was able to do it in front of more than 7,000 people. We were also able to mark the occasion with a great picture of us with Ernie the Eagle.

For those of you who graduated this spring, I congratulate you and wish you much success. It is my hope you stay connected to your alma mater. I ask that you take the time to “give back” to Benedictine in time, talent and treasure. There are many ways to do it—all of which will be rewarding to you personally and professionally. You have left as a graduate, but are welcomed back as an alumnus.

For those alumni who have been out of school for awhile, I give you the same message. There are many events where you can volunteer your time, opportunities to mentor a student, host a chapter event or just ask a fellow classmate to join you at Homecoming this year. If your class year ends in either a zero or five, come on back for your reunion on October 2 after the football game.

As always, please feel free to contact me for any reason. I hope to hear from you with your ideas, thoughts and suggestions on how the Alumni Board can better serve you. ✝

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

One School • One Spirit • One Tradition

Still an
Eagle
Ericka Sanders
Biology, C08

A GIVING SPIRIT

Class of 2010 Senior Gift
The Class of 2010 raised $5,300 to help complete Phase 1 of the renovation of the Rice Center. The seniors were able to secure a row of chair back seats in the arena that will be donated and named on behalf of their class. These students and their families have helped make the renovation of the Rice Center a reality and we thank them for their generous support. (Robyn Morgan, C10, presented President Carroll with the gift check at Commencement.) ✝
Why do you think it’s important to donate financially to the University? I believe financial donations are a tangible expression of appreciation and thanks. It holds value for the giver as well as the receiver.

Why do you donate your time and stay connected to your alma mater? It helps a person constantly remember their foundation and all that their previous institution has invested in them as a person. Personally, it is an invaluable experience to help other students get a glimpse of their futures if they stay the course. It can be encouraging and an interaction that can help lessen stress for these students.

How did your degree from Benedictine prepare you for life after college? My degree from Benedictine was not one that could be referred to as “easy to attain,” and for that reason it has taught me to never give up, to always have a passion for what I am doing, and to always get the most out of a learning experience no matter how significant or insignificant the task may seem to be. It is very important to always realize that nothing I do is ever a waste of time.

Through this generosity of spirit, we fulfill our own lives. Give back to a place that has given to you, and reach out to a place that welcomes you back with open arms.

RENOVATING RICE

A work in progress: Ready to lend a hand?
Since 1976, the Dan and Ada Rice Center has served as the athletic and recreational home for Benedictine University. Today, the University and its supporters are transforming the building to serve the comprehensive wellness needs of the entire Benedictine community.

Immediate renovations include the construction of a 13,000 sq. ft. wellness center, renovating the main lobby and office suites, and constructing the new Dan and Ada Rice Legends Center, which will house an independent Hall of Fame room.

Additionally, a new telescopic bleacher system was installed in the renovated arena this August. These bleachers, which will seat nearly 1,700 fans, include more than 400 preferred chair back seats and a third section of bleachers along the east wall.

Please consider helping us raise the necessary funds to finish this important project. To get involved, please contact John Morris, assistant director of athletics, at (630) 829-1812 or jmorris@ben.edu.

Sanders has made a big impression on current students through the time she has given by volunteering at University events. She has volunteered at events such as the Eagles of Excellence dinner, where she sat down with students to talk about her experiences at the University and at medical school. The students were able to share their stories with her and ask her advice on various topics. She also comes back as an alumni guest for orientation events and helps out financially when possible.

She is a third-year medical student completing an internal medicine clerkship at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn. She intends to graduate in May 2012 and then matriculate into a residency where she can have more experience in obstetrics and gynecology.

CLASS OF 2010

How high can your class giving reach with $2?
The Benedictine Challenge continues. The University and the Alumni Association made an investment in the Class of 2010 by donating $2 to every graduate and challenging the graduates to return the $2 as their first gift back to the University.

This Challenge began last year with the Class of 2009, who met it with enthusiasm. Giving participation tripled from the previous year (way to go Class of 2009!).

We want to encourage our newest alumni to start giving back and to stay connected to their college home.

We want all graduates to see the benefits of staying a part of the Benedictine family by volunteering their time and helping to raise funds for Benedictine students—all while networking with other professionals and keeping school spirit alive!

It’s not too late to participate—no matter when you graduated or what the size of your donation might be. Send your donation in the attached Voices envelope today!

What’s your $2 doing?
On May 12, a gathering took place in the Kindlon Hall of Learning to dedicate and celebrate a new permanent art exhibition space in the first floor atrium. This new exhibition area was named in honor of Benedictine University’s art professor emeritus and curatorial patriarch, Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B. Student Senate President Ayat Abuakar, Student Senate Vice President Stefan Turcic and Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B., each spoke about the importance of art education and self-expression to those in attendance. Current curator, Teresa J. Parker, gave a speech in commemoration of Fr. Michael’s contributions to the art collection and the vision of his legacy. The exhibition space is to officially honor the lifelong efforts of Fr. Michael to bring art to the University and to give visitors a place to see some of the fine artwork that is part of the University’s sizeable collection. The current exhibition contains several display cases filled with pieces chosen from the permanent collection, a number of curio items that were of special importance to Fr. Michael, and a gathering of miscellaneous work-related items (notebooks, art monographs, curator’s tools, smocks and name plates) all belonging to Fr. Michael. A painting of Fr. Michael, by Fine Arts Professor William Scarlato, also was installed. This painting will be featured on the cover of this year’s DuPage Valley Review magazine.

Additional artwork by Vincent Lucarelli’s digital photography class graced the walls of the atrium during the reception to add to the celebration of students who create art on campus. Fr. Michael repeatedly emphasized the importance of art education as a broadening of the overall educational experience. In order to bring attention to the fine work being produced by students at the University, their art will be displayed in this new space on a regular basis.

In addition to the atrium exhibition space, two other areas in Kindlon Hall have been designated to showcase the permanent collection and acknowledge recent art donations and gifts to the University. The second floor of the building now exhibits local, national and international art. These shows will rotate on a bi-monthly basis. The north end of the building has a designated space to display recent acquisitions and donations of art to the permanent collection. Directly across from that space is a display area for student artwork, which will change monthly.

We thank the following supporters who have recently donated a gift or made a donation: Richard and Susan Lamb of Lisle; John and Laura Fraser of St. Charles; Roy and Ann Boyd of Chicago; Charles C. Boone of Batavia; Izabella Mieczcanska of Aurora; Karl Arntzen of Downers Grove; John Sevigny of Salttilo, Mexico; Sasha Greenwood of India; Mary Dritschel of Chicago; Dariela Diaz of Salttilo, Mexico; Diana Castillo of Salttilo, Mexico; and University Curator Teresa J. Parker.

If you would like more information, would like to schedule a tour or make a donation, please contact Jason Leppin, associate director for corporate and donor relations, at (630) 829-1814 or jleppin@ben.edu.†

Fr. Michael’s passion for art placed Benedictine University in the unique position of possessing a diverse and comprehensive art collection that rivals and surpasses that of larger institutions whose collections are housed in a museum. The University has embarked upon a fundraising campaign to create a central location on campus to house the Fr. Michael E. Komechak, O.S.B., Art Gallery.

The new art gallery will provide:

A Center of Excellence for the Visual Arts at Benedictine that will be:
- a premier venue for exhibitions;
- a place for students and artists to expand their knowledge and understanding of international artists;
- a place to preserve Fr. Michael’s art collection for generations to come.

A Revitalizing Force for the University that will be:
- a major new attraction;
- a legacy of Fr. Michael and advancing the visual arts;
- a motivating factor for attracting and retaining art faculty and students.

A Foundation for Quality Education and Community Access that:
- enhances Benedictine’s reputation as a leading liberal arts institution with a fine arts academic program;
- responds to the growing multicultural communities at the University;
- provides the surrounding community access to a prestigious art collection and exhibits international artists.†

To view a video featuring Fr. Michael discussing the new art gallery, go to www.ben.edu/artgalleryvideo.

Benedictine Voices
HELP FUND THESE SCHOLARSHIPS:
Give a student a chance to finish their college degree

These are just a few of the scholarships that are not yet available for disbursement because they need more funds. Please consider a gift to one of these, or any other scholarships that have been established, as a way to help contribute to a student completing their Benedictine education.

Luz and Malcolm Berd Endowed Scholarship
Demonstrate and pledge a commitment to becoming a Spanish teacher for grades K-12; declared major in Spanish language or in Education, with a minor in Spanish; GPA of 3.0.; enrolled as either a sophomore or junior; evidence of community service and leadership; provide two letters of recommendation (one from University instructors and one from individual attesting to the student’s community service and leadership skills); financial need.

Cindy Cebrzynski Endowed Scholarship
Financial need; full-time student of no less than a sophomore standing with a declared major in either Health Science or Biology; GPA of 3.0; be actively involved in a minimum of one Benedictine sponsored club, organization and/or program.

Harold and Louise Kittel Memorial Scholarship
Junior or senior student who has shown outstanding performance and potential in academic achievement; major in Mathematics; commitment to the values of a broad liberal arts education in academic and extracurricular activities; demonstrate financial need; at least two letters of recommendation (one from a full-time faculty member in Mathematics and one from a full-time faculty member in the arts/humanities); preference may be given to a student who, in addition, intends to study abroad junior or senior year.

Reverend Richard Shonka, O.S.B., Scholarship Fund
Sophomore standing or higher; major in Computer Science or Mathematics; have the promise of a successful career in their chosen field; have an excellence in character and a disposition to serve others; GPA of 3.25; need of financial assistance. The selection committee may also consider excellent scholarship in math and computing; dedication to hard work; a variety of interests including athletics; concern for the welfare of others; and an uncommonly good nature.

UST Scholarship for Minority Science Students
Awarded to sophomore, junior or senior minority students majoring in the sciences or Engineering; academic honors and recognition and on/off-campus involvement and activities will be considered; GPA 3.0.; and financial need.

For more information on scholarships visit www.ben.edu/scholarships.

The position of president will be held by two students this year to share the responsibility of overseeing the group as a whole. Doing so will allow the students to bear more of the administrative responsibilities. The position of vice president of event planning will also be held by two students in order to plan and execute more events successfully throughout the year.

The group has been hard at work discussing plans for the school year. One of the ideas is to host a student-alumni speed networking session at the annual Eagles of Excellence dinner. This will give students an opportunity to network and receive advice from a number of alumni.

The board members would also like to incorporate an ongoing community service project whereby students and alumni work together on bettering the community. Possibilities include working with a local food pantry or sponsoring a giving tree at Christmas to collect items for needy children.

The students are doing a great job making S.T.A.T. an important and useful organization, but they need the involvement of alumni to make it a true success. S.T.A.T.’s mission is to provide students with opportunities to connect with working professionals in order to gain knowledge and a head start in the business world. Alumni involvement is essential. Obtaining advice and resources from alumni ensures that Benedictine students are better equipped to make social, academic and career decisions.

If you are an alumni who is interested in sharing your expertise and experience with a group of interested students, please contact Courtney Basile, at (630) 829-6083 or cbasile@ben.edu.
In his adult life, Munie has found a way to give back to the community that enriched his life as a student. He keeps the St. Procopius Abbey vineyard alive and well. After joining the formation program for the Oblates of St. Procopius, he became reacquainted with many of the monks he had known as a youth. The late Br. Sebastian Kuhn, O.S.B., told him about the last part of the original abbey farm—the vineyard, the orchard and the Abbey garden. He told Munie that the monks needed help tending this land in order to keep it alive and prospering. Munie knew he wanted to do something to help keep the tradition of wine-making alive on the Abbey grounds. He soon met with Br. George Popovics, O.S.B., and Br. Joseph Vesely, O.S.B., who became his mentors in caring for the land and making the wine. He quickly found out that it is a year-round task and would require a lot more people than just him and the brothers. A partial list of tasks that were required for this summer and fall included: pruning the vines; weeding; replacing old vine posts/wires; sprouting new vines and restarting old rows; keeping the walk-in cooler clean, disinfected and maintained; keeping the barn and workshops cleaned and maintained; painting the sheds; fertilizing; picking the grapes and apples; crushing the grapes; making cider; pressing the wine; and fermenting, bottling and labeling the wine.

Munie has grown this vineyard project to include several volunteers that spend many hours helping to keep this tradition going. He knows that it is only through the volunteer efforts of others, that his goal of making the vineyard prosper is coming true.

“The biggest help and support is my wife, Barbara McCartney. She has always been there to help as this project has grown. In addition, my two sons, Michael and Jeffrey, have put in countless hours at the vineyard. There are many other supporters who have worked on this project, including many families and alumni from Benet Academy; volunteers from the Oblates of St. Procopius; Benedictine students Ana Kiricova and Kristyn Lagioia; Benedictine staff such as Ron Boris, Mike Salatino and all of the members of the BenU police department; and St. Procopius alumni Larry Lillwitz, C66, and Scott Stahler, C71.

It is hoped that these stories of those who give back help inspire others to go forward and help make the world a better place. 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.
In the monastic community, Br. George and Br. Joe have taught me how to make wine and cider, and though they are no longer physically able to do the work, they act as wonderful advisors; Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B., is actively involved in the wine making and the garden; Fr. Beckett Franks, O.S.B., arranges the wine-tasting parties; Fr. Theodore Suchy, O.S.B., helps in bottle collection; Fr. James Flint, O.S.B., has spent time in research on the vineyard history; and Br. Guy Jelinek, O.S.B., provides advice and direction. In addition, Abbot Dismas Kalcic, O.S.B., and all the monastic community, have provided constant support and encouragement,” explained Munie.

Munie feels there are many benefactors from this project, including the monks, the volunteers, the land, the larger community and the environment. The fruit of the labor, the actual wine, is not for sale, but rather for the monastic community. Munie admits that the volunteers do share in some of the bounty, but the greatest benefit comes from giving back and feeling a sense of peace.

“When I came back to the monastic community in the Oblate program I felt I was getting, not giving. My wife described it as being ‘pulled into a place of great peace.’ And that theme of peace has been echoed by volunteers and people that I have taken on tours of the vineyard. I am glad that the abbey community is supportive of our efforts to provide them wine, cider, jelly, etc. But I feel that the monks have given more to me spiritually than I can ever repay with a few bottles of wine. The Abbey, the land around it and the monks therein, offer succor to the modern soul. This is an oasis of spiritual and physical peace in the middle of suburbia. I recommend people step outside their busy lives and see what it has to offer,” said Munie.

In addition to his work in the vineyard, Munie has volunteered his time at the University to give talks on wine to the student physics and ACS clubs, as well as the science faculty colloquium.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering for this project can contact Munie at greg@munie.org. You will be added to an e-mail list that will keep you up-to-date with the needs and happenings in the vineyard. †

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**SUPPORT OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES**

Your donation to the Eagle Club provides essential resources for Benedictine’s 19 athletic programs. Your support allows us to recruit and retain the region’s most talented student-athletes while providing you with a number of benefits, including access to all our athletic contests and events. Benedictine and NCAA Division III athletics seek to develop multi-faceted student-athletes who excel in the classroom, in competition and in life. Your membership in the Eagle Club helps support academic, athletic and social enhancement programs for our deserving student-athletes.

**Membership Levels**

Membership includes: free admission to all home athletic events; a complimentary gift; invitation to social events before and after games; access to outings and club suite events; and more.

- **Contributors** $1-$49
- **Young Alumni** $25 (graduated within the past five years)
- **White** $50
- **Red** $100
- **Varsity** $250
- **Captain** $500
- **Eagle** $1,000

**What your membership can provide...**

- one box of athletic training tape $25
- one soccer game ball $50
- one basketball uniform $100
- one softball or baseball bat $250
- team meals for one football away contest $500
- coach bus rental for one away contest $1,000

For more information, contact John Morris, assistant director of athletics, at (630) 829-1812 or jmorris@ben.edu.

Or mail your contribution to: Benedictine University, Attn: Eagle Club, Rice Center 208, 5700 College Road, Lisle, IL 60532. †

All gifts to the Eagle Club are designated to the Benedictine Athletic Fund, which is a separate fund within the University. All monies donated to the Eagle Club are spent on advancing the athletic department. The Eagle Club is a board-based group of alumni, community supporters and friends of Benedictine Athletics, and operates in accordance with all NCAA policies and procedures.

**EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

**ONLINE GIVING**

Easy. Quick. Appreciated.

[www.ben.edu/giving](http://www.ben.edu/giving)

It’s easier than ever to make a difference.
Benedictine University, one of the leading providers of adult accelerated business and education programs in Illinois, has added a new location at 223 Winnebago Street in downtown Rockford.

The University now serves more than 8,000 traditional and adult undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students at its main campus in Lisle and through its satellite facilities in Naperville, Peoria, Bellwood, Springfield, Rockford, and in Asia.

“We have been working in Rockford for several months now and have found this community to be extremely welcoming,” said Michelle Koppitz, contract director, Adult Accelerated Learning Team Programs. “We are excited to bring our adult programs to Rockford and the surrounding area to help implement a positive change for people who have worked so hard for so long.”

Students at the Rockford location may earn an Associate of Arts in Business Administration (A.A.B.A.), a Bachelor of Arts in Management (B.A.M.), a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), and a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Reading and Literacy and in Leadership and Administration (Type 75), as well as an English as a Second Language Endorsement.

For more information about these programs, call (888) 501-1163.

Benedictine Business Degrees Now Available in Peoria

Benedictine is one of the Midwest’s top universities with more than a century of producing business leaders and problem-solvers, and has now expanded its reach to Peoria by offering three business degrees at Illinois Central College.

The Bachelor of Business Administration in Management (B.A.M.) and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) programs enhance a student’s opportunities to assume leadership positions and increase their earning capacity.

If you are interested in one of these degrees or know someone who is, more information is available at (630) 829-1372 or www.ben.edu/peorianews.
WELCOME BENEDICTINE’S NEW CHANCELLOR: ABBOT AUSTIN MURPHY, O.S.B.

BY FR. JAMES FLINT, O.S.B.

On the morning of June 24, 2010, the solemnity of St. John the Baptist, Benedictine University received a new chancellor when the monks of St. Procopius Abbey elected as their 10th abbot Fr. Austin Gregory Murphy, O.S.B. He succeeds Abbot Dismas B. Kalic, O.S.B., who had submitted his resignation some months before the end of his eight-year term in the belief that the transition for the new abbot would be easier during the summer than during the academic year.

Every finally-professed monk of the monastery is eligible to vote in an abbatial election, in person or by proxy. Each elector may by secret ballot nominate one or two candidates for the position. The nominations are tallied and then those with the most nominations are (in their absence) evaluated by the community, in regard both to their suitability for the spiritual leadership of the house and to their capacity to address the monastery’s needs in the years ahead. The actual voting is also done by secret ballot.

By age the youngest member of St. Procopius Abbey, Abbot Austin was born in Huntington, N.Y., on March 25, 1974. After high school, he began studies at the University of Chicago. Graduating with a B.A. in Economics in December 1995, he entered St. Procopius Abbey the following June and professed vows on September 6, 1997. He took Austin as his monastic name in honor of St. Augustine of Hippo, for whom he had developed great respect during his undergraduate studies.


Following his ordination, Abbot Austin was appointed campus minister and religion teacher at Benet, where he served until 2006. Since that time, he has been pursuing a doctorate in theology at the University of Notre Dame. He has been working on his dissertation, a study of St. Augustine’s view of biblical inspiration.

By his new office, Abbot Austin becomes the chancellor of Benedictine University and Benet Academy. At the University, he will be a member both of the Board of Trustees and its Executive Committee, representing in a particular way the monastic community and its interest in maintaining and enhancing the University’s Catholic and Benedictine character.

Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B., Elected Congregation Abbot President

From the day he arrived at St. Procopius College in 1956, Abbot Hugh has been a familiar figure on the campus—as a student, young monk and from 1985-2002, abbot of the monastery and chancellor of Illinois Benedictine College when it made the decision to become Benedictine University in 1995. For the past six years, he has served as the head of University Ministry, and he is also the secretary of the Board of Trustees.

Abbot Hugh will now become a familiar figure in all the houses of the American-Cassinese Congregation, to which St. Procopius Abbey belongs. He was already sufficiently known and respected among the monks of the congregation that he was elected in 2004 to serve on the President’s Council of that body. This summer, at the General Chapter of the Congregation held at St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, Ala., Abbot Hugh was elected president of the congregation for a six-year term.

As president, Abbot Hugh is responsible for overseeing abbatial elections within the monasteries of the congregation, working with his council to advise communities in situations that may emerge, and representing the congregation within the wider Benedictine world.
LEAVE AS GRADUATES,
COME BACK AS ALUMNI

Congratulations to the Class of 2010 from Benedictine University and the Alumni Association!

More than 1,400 students became graduates of the University this year and more than 1,000 walked at the 117th Commencement Convocation at the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex on May 16.

With 7,000 people in attendance, William J. Bartlett II, founder and president of Corporate Strategies & Solutions, Inc., A Sandler Training Center, addressed the 2010 graduates with a speech to encourage them to believe in themselves and be passionate about what they do in life. Bartlett is a critically acclaimed coach and facilitator. He is consulted by national and international business CEOs as well as sports professionals, and has a lengthy client list that reads like a Fortune 500 Who’s Who. Bartlett serves on Benedictine’s Board of Trustees and is chair of the Advancement Committee.

Commencement activities began with a Mass at 7:45 a.m. at St. Procopius Abbey. The gates to the Sports Complex opened at 8:30 a.m. and commencement ceremonies for associate, bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree candidates began with a procession from Kindlon Hall at 9:45 a.m. A reception followed in the Krasa Student Center.

In addition, 180 graduates were honored for their outstanding academic achievements at the Honors Convocation and Hooding Ceremony on May 7.

Benedictine students may leave as graduates, but we encourage them to come back as alumni. We want our graduates to stay connected to their college home. We hope they recognize the benefit of staying in touch with classmates, networking with fellow alumni and passing along their knowledge and experience with future generations of Benedictine students.
PROCOPIAN AWARD  
Celia Helene Porod (Berwyn)  
The Procopian Award is the highest honor that Benedictine can bestow upon a graduating senior. It is given for consistently outstanding curricular and extracurricular activities while at the University. The award signifies that scholarship (a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average) and service are exemplified by the student.

THOMAS J. DYBA LEADERSHIP AWARD  
Giulia Visconti (Glendale Heights)  
The Dyba Award is given 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. This award also requires a minimum 3.5 grade point average.

BENEDICTINE SERVICE AWARD  
Frederick Andrew Eichler (Downers Grove)  
This award is given for outstanding service to the University in general and to fellow students in particular.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD  
Priyanka Jain (Orland Park)  
This award is for outstanding service in religious, educational, social or political activities.

BISHOP DANIEL KUCERA, O.S.B., AWARD  
Barbara Lynn Cissell (Chicago)  
This award recognizes non-traditional students who have an exemplary academic record as well as a record of contributions to the University community.

AWARDS IN ACADEMIC HONORS  
These awards are conferred upon students who have distinguished themselves by positive achievement in their field of study. These students have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better and have either completed research of consequence or have been published in their field.

College of Business  
Alexandr Smirnov (Vernon Hills)

College of Education and Health Services  
Lisa Fetting (Romeoville)

College of Liberal Arts  
Sara Cunningham (Wheaton)

College of Science  
Jacob Tyler Polaski (Glen Ellyn)

Moser College of Adult and Professional Studies  
Lynn Raymer (Lisle)

✝
Sr. Beata Scholarship Ball

The Sr. Beata Scholarship Ball is an annual dinner and auction held in honor of Sr. Beata Knoedler, faculty emeritus of Springfield College of Illinois, to raise funds for student scholarships at Benedictine University-Springfield. This year’s event was held April 17 at Illini Country Club in Springfield. Grateful scholarship recipients joined the guests for dinner and helped with the auction at this important fundraiser.

An integral part of the live auction is the Fund-A-Need Project. A needed item is selected for the campus and guests can bid a dollar amount to help with the total purchase. Thanks to everyone’s generosity, the science department was able to purchase three portable gas chromatographs.

The very first “Divine Wine Find” exceeded expectations. Guests purchased chances on identically wrapped boxes of wine with each box containing a surprise gift. The diamond ring winner, staff member Mary Jo Rappe, couldn’t believe her luck, saying, “I picked box No. 7, my lucky number. I can’t believe I won the ring.”

Gratitude goes out to the corporations, businesses and individuals that graciously supported this worthwhile event. This year’s sponsors included Capitol Blueprint; Harold O’Shea Builders; Heath Spracklin, Auctioneer; Modern Mailing and Printing Services; Pleasant Nursery; Polly Roesch; Power Distributing, LLC; Sodexo, Inc.; St. John’s Hospital; United Analytical Services, Inc.; and Watts Copy Systems.

The generosity of alumni, friends, staff, faculty, businesses and students made the evening a success by raising funds to help students complete their education.✝

ONLINE M.S.N. CREATES GENERATION OF NURSE-SCHOLARS FOR FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE

In conjunction with the mission of preparing leaders, the University recognizes the need to support nurses in furthering their education so they can become instrumental in managing the challenges of health care today.

The online Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) program is unique because it centers on an inter-disciplinary approach. The nursing core consists of eight courses (eight-week sessions) that focus on essential issues in health care such as leadership, administration, health care delivery and issues of global health. The additional four courses in the program are elective courses and can be chosen from any of the available courses in the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), the Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior (M.S.M.O.B.), and/or the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) programs. The students are encouraged to create a program that is uniquely their own so that they can set the stage for their own future success.

The M.S.N. program launched in March 2009 and currently has approximately 250 students. These students live in all parts of the country, and represent a broad spectrum of roles and responsibilities from civilian to military nurses wishing to complete their graduate studies.

As students navigate through the program they not only gain knowledge, they gain insight into the powerful nature of taking action, drawing forth from the mission of the University. The themes that frame the curriculum are based on the acquisition of discipline knowledge, global health perspective, evidence-based research, social responsibility, social change, civic engagement, analytical thinking and personal growth through self-discipline.

Once students have completed the M.S.N. program, the opportunities to utilize the skills they mastered are plentiful. The program will prepare leaders in nursing administration, nursing education and public health. The innovative curriculum is the foundation for fostering a new generation of nurse-scholars who will be prepared to lead the way in the ever-changing world of health care.

For more information, visit www.onlinedegrees-benedictine.com or call (866) 295-3104.✝

ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW

New Criminal Justice Major Prepares Students for Various Careers in Law

Lawyer, Judge, Police officer. Crime scene investigator. Youth counselor. A degree in Criminal Justice can open the door to a number of careers.

This fall, Benedictine is offering a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. The Criminal Justice major will provide a well-rounded, liberal arts preparation for students who wish to work in the areas of law enforcement, probation and parole, the judicial system, or attend law school to become a criminal law attorney.

The program is designed to educate students to be critical thinkers; to acquire, understand and synthesize knowledge pertaining to the criminal justice system; to learn research methodology and how it can be applied to questions of the correctional process and law creation, law enforcement and criminological theory; and to solve problems independently and cooperatively.

The major will be offered through the Department of Sociology and Psychology and will include a field placement component. For more information, contact the Enrollment Center at (630) 829-6300 or admissions@ben.edu.✝
NEW PH.D./D.B.A. PROGRAM IN VALUES-DRIVEN LEADERSHIP

Recently, Ethisphere Institute published its 2010 list of the World’s Most Ethical Companies. Those companies’ stock experienced 50 percent growth over the last five years, while the stock of the S&P 500 declined slightly during the same period. The numbers don’t lie: There is a business case for being a socially, ethically and environmentally responsible company. But how does an organization get there and stay there?

The Center for Values Driven Leadership (CVDL) in the College of Business at Benedictine University has launched a new, fully-accredited Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)/Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.) program in Values-Driven Leadership. The program, which will launch its first learning team in April 2011, is designed for senior leaders committed to building sustainable, values-driven companies.

“There is currently no other program like this,” said Jim Ludema, Ph.D., CVDL Founder and Director. “It connects participants with the world’s top scholars, executives and thought leaders to produce new actionable knowledge and to equip them to have a transformative impact in business and society.”

Research shows that values-driven companies outperform their industry peers precisely because they do business the right way. They create short-term and long-term value for their full range of stakeholders: employees, customers, shareholders and the communities in which they operate.

“Given our Catholic, Benedictine heritage, this groundbreaking program is fully congruent with the kind of institution we aspire to be. It springs from Benedictine University’s very heart and soul,” affirmed President William Carroll.

The program integrates psychological, sociological, organizational and economic perspectives on the study of responsible leadership in today’s global context.

Students draw from their own and others’ experience, the latest theoretical and empirical research, and spirited dialogue with visiting distinguished scholars and executives to deepen their knowledge and their capacity to lead at four levels: personally, interpersonally, organizationally and strategically.

The program is designed to be completed in three years (96 credits), and uses a learning team model that allows for maximum interaction between students. Participants select one of two tracks: a research-focused Ph.D. that concludes with a dissertation based on original research; or a practice-oriented D.B.A. that concludes with an applied dissertation based on the implementation of a complex, high-impact application project.

The program is one of several new initiatives underway at the CVDL. The Center recently launched a multi-media web portal, www.cvdl.org, to serve as a clearinghouse of resources for executives and educators interested in sustainable business and corporate responsibility. The site features videos depicting leaders of exemplary companies describing how they drive competitive financial performance by focusing on social, ethical and environmental excellence.

To learn more about the program or the center’s other activities, please contact Marie DiVirgilio at (630) 829.2178 or mdivirgilio@ben.edu.
Title VI Grant:
The Global Studies major earned a U.S. Department of Education Title VI Grant to develop a concentration in China Studies. The grant has allowed the University to hire a tenure track professor in Chinese language and culture, in addition to the continuing program of Fulbright teaching assistants.

Steven Day, who earned a Ph.D. in Chinese language and culture from UCLA and has experience in building new programs, joined the faculty in August. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literature currently offers courses in Chinese, but Day will be pivotal to increasing offerings in Chinese languages, which will constitute a new major in Chinese.

The Title VI grant also allowed for a faculty development seminar in Chinese culture. Faculty members are using the seminar as a springboard to incorporate aspects of Chinese culture and history in their courses, further globalizing the curriculum across disciplinary boundaries. The grant also provides funding for expanding library holdings and further course development over the next two years.

Innovative 4+1 programs:
The Global Studies major has worked closely with the Colleges of Business, and Education and Health Services to create two innovative 4+1 programs, which will allow students to complete the Global Studies major and earn a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) or Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) in five years. These two programs will allow students to enter the marketplace after graduation with a unique and comprehensive skill set that places them in position for global leadership.

Global Studies gives its students a thorough understanding of the culture and history of one of five world regions—America, Latin America, the Mediterranean, the Middle East or China. In addition, students complete 15 hours of common courses in Global Studies that give them a historical and critical view of issues of transnationalism, the development of the global economy, as well as international relations and indigenous responses to the development of our globally-connected world.

The major includes foreign language study as well as education abroad. The 4+1 student will also complete the M.B.A. or M.P.H. curriculum. This unique combination will help them use the critical thinking skills and Benedictine values necessary to offer values-oriented solutions to problems.

Values-Centered, Global Education:
The department is continuing to create innovative approaches to educate students for leadership in a global context. In addition to the Global Studies major, the Theology in Life Certificate program and the Theology major, give students a values-centered approach to decision-making, grounded in the teachings of the Catholic Church and our Benedictine heritage.

Toussaint Scholarship:
The department has worked very hard to give additional financial assistance to its majors. Over the past two years, alumni and friends of the department have graciously contributed to the Dr. Bernard Toussaint Endowed Scholarship fund, helping it reach its goal of $10,000.

The scholarship allows students who major in Philosophy to apply for the funds for the 2011-2012 academic year. Additional endowed scholarships for other majors are being explored.

Center for Catholic-Muslim Dialogue:
An important part of preparing students for leadership in a global context is to create safe spaces for dialogue. Fr. Becket Franks, O.S.B., and Theology professor Rita George-Tvrkovik, Ph.D., have developed the Center for Catholic-Muslim Dialogue. The purpose of the center is to promote critical dialogue and understanding across religious boundaries, and to prepare students to do the important work of building bridges of cultural and religious understanding in whatever sphere they find themselves. With one of the most diverse campuses in the region, the center serves as a model for other Catholic universities to promote interreligious dialogue.
M.B.A. STUDENTS EXPERIENCE BALANCE BETWEEN LEARNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

A nn Fulmer, adjunct instructor for Benedictine’s Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program, has found a great way for M.B.A. students to apply their knowledge in a real-world setting. Fulmer works with the Bartlett Chamber of Commerce to identify local businesses in need of marketing plans. These businesses are generally sole proprietorships or family-owned businesses with limited resources to devote to marketing, and little in-house expertise in the area of marketing.

M.B.A. students work with select businesses for 10 weeks to identify viable, cost-effective marketing and advertising options. Students not only prepare a marketing plan for the business, but have also created websites, developed camera-ready brochures, flyers and identified various newspaper/radio sources to get the message out in a cost-effective way.

This program is clearly a win-win for students and the community. Owners applaud the professionalism of the students, the high quality of their work and appreciate the value of this service. M.B.A. students enjoy the opportunity to work with the companies to apply their marketing knowledge. This project represents the perfect balance between learning and community service.

Many businesses have benefited from this program over the past academic year. If your company is interested in taking advantage of this service, please contact Susan Stackley at sstackley@ben.edu or Fulmer at afulmer@ben.edu.

College of Business at Forefront of Responsible Management Education

The six Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) were created to help universities and colleges teach students the values of global social responsibility and sustainability, and to enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.

PRME was developed in 2007 by an international task force of deans, university presidents and representatives of leading business schools and universities. Recently, Benedictine University joined other such notable U.S. academic institutions as Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame, Ohio State and Pepperdine in promising to incorporate the six principles into curricular and extra-curricular activities.

“The PRME principles are highly synergistic with our Benedictine values. Joining the initiative also strengthens our external brand as a leader in responsible business education, positions us in a truly global network of leading business schools, centers and institutes, and connects us to resources that will help develop our faculty,” said Kevin Doyle, Ph.D., M.B.A. professor and chair of the University’s PRME task force.

By joining the initiative, Benedictine has agreed to:

• Develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society-at-large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy
• Incorporate into academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility
• Create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership
• Engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances understanding about the role, dynamics and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value
• Interact with managers of business corporations to extend knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges
• Facilitate and support dialogue and debate among educators, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organizations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.

BenU Gives Back

University Receives Federal Recognition for Community Service

Benedictine has been named to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

Members of the honor roll are chosen based on a series of selection factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Some of Benedictine’s community service activities include participation in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which helps the elderly and poor prepare their tax returns, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, and “Sustainable Saturday,” a recycling event which collected more than 180,000 pounds of used electronic equipment.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service and leads President Obama’s national call to service initiative, “United We Serve.”

WebExtra: Read an update on programs and events for the Years for the Environment initiative at www.ben.edu/yfteupdate.
When St. Benedict became uncomfortable with the sixth century society in which he lived, he walked Italy’s countryside seeking a different kind of life in quiet, prayerful places. Curious about him, men began to ask questions, and soon they followed him. So many men gathered around him that St. Benedict wrote a “Rule for Monasteries,” which is a guide for a religious community that balances daily life with prayer and work. This balance is the fulcrum by which a monk stays in touch with God. Particularly as they founded this new community. As more monks moved to Lisle, the first segment of Benedictine Hall grew tall and wide, a silent sentinel overlooking endless acres of field and pasture. In the fall of 1901, the first school chapel was located on the third floor, in what was later known as Room 309. When a west wing was constructed in 1912-13, it included a large student chapel (above) that was used for Liturgies into the 1970s. In 1915-16, a south wing was built for the monks and became known as the abbey side, off-limits for students. Narrow doorways clearly identified the Abbey cloister. A room within their cloister became a choir chapel. Br. Augustine Roubik, O.S.B., and his carpenter crew built altars, choir stalls, pews and other furniture for the student chapel. Br. Joseph Pondelicek, O.S.B., painted a series of murals on the semi-circular domed ceiling of the chapel. As years went by, each group residing in the building moved from place to place, and their chapel went with them. Priest monks, brother monks, Benedictine sisters, seminarians and students had their own chapels in different areas of the building. Behind the student chapel, there was a kind of “chapel of altars” where abbey priests celebrated their private daily Masses. The Benedictine Sisters’ wing had a chapel on the third floor where the International Student Office was later located. There was also a chapel for the brothers on the fourth floor of the Abbey, where the Department of Fine Arts was later located. As the population grew, additions were built. The middle section of the building was for students, their dormitories and their dining room, chapel and classrooms. The sisters were in the north section with living quarters, a chapel, kitchen and dining room.
After World War II, two additional chapels were built to accommodate the rapid growth of the student body and military men returning to school. Diversity was a part of the campus even then, for the “Butler Hut” (a sort of prefabricated metal building) behind Benedictine Hall became a Byzantine Rite Chapel where Byzantine priests offered Mass.

In the late 1960s, at the Second Vatican Council, Catholics were reminded that the early Apostles and disciples concelebrated Mass. That return to an earlier practice of shared Mass reduced the need for Benedictine’s numerous altars.

Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B., was appointed to plan an abbey and church across College Road where the farm had been. The monks thought that the Abbey Church, whose seating capacity roughly equaled the College student population at that time, would serve as the main site for school worship.

However, while the Mass of the Holy Spirit that formally begins the academic school year and the Commencement Mass that closes the academic school year are held there, the Abbey Church never really caught on with the student body. Fr. Michael, student chaplain from 1966-1975, experimented with several locations to attract students to Sunday Mass. He celebrated Mass in the Lownik Library Conference Room, Scholl 101 and Jaeger Residence Hall, as well as the former student chapel.

In the late 1970s, the decision was made to renovate and transform the former monastic choir chapel in Benedictine Hall using the beautiful stained-glass windows designed by the artist Thomas Augustin O’Shaughnessy and the furniture made by Br. Augustine. The chapel was named after St. Benedict, and Mass was celebrated there until early in the year 2000.

Moving into the 2000s, a former classroom in the lower level of the Krása Student Center was designated the new St. Benedict Chapel. Four of the original stained-glass windows were cleaned, back-lit and placed in the Chapel, forming a visual and spiritual link with the past.

Other stained-glass windows were moved around campus. The Christ Child with his parents is on the first floor of Kindlon Hall, St. Procopius is in the lobby of the Abbey, and eight smaller windows (from the Abbot’s Chapel) are on the north and south corridor walls of Scholl Hall.

Prayer is a very important part of Benedictine community life for both monks and lay people. So there is always a need for a prominent place to pray. Today, the St. Benedict Chapel in the Krása Center and the St. Procopius Abbey Church offer students and the entire Benedictine community a place for prayer and a place to celebrate Mass. In the future, it is hoped that plans for a free-standing church on campus will come to fruition. †
Class notes

St. Procopius Academy/College

‘56 Ronald Strahanoski, Political Science, concluded six years as a board director and regional representative from Phi Delta Kappa International. Strahanoski and his wife, Charlene Jensen, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 4 with their two daughters, three granddaughters, one great granddaughter and three great grandsons.

‘60 Jerome Lear, Arts and Science, and his wife, Agnes, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 30.

‘69 Steve Kramer, Mathematics, was married to Margaret Mary Murphy on July 25, 2009 at St. Anne’s Catholic Church in Barrington. Together they have eight children and nine grandchildren.

Joseph O’Donnell, Ph.D., Biochemistry, announces the marriage of his daughter, Ann Marie, to John Megaro, D.V.M. O’Donnell’s twin daughters both graduated from college in May with Ann Marie earning a Ph.D. in Animal Science and Colleen earning an M.B.A.

Illinois Benedictine College

‘73 John Reher, Mathematics, created the Brain Trust Accelerator Fund in 2006. The goal of this venture capital fund is to earn attractive rates of return by creating and investing in early-stage medical companies that address brain-related diseases. Previously, Reher was general partner and co-founder of Medicus Venture Partners, held various financial, marketing, licensing and acquisitions positions, as well as taught college courses in economics, finance and investments. Reher earned a Master of Management degree from Northwestern University.

Deborah Zagac Homburger, History, was recently appointed to the board of trustees of Alexandria Hospital Foundation in Alexandria, VA.

‘77 Ralph J. Duda, Jr., M.D., Biochemistry, has assumed directorship positions of the Regional Diabetes Center, The Lipid and Wellness Clinic and the Hypertension Clinic at the Oklahoma Heart Institute of Tulsa, OK. Duda is married to Joanne Ellum Duda, C77, Physical Education.

‘78 Maryellen Giger, Ph.D., Mathematics, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), part of The National Academies. Election to the NAE is “among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer,” according to the NAE. Membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to “engineering research, practice or education,” especially those who are “pioneering new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to engineering education.” Giger is professor and vice chair in the Department of Radiology at the University of Chicago.

Michael O’Laughlin, Biology, was named senior fellow at the Jefferson School of Population Health (JSPH). JSPH is an integral part of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA. JSPH prepares leaders with global vision to develop, implement and evaluate health policies and systems that improve the health of populations and thereby enhance the quality of life. O’Laughlin will be involved in advising students in the program, participating in research, authoring scholarly research papers and speaking at conferences.

‘79 Daniel P. Becker, D.V.M., Biology, became a part of history at Northwestern Memorial Hospital when he received one of eight live donor kidney transplants through a paired donor exchange. Becker’s donor is his sister, Pamela Becker-Radcliff, C84, Music. Their father is former Benedictine University President, Richard C. Becker, Ph.D.

Sue (Rutziński) Ekins, Mathematics, is development manager for Sharing Connections Furniture Bank, a nonprofit in Downers Grove. Ekins is married and has three children.

Ed Marsh, M.B.A., is the proud father of Kevin Marsh, who is currently teaching Political Science at Benedictine University.

Jan Verhage, M.B.A., has relocated from Washington, D.C. to New York, where she accepted the role of chief operating officer of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.

‘85 Lynn Markowski-Smith, B.S.N., M.P.H.’94, is pursuing a Master in Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago, and celebrating 32 years of nursing. Her daughter, Jenna, graduated with a Master of Occupational Therapy and is marrying Christopher Michael Smith in September at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle. Her husband, Glen Smith, celebrated his daughter’s graduation from law school in May.

Annette Markun Koncar, Mathematics, and her husband, Ray, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on June 1 with their children, Robert, Frank, John, Margaret and Amy.

‘87 Deborah Johnson, Elementary Education, is running for a district seat of the 4th District School Board in Midway, TN. Johnson taught elementary and middle school prior to moving to Midway.

‘90 Greg Della Franco, M.B.A., was presented with the 2010 Dr. Charles W. Conn Servant Leadership Award along with his students at Lee University in Cleveland, TN. The Conn Award recognizes students and staff who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment of service to others. Besides teaching business courses at Lee University, Della Franco is director of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) and a financial and accounting consultant. In 2009, Della Franco was recognized by the Tennessee Campus Compact as one of four Tennessee Treasures for his leadership in service learning.

Michael Scianca, Physical Education, has been named varsity head coach at Larkin High School in Elgin. Scianca has been Larkin’s boys track coach for the past two seasons and teaches physical education and driver’s education at the high school. Previously, he was the assistant football coach at Montini Catholic High School in Lombard for nine seasons.

‘91 James Timpe, Psychology, has been named director of medical imaging at Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. Prior to this position, Timpe was director of diagnostic imaging at Advocate South Suburban Hospital in Hazel Crest. He is licensed, registered nuclear medicine technologist and a registered magnetic resonance technologist.

‘93 Jo-Marie Gagala, Business and Economics, is the president/owner of J & C Travel Inc. in Downers Grove and is working with Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center promoting the Susan G. Komen 5K walk/run in September.

James L. Nicholas, M.B.A., was promoted to district manager at Prevea Health in Oakbrook Terrace. Nicholas is married and the father of 5-year-old twin boys.

‘94 Chris Hayward, Social Science, teaches at Greater Chicago Alternative Transitional Academy in Skokie. He also plays in a rock band called Art Garden, drives a trolley for Chicago Trolley and Double Decker Tours and volunteers at the Chicago History Museum conducting tours.

Eileen Kienle-Dole, Accounting, and her husband, Ron, welcomed son Brendan Patrick on May 3 in Newton, CT.

‘95 Julie Craft, M.S.M.O.B., has joined Merchant Circle as the senior director of business development in Mountain View, CA. Craft has more than 20 years of experience in high-tech business development and will be responsible for identifying and securing strategic corporate partnerships for the company. Previously, she was vice president of advertising and publisher sales at Simply Hired, a recognized leader in online job searching.

Roseanne Jordan, Clinical Laboratory Science, works as a senior manager of global clinical studies, urology and GI therapeutic areas, research and development for Astellas Pharma Global Development Inc. in Deerfield. She has also worked in cardiovascular, infectious disease and CNS therapeutic areas.

Benedictine University

‘96 Donald D. Maier, M.S.M.O.B., Ph.D.’05, was recently granted faculty tenure at the University of St. Francis.

‘97 Tom Guse, Communication Arts, has been hired as the boys’ basketball coach for Lutheran High School in Rockford. He is an alumnus of the school and a standout of the 1991 team that made it to state. Formerly, Guse was the Rockford Boys and
Girls Club basketball coach and assistant coach at Belvidere High School in Belvidere, IL.

'98 Vikas Arora, D.O., Molecular Biology, graduated from Howard University School of Public Health in 2009, earning an M.P.H. degree in Family and Community Health. Arora also completed the Public Health Mental Health Program at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in May, earning an M.H.S. degree. Arora will be working as an adult psychiatrist at a VA Medical Center in the Midwest providing mental health services to veterans.

Fenorris Pearson, M.S.M.O.B., authored the book "How to Play the Game at the Top: The 9 Rules for Consumeate Corporate Effectiveness." The book deals with how to re-enter the workplace after time off and what potential employers are looking for.

Aakar (Rick) M. Shah, D.O., Health Science, graduated from Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine/Midwestern University in 2003 and completed a Family Medicine residency at Advocate Christ Medical Center in 2006. Shah is a full-time attending physician performing urgent care in the Northwest suburbs, is married and the father of one-year-old twins.

Aheed Siddiqi, M.D., Biology, and his wife, Shama, welcomed their third child, a son Eesa, on June 25. Siddiqi is a radiologist at Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove.

'99 Dennis Wozniak, Mathematics, and his wife, Marlena, welcomed son John Gabriel on March 25. Wozniak teaches mathematics at Hampshire High School, Hampshire, IL.

'01 Sr. Sue Kilduski, O.S.B., M.B.A., volunteers in the business office of Misericordia Heart of Mercy, serves in the monastery as director of activities in the infirmary and assists in the library part-time. She also assists in the community by serving on the steering committee of the 49th Ward Participatory Budget project, and as a board member of the Rogers Park West Ridge Historical Society, Kilduski misses fellow classmates and would love to get in touch. She can be reached at skilduski@osbchicago.org.

'02 Carla (Arnone) Lesnick, International Business, and her husband, Mark, announce the birth of their son Joseph David, on April 7. The family resides in Naperville.

'03 Kevin Ivers, Communication Arts, and Kayleen Newby Ivers, C04, Political Science, welcomed Isabella Rose on April 12, 2010. The family resides in Woodstock, IL.

Victor Settgren, Ph.D., is manager of organization effectiveness for Raytheon Space and Aerospace Systems in Torrance, CA.

Jamie Walters, Business and Economics, was named the head volleyball coach at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. Walters becomes the 30th head coach in the history of the program. Previously, she was the head volleyball coach at Aurora University, where her record was 7-23 in 2008 (6-6 in the NACC) and 17-15 in 2009, including a 9-3 mark in the conference.

Tatiana Garrett, Psychology, is a member of the executive board of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Chicago and is the director of community outreach for The Anti-Cruelty Society in Chicago.

Brian Poustinchin, Biology, graduated in May from Midwestern University’s Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine with a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. In addition, he was the recipient of the CCOM Professionalism Award and St. James Hospital and Health Centers Medical Staff Award. His residency in internal medicine began in July. Poustinchin was married in August 2009, and the couple resides in Chicago.

Rudolf "Philip" Botha, Management and Organizational Behavior, relocated to Cape Town, South Africa, in early 2010 and enjoyed watching World Cup Soccer live.

Jessica Rojas, M.C.P., works at Northern Illinois University Department of Psychology in the integrated assessment program with DCFS working with children. She continues to work part-time as an intake counselor at Linden Oaks at Edward Hospital in Naperville. Rojas is engaged to Bryan Reid and they are planning a destination wedding in Costa Rica.

Amanda Todoro, Psychology, earned an M.S.W. from Aurora University.

Elise Griskell, Nutrition, is working part-time with DuPage Senior Citizens Council as a nutrition site manager and beginning a second position as a diet clerk with Hinsdale Hospital.

Christina Nao, M.C.P., married Steven Bonnell on October 17, 2009 at St. Scholastica Church in Woodridge followed by a reception at Seven Bridges Golf Club. Nao is a behavioral health specialist at Timberline Knolls in Lemont and also works as the studio operations director at Beila Ink Designs in Lombard. Bonnell is a web merchandiser at Cook’s Direct in Warrenville. They reside in Downers Grove.

Alex Nunez, M.S.M.O.B., has recently been promoted to director of operations at the company at which he works. He wants to thank Benedictine, his faculty and cohort partners for making his success possible.

Anne Slabaugh Perkins, International Business and Economics, was married in June 2007 and welcomed a son, Landon David, May 28. The family resides in Joliet.

Amit Thaker, M.B.A./M.P.H., works for S2G in Skokie and is developing tools to evaluate hospital performance, providing practice leading metrics, prioritizing specific areas of improvement, recommending action plans and delivering company resources to assist with measurable change.

Nicholas Dobes, Chemistry, is the recipient of the first Weisman Fellowship from Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD). This $50,000 grant is awarded to a research student who is studying a Duchenne-specific science, which is the most common form of childhood muscular dystrophy. Dobes is using micropatter arrays to help identify healthy cells for stem cell research, as well as developing a process to keep these cells alive for future research. He is a doctoral student at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Jeri Lynn Else, M.B.A., has been named director of talent acquisition at Millennium Pharmacy Systems in Oak Brook. Else is also an adjunct faculty member at Waubonsee Community College in Sugar Grove, where she is developing and teaching an online course in the Health and Life Science Division called Communication Strategies for Healthcare Careers. Else is also an ISSA Certified Fitness Trainer and is certified in Adult CPR/ AED-American Red Cross.

Greg Leston, Management, teaches senior high school students as well as young adults at a local junior college and is working on an M.A. in Education. Leston feels that “Without my Benedictine experience, my opportunities and educational pursuits would have been greatly limited. Thanks to all my instructors and the philosophies of BenU which have supported my academic and professional endeavors.”

Stephanie Potter, Biology/Secondary Education, accepted a position as an 8th-grade science teacher at Byron Middle School in Byron, IL. She resides in Poplar Grove.

Christopher Waca, M.Ed., is teaching math and starting his third year as head football coach at Kewanee High School in Kewanee, IL. Waca also has served on a panel to help with student teaching seminars at Benedictine University.

Jason Wolf, Ph.D., has been named executive director of the Beryl Institute in Bedford, TX. The Beryl Institute is committed to bettering the patient experience before, during and after care. This research and educational arm of The Beryl Companies reaches thousands of health care executives through educational programs, webinars, data-driven case studies and white papers.

'10 Peter Shaughnessy, M.Ed., has been named principal of Bishop Stang High School, North Dartmouth, MA. Shaughnessy previously was the athletic director at Bishop Stang as well as a theology teacher.

Chrissy Sitarski, Nutrition, is engaged to Jeremy Swaw, C10, Biology, with plans for a 2012 wedding. Sitarski is studying to become a registered dietitian and Swaw is pursuing a career in the medical field.

In Memory

St. Procopius College


LeRoy B. Garbe, M.D., C42, Pre-Medicine, passed away December 2009.


Robert McNamara, M.D., C51, Pre-Medicine, passed away May 15, 2010, in Oakland, CA.


Guy Murray, beloved SPC/IBC baseball coach during the late ’60s and early ’70s, passed away May 29, 2010, in Kearney, NE.

Vitality/ class notes

Class Notes winners

Kathleen O’Laughlin Newhouse, History, C79
Robertta O’Keith, M.B.A./01
Matt Cattoni, Accounting, C08

Please contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu, to by October 20, 2010, to collect your Benedictine prize.

Fall 2010 31
The student-athletes, coaches and staff who comprise the Benedictine University Department of Athletics soared to new heights during the 2009-10 season, taking home a number of team and personal awards. Eagle athletic teams combined to win two Northern Athletics Conference (NAC) championships, 53 league honors, four All-Region accolades and one All-America selection to make Benedictine one of the most highly-decorated schools in the NAC.

**VOLLEYBALL**

The Benedictine volleyball team kicked off the fall season on a high note, posting a 10-2 NAC record under the guidance of head coach Jennifer Wildes to earn its first conference championship since 2005. After earning honorable mention honors in 2008, junior Kayla Leyden was named All-America to become the ninth Eagle in school history to garner the honor and the first since 1991. The Elgin native is a three-time all-conference selection and a two-time all-region member.

**FOOTBALL**

Under head coach Jon Cooper, the Benedictine football team went 6-4, including 5-2 in conference which was good for second place. Thirteen Eagles received conference honors, including freshman John Alessi, who was named Second Team All-Conference and was the co-Freshman of the Year. Seven players landed on the First Team All-Conference team while five were named to the second team. The Eagles ended the season on a three-game winning streak, including a 15-14 win over league-leading Concordia-Chicago.

**SOFTBALL**

The Benedictine softball team earned its first NAC conference championship, posting an impressive 36-7 overall record and a 16-2 conference mark. Six Eagles garnered all-conference honors, including sophomore Brittany Adcox, who was named the NAC Pitcher of the Year and received a First Team All-Region nod. Head coach Kate Keller was named Coach of the Year for the third time, but the first in the NAC.

**TRACK & FIELD**

The men’s and women’s track and field teams set several school records. On the women’s side, sophomore Megan Kunesh shattered the 400-meter hurdle record with a time of 1:09.90. Junior Vanessa Mensie’s hammer throw of 46.53 meters topped the former record set in 1999 by Hall of Famer Elyse Weber. Along with several top-five finishes, the men had strong showings in several meets. Junior Dylan Roff provisionally qualified for Nationals after posting a score of 3,404 in the pentathlon.

**TENNIS**

In women’s tennis, the No. 1 doubles team of Ewelina Stachulak and Lisa Carrillo posted a 10-4 record and helped lead the Eagles to an impressive 8-6 overall record and a 7-4 mark in league play. Head coach Mandy Semenik’s squad soared to a fifth-place finish out of 12 teams in the NAC, its best-ever placement.

**BASKETBALL**

The women’s basketball team finished the season at 15-12 and advanced to the championship game of the NAC tournament, taking down the top-seeded Concordia University-Wisconsin along the way. The Eagles tied for second place in the NAC South division under head coach Paul Nelson’s tutelage. Three Eagles received postseason honors, including Second Team All-Conference selection junior Jenn Bren.

With the 2010-11 athletic season underway, the Eagles look forward to building on their success and reaching a level of competitive leadership within the conference, the state and the nation.
Leave as graduates, come back as alumni.

You leave Benedictine University as graduates, but we encourage you to come back as alumni. We ask you to stay connected to your college home and discover all the benefits of staying in touch with classmates, networking with fellow alumni and passing along your knowledge and experience to future generations of Benedictine students.

As an alumnus of Benedictine, you are valued, appreciated and supported.

- Contact Julie Nelligan to learn how you can stay connected  jnelligan@ben.edu  (630) 829-6077

Remember: Even after you graduate, you are still connected here!
Upcoming events... Stay Connected!

September 23  
Springfield Alumni Chapter Event  

September 29  
College of Business Networking Event  

October 1-3  
Homecoming/Class Reunions  
Football Reunion  

October 9  
Alumni Chapter Event, Washington, D.C.  

October 16  
Octoberfest in the Coal Ben  

February 5  
Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony  

February 16  
College of Business Case Study Workshop  

March 30  
College of Business Career Fair  

April 14  
History, Philosophy and Religious Studies Annual Banquet  

April 27  
College of Business Celebration of Success Dinner  

May 15  
Commencement Convocation and Golden Eagles Reunion  

June 25-27  
BenFest Weekend  

June 25  
Alumni-Student Picnic  

June 27  
17th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing  

Join us October 1-3 for Homecoming weekend.

Send in your Class Notes Today!

Share your news with us.  
New career? Promotion? New baby? Finally retired?  
Just took a great trip? Were you honored for something? Busy at home with your children?  
Met that person of your dreams? Or just haven’t been in touch for awhile?  

Let us know what you are doing in your life.  
Stay connected to your Benedictine family.  

Please send your updated news:  
Mail: Julie Nelligan, Alumni Relations,  
Benedictine University  
5700 College Road, Lisle, IL 60532  
Fax: (630) 829-6313  
E-mail: jnelligan@ben.edu  

(Include your name, address, e-mail, phone number,  
class year and degree, along with your news.)

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