Keeping this promise has helped make us the fastest-growing university in the country.
Why are we the fastest-growing university in the country?

In a 2013 survey of national enrollment trends, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* recognized Benedictine University as the fastest-growing campus among private nonprofit research institutions in America. Benedictine University’s enrollment increased 159.7 percent during the 10-year period cited. And we haven’t stopped growing.

Why? We believe it is because of the promise we make to our students.

At Benedictine University, we promise our students an education infused with the Benedictine values—among which are a tradition of hospitality and concern for the well-being of others. Our students receive personal attention from dedicated faculty. They are supported by academic advisors committed to their success. They are better prepared to enter the job market. They are part of a diverse, caring community.

We promise our students an education that is affordable. Our counselors work with students and their families to exhaust all possible means of financial aid including loans, grants, campus employment and scholarships. We continue to seek aggressively alumni and friends of the University willing to share their treasure with students so that the dream of a Benedictine education can be realized by present and future generations.

We also promise our students that we will not cut back on student services, academic programs and building. We will continue to move forward and grow. If we are going to prepare students to be competitive leaders in the workplace, if we are going to provide them with a values-based, Catholic and Benedictine education, we cannot afford to shortchange them.

Since our founding more than 127 years ago, Benedictine has sought to create better learners, better leaders and better world citizens. Student learning and success is our first priority.

That’s our promise to our students.

Keeping that promise is how we got to be the fastest-growing university in the country. ●

— William J. Carroll, President
The Benedictine Promise

affordable and attainable undergraduate and graduate education that creates successful values-based leaders.

At Benedictine, we promise our students a college experience like no other.

Here, students receive an education immersed in the Benedictine values. They receive personal attention from dedicated faculty who make students’ learning their first priority. They are embraced by a support system that includes academic and financial aid advisors dedicated to their success. They are guided by career counselors who ensure our students are better prepared to enter the job market. They are part of a diverse, caring community.

At Benedictine, education goes beyond the classroom. Our students learn how to judge elections or rally for a political cause through the Center for Civic Leadership. They attend student leadership conferences then put those skills to work as members of many student-led clubs and organizations. They participate in fun activities such as Carnival, Casino Night, Spring Ball and Homecoming. They take yoga and Pilates classes in the fitness center or play basketball in the Rice Center Arena.

Our students work at Argonne National Laboratory, learn in cadaver labs and assist trained medical surgeons. They intern at financial giant Merrill Lynch and perform community service to benefit the elderly, the underprivileged and the hungry. They learn about the world by visiting small villages in Cuba, scaling the Great Wall of China, volunteering in orphanages and day care centers in Bolivia, and performing research in Switzerland.

At Benedictine, we promise our students an affordable and attainable undergraduate and graduate education infused with the Benedictine values to create better learners, leaders and world citizens.

Student learning and success is our first priority.

KEEPING THAT PROMISE HAS MADE US THE FASTEST-GROWING UNIVERSITY IN THE COUNTRY (according to The Chronicle of Higher Education, one of the leading publications in the field).

The University has undergone many significant changes to meet the needs of an ever-increasing student enrollment—from 3,000 students in 2000 to nearly 10,000 today. Needs that demanded more high-quality faculty members and professors. Needs that called for enhanced and innovative buildings, classroom space and technology. Needs that required more support services for students such as activities, athletics, ministry, tutoring, and career exploratory and preparatory services so that students continue to graduate with the tools to perform at the highest levels in their professions and in life.

These are needs that the University must and will continue to fulfill in creative and revolutionary ways so that future generations can receive a values-based education which prepares them to successfully confront the complex challenges of tomorrow.
Academic Strength

Degree Programs, Partnerships and Grants

During this period of unprecedented growth, the University responded to changing demands in the workforce, adding more degree programs and opportunities for academic advancement to learners of all ages, experiences and backgrounds.

The University launched new undergraduate programs in areas like Criminal Justice, Theology, Graphic Arts and Design, Physical Education, Business with Science Applications, Business Analytics, Bilingual Journalism and Medical Humanities to provide students with more opportunities in growing fields. New courses and other revisions to the curriculum were implemented to keep other programs challenging and engaging, while increasing the emphasis on hands-on learning.

New, innovative partnerships with other institutions were created to share resources and train more professionals in high needs areas, such as health care, through the addition of the Bachelor of Arts in Clinical Life Science (Perfusion Technology or Respiratory Care) program and through expanded partnerships with other universities to provide more registered nurses with opportunities for advancement through RN to BSN completion programs.

New minors in Chinese (Mandarin) Language and Film Studies, as well as concentrations in such areas as Asian Studies, were added to broaden the arts and humanities and to expose students to the world. Certificates in business, marketing and management were also offered to give working professionals new sets of skills and competencies for career advancement.

The University launched the Master of Science in Science Content and Process program to provide the teachers of tomorrow with content-specific training and fill the need for more highly qualified science teachers. It also significantly expanded training for future grade 6-12 mathematics teachers through a $525,000 Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education grant and $560,000 Transition to Teaching grant, which provided scholarships and mentorship training to students.

Speaking of Grants…

In addition to core academic programs, a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute provided more students with the opportunity to participate in interdisciplinary research programs with faculty members. Students in other fields continued to compete in cocurricular pursuits such as Mock Trial, Model United Nations and the Business Strategy Game.

A five-year $1.75 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education helped Benedictine implement advanced technology in the advising, registration and instructional process in an effort to strengthen student support systems and the overall University experience.

The University works hard to secure grants that help strengthen existing programs and provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to top students, such as the $1.2 million Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Grant from the National Science Foundation and the Chinese Government Scholarship, which awards students with free tuition and housing to study abroad in China. Other grants, such as the Food Scrap Composting and Revitalization and Advancement Program Grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, uphold Benedictine values such as stewardship of the Earth by promoting environmental sustainability efforts.
Educational Tools

New innovative educational tools were introduced, such as Desire2Learn, the Tegrity Lecture System, Bloomberg Professional Service in Lisle and Next Generation Learning in Mesa, to equip students with advanced learning tools.

Renovations

After the University opened the Kindlon Hall of Learning and the Birck Hall of Science in 2001, renovations were required in Lownik and Scholl Halls and the Krasa Student Center. With more students pursuing degrees in the sciences, the University made an additional $2.6 million investment in Birck Hall, adding five classrooms, a lecture hall, offices, a computer lab and two labs for physics and chemistry. The library was renovated in 2012 and additional classroom space was created in the lower level of Kindlon.

New College of Business Building in 2015

DANIEL L. GOODWIN HALL OF BUSINESS

The University began construction of the new College of Business building in April. The Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business will offer students an unmatched level of learning by enhancing the University’s partnerships with universities and corporations around the world; attracting top-tier students, educators, speakers and business leaders; and bringing the marketplace to Benedictine. In addition to classrooms, study areas, offices, a 40-seat, state-of-the-art trading laboratory and a 600-seat auditorium, the building will house the College’s internationally-recognized doctoral programs in Organization Development and Values-Driven Leadership. The building is expected to open to students in fall 2015.

Pictured: William Carroll, Benedictine president (left), and Daniel Goodwin, University trustee, at the April 23 blessing of the site.

See photos and a video at ben.edu/cobbuildpics and ben.edu/cobbuildvideo.

Throughout all of this growth in academic services, the University has been fortunate to maintain an average undergraduate classroom size of 18 students, allowing for an enriched educational environment where students can more openly discuss or ask questions.

Future plans include pioneering new ways to deliver programs to students in Illinois and across the country.
Centers for Learning
Creating Values-Based Leaders and Lifelong Learners

Several centers of academic focus—the Center for Civic Leadership, the Center for Values Driven-Leadership and the Center for Lifelong Learning—were developed to provide additional support and development for students of varying age groups and interests.

Center for Civic Leadership (CCL)

The nonpartisan CCL seeks to shape a new generation of leaders and responsible citizens, and has hosted (then a U.S. Senate candidate) President Barack Obama, Washington Post columnist Bob Woodward, humanitarian Paul Rusesabagina, former Republican National Committee chairman and current MSNBC political analyst Michael Steele and Democratic strategist David Axelrod. The University also hosted Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and a Republican gubernatorial debate prior to the 2014 primary election.

Each spring, the CCL holds “Youth Government Day” for area high school and community college students to learn more about the importance of government by examining some of the most-pressing political issues affecting their country, state and community. Last year, students explored political corruption in Illinois, and in 2012 observed mock Occupy Wall Street and tea party rallies. This year, they explored the issue of national health care with Howard Dean, M.D., former governor of Vermont and past chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

In addition to the many speakers the CCL has brought to campus, the University has hosted such prestigious lecturers as former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and former U.S. Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell. This tradition of bringing dynamic speakers to campus will continue so that students and the larger community can hear from some of the most influential figures of our time and more fully engross themselves in multiple issues and topics of public concern.

Center for Values-Driven Leadership (CVDL)

The CVDL was created in response to an increase in corporate greed and unethical business practices and the need for values-based businesses run by ethical leaders. The CVDL offers research, education and consulting initiatives to help business leaders forge new paths to profitability, and is a gathering place where top executives, entrepreneurs and thought leaders come together to innovate at the forefront of values-driven business practice. The CVDL’s three-year “Return on Values” research project with the Inc. Small Giants Community is currently seeking to answer the question, “In small and mid-size businesses, what is the link between culture and profit?” in an effort to more systematically identify the characteristics of highly effective and values-based companies.

It is also the home of the University’s Doctor of Philosophy/Doctor of Business Administration in Values-Driven Leadership Programs, which are specifically designed for senior leaders who are committed to using the creativity and discipline of business to create short- and long-term shareholder value, enrich people’s lives, produce products and services that benefit society and contribute to the health and sustainability of the planet. The program offers a unique combination of research, theory, practice and action-based learning to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to lead strategically and have a transformative impact on business and society.
Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL)

The CLL, established in 2011 at Benedictine’s Moser Center in Naperville, develops and maintains a wide range of high-quality, noncredit educational programs and experiences for the older adult, fostering intellectual exploration and a sense of community. Enrollment has grown from 56 participants and eight classes to 900 participants and more than 40 classes. There are no grades, no papers and no admissions requirements beyond personal interest. The mission of the CLL is to provide an opportunity for the older adult community to expand and share their experiences and talents with others while developing new knowledge and building rewarding relationships in order to create a community of engaged lifelong learners.

Accessible and Affordable Adult Education

To reach more nontraditional students and provide them with Benedictine’s strong values-based education curriculum, the Moser College for Adult and Professional Studies transitioned into the National Moser Center for Adult Learning.

By proactively analyzing workforce needs, technological capability and delivery methods, the National Moser Center will provide adult students throughout the country with accessible, affordable and applicable private higher education opportunities. Today, the National Moser Center’s programs are available throughout Northern and Central Illinois and Southwestern Arizona (where they will offer accelerated degrees in Criminal Justice and Accounting beginning in fall 2014) in addition to online programs in 43 states.

To ensure The Benedictine Promise can be met through the National Moser Center, there are multiple levels of assistance for students, including providing support from study skills to financial aid, from the moment they contact Benedictine through graduation; career counseling to make sure that each adult learner knows their options for their unique goals both personally and professionally; access to employer relationships that can help increase the convenience of on-site classes; program review and redesign each year to maintain innovation, problem-based learning and convenient delivery methods; and ongoing instruction and professional development for faculty members to keep their skills and knowledge current.

Innovative $10K M.B.A.

In the spring, Benedictine piloted the $10K M.B.A. in Springfield, Ill., and Mesa, Ariz., through the National Moser Center as part of an unprecedented higher education pricing strategy in response to the need for more affordable education in both regions. (Read more on Page 22.)
Benedictine has grown from a small private college in Lisle, Ill., to a University with global reach and scope through its programs in China and Vietnam, and the bountiful and culturally significant international student population on the Lisle and Springfield campuses.

Since the establishment of the Office of International Programs and Services (previously known as the Asia Institute) in 2007, the University has more than quadrupled the number of international students who attend the University (from 20 in 2006 to 130 in 2013), providing Benedictine students in Lisle and Springfield with opportunities to engage, discuss and collaborate with students of different backgrounds and viewpoints.

In the past two years, the number of U.S.-based students who chose to study abroad significantly increased—from 31 to 63 students. More students are taking advantage of the University’s partnerships with 19 universities in Bolivia, China, Denmark, France, Japan, Mexico, Spain, South Korea and Vietnam. Each year, University faculty lead large groups of students to study in places like Cuba, China and Costa Rica. More faculty members like Ovid Wong, Ph.D., professor of Teacher Education Preparation, are gaining valuable insights through faculty exchanges at partnership universities. To date, Wong has trained about 50 faculty members from Benedictine and 80 faculty members from Dalian Nationalities University in Dalian, China, on teaching practices and strategies.

In 2006, the first group of 34 Benedictine students in Shenyang, China earned Master of Business Administration degrees. This past year, 237 students from Asia earned degrees from Benedictine at ceremonies in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Vietnam National University in Hanoi, Vietnam, and Shenyang Jianzhu University and Shenyang University of Technology in Shenyang, China.

Word has also spread to students from other parts of the world who come far and wide to seek a Benedictine degree. Since fall 2011, Benedictine has welcomed more than 30 students from Libya into the Master of Public Health and Master of Business Administration programs. In 2013, 10 students from Pakistan, India, Syria and Saudi Arabia joined the Benedictine community in pursuit of a bachelor’s or master’s degree.

With the establishment of the Office of International Programs and Services and the new Global College, future plans call for creating the necessary infrastructure to support a fast growing international student population on campus during the next few years.

International Student and Scholar Orientation, a semester-long course, has been designed to provide the needed resources and support to international students and scholars through a variety of services, including trips to government offices and banks. The course also provides information on health care, employment, driving and social security, and offers opportunities to participate in cultural and community outreach events. The addition of a new English as a Second Language program, with a focus on English for Academic Purposes, will further assist foreign students with skills necessary for interacting and communicating with their American peers while studying on campus.

The University is also currently working with Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFE) to develop a joint program to provide SUFE students with opportunities to study at Benedictine and to extend a values-centered education to Chinese students who seek a degree from an American institution.
Two Campus Treasures
Nature Museum and Art Gallery

The University has two treasures found on campus that provide a wealth of interactive educational experiences for the University community and public—the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum and the Fr. Michael E. Komechak, O.S.B., Art Gallery.

Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum

With more than 10,000 specimens—ranging from a microscopic aphid to a giant rorqual whale skeleton—the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum is one of the finest natural history museums in the Midwest.

In recent years, the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum has greatly expanded its reach within the University and the greater community through the addition of new programs and educational outreach efforts centered on zoology, botany, geology and environmental stewardship.

During the 2012-13 academic year, the museum hosted more than 6,000 visitors—an increase of about 33 percent from the previous year. Through the Discovery Box Loan Program, which provides teachers with educational kits and hands-on classroom activities, the museum reached more than 8,500 learners from the local community.

Museum staff also hosted several new programs for the public, such as the “Backyard Birds of Illinois Workshop and Spring Bird Walk,” and the “Frog Call Workshop and Nature Walk.” A new program, “Extinct and Endangered Birds of North America,” was held in March in conjunction with the centenary anniversary of the extinction of the passenger pigeon. In June, the museum will host several activities as part of the Chicago Wilderness’ “Leave No Child Inside” initiative, which seeks to promote the use of local resources, such as park preserves and museums, to stimulate children’s interests in the outdoors and natural sciences.

Student workers develop a unique skill set including collections management, specimen care, cataloging and inventory experience, customer service and public speaking. This broad set of skills can be applied to multiple careers and provides a beneficial working environment closely tied to their studies.

Students also engage in faculty-led research using museum specimens and can choose from 10 ongoing supplementary projects which involve the museum’s Discovery Box Loan Program.

To view videos, go to ben.edu/museumvideo.
As the University has grown, its emphasis on Catholic and Benedictine values—which are reinforced through the efforts and services of the Office of University Ministry and the Center for Mission and Identity (CMI)—have remained an integral part of the student experience, offering programs and services that assist in the spiritual growth of all students, faculty and staff. The St. Benedict Chapel and University Ministry now share the fourth floor of Kindlon Hall with the CMI to better serve a growing student body.

Having these groups in the same area has allowed for increased engagement with students on multiple levels—from training students to be future lay leaders of the church, to holding interreligious and intercultural dialogues. It also brings additional support and collaboration on activities and programs such as the Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought series, The Global Studies Forum and the Faith and Reason Symposium. (Read more about CMI on Page 27.)

To reach the University’s online community, which stands at more than 1,500 students, University Ministry has increased its presence online and offers podcasts of daily reflections.

Last year, an anonymous donation to the St. Benedict Chapel Design Project allowed University Ministry to enhance the overall look and feel of the chapel, which has contributed to an increased attendance at Mass.

Today, more students actively attend Mass, participate in the Koinonia Retreat, volunteer at local food pantries, and serve the underprivileged in places as far away as the Philippines and Bolivia and as close to home as Hopkins Park, Ill.

A rise in worship attendance was also accompanied by an increase in the number of students who participate in liturgical and music ministries. With the support of the Whiting Endowment Fund, University Ministry outfitted a dedicated ensemble of musicians with a new bass guitar, drums and violin. In March, University Ministry hosted its first “Sacred Music Series” concert.

Students have also served in a number of leadership roles, training other students how to be altar servers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors and ushers. Through this training, students may serve as the chief sacristan, who organizes and oversees planning for Mass.
Benedictine is one of the most diverse campuses in the country, with community members representing not only Catholic and numerous other Christian denominations, but many other faiths such as Judaism, Hinduism and Islam. Together, all are respected and encouraged to work together, because all have something to contribute as part of the larger world community in which we all live.

Benedictine regularly holds events that encourage students of different backgrounds to interact, discuss and work collaboratively. These opportunities help students strengthen their own faith while broadening their knowledge and understanding of others. As a result, students are able to more intelligently discuss complex issues and topics from interfaith marriage and customs to politics and the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

As the primary vehicle for reinforcing and espousing Catholic values on campus, University Ministry and the Center for Mission and Identity will continue to emphasize the worth and dignity of each person, the solidarity of the human race, the social nature of human existence, and the compatibility of faith and reason in the search for truth.
**Amplified Athletics**

Programs and Facilities

Scoring High with Students

**Lisle Athletics**

*Growth Draws Talent*

Benedictine’s athletic programs have kept pace with the University’s overall growth, drawing talented student-athletes to the University from all over the country. Two major developments—the opening of the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex in 2004 and the nearly $7 million renovation of the Rice Center in 2011—have helped the University attract more than 500 student-athletes while providing students in general with a range of options for pursuing fitness goals or participating in club sports.

Within four years of their opening, the Sports Complex stadium and track, baseball stadium and softball field have contributed to a 21 percent increase in the number of student-athletes attending Benedictine.

The renovation of the Rice Center, acknowledged as one of Chicago’s best building renovation projects by the Chicago Building Congress, included the installation of a new hardwood floor, giant scoreboards and island baskets in the Rice Center Arena and the installation of a new 1,700-seat telescopic bleacher system. The project also incorporated a new 11,000-square-foot fitness center with a dedicated cardio and circuit training space featuring elliptical trainers, treadmills, stationary bicycles, a private dance/exercise studio and an advanced training facility with hot and cold tubs.

Today, Benedictine student-athletes participate in 20 NCAA Division III programs—including three of the University’s newest sports programs—women’s and men’s lacrosse and men’s volleyball. This growth has contributed not only to the University’s overall enrollment—but created more events for students to attend, cheer for their peers and forge a deeper connection with University life. In the Sports Complex stadium alone, more than 250 athletic events are conducted during an eight-month period every year and more than 130,000 visitors use the University’s facilities to exercise, participate in extracurricular sports or attend athletic events as fans.

The Benedictine University Golf Center, an indoor training facility with interactive golf simulators, putting green and chipping area, also provides men’s and women’s golf teams opportunities to practice year-round.

Overall, the University’s athletic teams have won 69 conference championships and have made dozens of NCAA tournament appearances.

In addition, Benedictine’s baseball and softball fields were designated “Field of the Year” in 2011 in their divisions by the Sports Turf Managers Association, a nonprofit professional organization for sports field managers.
At the Mesa branch campus, the University will add eight club sports for the 2014-15 academic year—men’s and women’s volleyball, golf, cross country and tennis. Benedictine University at Mesa is one of a handful of private universities in Arizona which provide an opportunity to compete in intercollegiate sports.

The addition of club sports also lays a foundation for continued growth in athletics at Mesa, which will increase recognition and provide more activities in which students can become engaged and involved in the University.

Springfield Athletics

A Rising Star

In Springfield, the University revived a men’s basketball program 12 years after its predecessor, Springfield College in Illinois, ended the program due to budget cuts. A women’s basketball program was also launched in 2013. Previously, there had been no winter athletic activities at the Springfield branch campus. The two programs have provided another opportunity for students to get involved and participate in campus life.

In addition to basketball, the University added cheerleading, men’s and women’s cross country, and golf. These sports also helped to bring the campus together and draw more undergraduate students from the region and out-of-state while promoting the University through media coverage. This year, they will begin men’s and women’s tennis programs.

Benedictine University at Springfield was named a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Champions of Character Five-Star Institution for athletic achievements on and off the field during the 2012-13 season. To receive the award, Benedictine had to score highly in five key areas: character training, conduct in competition, character recognition, academic focus and character promotion.

Mesa Club Sports

A Foundation for Athletic Growth

In the Mesa branch campus, the University will add eight club sports for the 2014-15 academic year—men’s and women’s volleyball, golf, cross country and tennis. Benedictine University at Mesa is one of a handful of private universities in Arizona which provide an opportunity to compete in intercollegiate sports.

The addition of club sports also lays a foundation for continued growth in athletics at Mesa, which will increase recognition and provide more activities in which students can become engaged and involved in the University.
A growing and increasingly diverse student body helped to strengthen and encourage new opportunities for student success and involvement on campus. The addition of Founders’ Woods Apartments and the Coal Ben has provided more on-campus housing and food options as well as gathering and entertainment venues for students. An expansion of the Student Success Center addressed various student needs, such as study skills and tutoring. The Office of Career Development prepares students to search for jobs that meet their interests and career goals.

To further support The Benedictine Promise of creating successful values-based leaders, the University established the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership Development, which provides an array of services to assist students in their personal development, decision-making, sense of civic responsibility and leadership growth. The University provides students with career guidance from day one and encourages students to be involved in student groups and volunteer with service organizations in the community. Doing so boosts students’ marketability when seeking internships and postgraduate jobs. Benedictine students are better prepared to enter the market because of the University’s commitment to providing

Student Life Surge

Boost in Clubs, Campus Events and Career Support

This spring, the University unveiled the BenUnion on the first floor of the Krasa Student Center. The BenUnion is a recreational space where students can go after class to unwind and participate in a variety of activities including billiards, table tennis, foosball, air hockey, and video and board games. The space also features soft seating, which provides students additional space to relax, use their laptops or watch TV. The BenUnion is a place where students can hang out, kick back, and where fun and the occasional healthy competition is encouraged. It is a place where students can put their books down for a few minutes each day to take a break and socialize with peers. The goal of the BenUnion is to support a healthy balance of mind, body and spirit while enhancing the overall college experience.

To view more pictures, go to ben.edu/webextras or ben.edu/benunionpics.
Today, students can participate in more than 40 student-led organizations, such as Rotaract, The Candor student newspaper, Student Senate and Best Buddies, a club that pairs young adults with developmental disabilities with Benedictine students. Many of these clubs enjoy the largest membership in their history, and as a result have been more active on campus.

At the Coal Ben, students can attend dances, watch comedy acts and participate in open mic poetry slams. Other events have included movie nights, ice skating and miniature golf. In 2013, new space-friendly, modern furniture was added to the residence halls to enhance on-campus living.

“Today, students can participate in more than 40 student-led organizations, such as Rotaract, The Candor student newspaper, Student Senate and Best Buddies, a club that pairs young adults with developmental disabilities with Benedictine students. Many of these clubs enjoy the largest membership in their history, and as a result have been more active on campus.

At the Coal Ben, students can attend dances, watch comedy acts and participate in open mic poetry slams. Other events have included movie nights, ice skating and miniature golf. In 2013, new space-friendly, modern furniture was added to the residence halls to enhance on-campus living.”
To improve Latino students’ access to a values-based higher education, Benedictine and the Raza Development Fund (RDF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in March to provide scholarships to eligible students who were unable to register for the Spring 2014 Semester due to financial constraints. Scholarships ranging from $500 to $3,000 were distributed among 10 first-generation college students. As part of the agreement, scholarship recipients will participate in a leadership and faith retreat, and a forum to provide feedback to the University on how it can best serve the needs of the Latino student population in Arizona. The RDF will also assist students with internships and work-study opportunities.

A new study skills course, BenB 099, was added in the spring to help new students make the most of their college experience. The free, eight-week course is designed to improve academic performance by providing training in time management, study skills, navigating technology, understanding the financial aid process, library research and how to successfully manage finals week among other topics.

While Benedictine University at Mesa made headlines last September when it opened to an inaugural class of 93 students, it also made significant strides in offering new programs, scholarships and academic assistance to support the needs of a growing population of students.
In February, Michael R. Tole, assistant professor of Fine Arts, created a statewide art competition, “Masters of Tomorrow,” open to high school and community college students. The competition received more than 150 entries from promising young artists. To support students’ creative endeavors and art education, best in show winners in the high school and community college categories each won a 50 percent tuition scholarship, while several cash prizes were awarded to winners in other categories.

The University witnessed an evolving student life with the selection of Benedictine’s first Student Senate officers and the formation of such student-led organizations as the Nutrition Club, Media Club, Inter-Faith Council and Phi Beta Kappa. Students who participate in these clubs learn how to develop as leaders, and as these organizations continue to grow and develop, more students will have opportunities to gain additional extracurricular skills that are imperative in the workplace.

Pictured are students in the Jo Wilson Leadership Institute who receive specialized training that meets their personal career interests. Part of The Benedictine Promise is to create better learners, leaders and world citizens.

The Jo Wilson Leadership Institute, named after the senior administrator and special assistant to the executive vice president for Benedictine University at Mesa, is designed to shape student leaders, foster community service and improve student success by supporting a select group of incoming freshmen.

Participants are given an iPad as a learning tool to connect with assigned faculty and professional mentors, and will participate in a summer orientation program. Each year, students will identify a community need and complete a service project to address that need.

Program participants have the opportunity to work on campus and experience a paid internship in the Mesa or Chicago areas between their junior and senior year, linking them with community leaders and developing their communication skills. Participants also have the option to study for one semester at Benedictine’s main campus, or embark on a study abroad program at a 50 percent tuition reduction.

Many new programs (including a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science) and opportunities will roll out throughout the upcoming academic year as the campus continues to grow.
In 2003, Benedictine University entered into a partnership with Springfield College in Illinois which paved the way for the University to establish a four-year branch campus six years later. Today, Benedictine University at Springfield offers a full range of academic programs including undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees serving more than 1,000 students.

This transformation necessitated many changes. Among them was the renovation of Angela Hall, which included upgrading old science labs into state-of-the-art labs for the University’s expanding health programs, and providing new space for a growing Athletics department and campus police station. Future upgrades to Angela Hall will include modernizing the space outside of the building for community activities on campus.

Additional tutoring and study skills programs, such as Benedictine Beginnings, were added to help high school students transition into the college classroom. In fall 2013, the half-day program provided students with information on time and money management, study skills and how to prepare for class. This year, the program will be extended to two full days as part of the New Student Orientation program. Sessions will focus on accountability, cocurricular activities and the importance of getting involved, as well as additional note- and test-taking skills.

Students who live in residence halls this year also received additional programming focused on such topics as diversity, financial aid, alcohol awareness and community service. The addition of air hockey, pool and table tennis tables, as well as mini basketball and board games in residence hall lounges, provided students with more recreational activities and opportunities for social engagement.

The library now offers new ways for students—both on campus and online—to make the most of its resources on all campuses. Today, half of the library’s resources are available online. Students can access these resources by searching a database and downloading materials off campus. Students may also chat one-on-one with a librarian for additional assistance.

A Cooperative Education Program was implemented in the fall to provide more Springfield students with career skills by connecting them with internships at companies which have agreed to partner with the University. In the first few months of the program, more than a dozen prominent local employers came forward to partner with Benedictine and plan to offer positions to several students.

New undergraduate programs in Accounting and International Business are being offered and the University is currently considering the addition of an honors program to develop the critical-thinking skills of a talented community of scholars through intensive research and study beginning in fall 2015.
We Promise

Benedictine University promises its students an affordable and attainable undergraduate and graduate education infused with the Benedictine values, faculty who make students’ learning their first priority, a support system dedicated to their success, comprehensive preparation to enter the job market, and a diverse, caring community in which they can become better learners, better leaders and better world citizens.

During the past year, the Springfield branch campus offered more opportunities for students to participate and become engaged in University life.

A REINVIGORATED STUDENT LIFE, with student-led clubs and organizations such as the Benedictine University at Springfield Inspirational Choir, B Team, Fine Arts Club, Health Science Club, China Ben, Women in Communications, the Residence Hall Council and Campus Ministry, have provided students with more opportunities to get involved on campus and support the surrounding community.

Remember, you can help Benedictine keep its promise to students and support efforts to continue necessary growth and enhancements. Please review the many naming opportunities available at ben.edu/namingops to see where you can make a difference. The Lisle campus Office of Student Life has added donation suggestions to these ideas for overall University support.
The Offices of Alumni Development and Enrollment teamed up this past winter to implement a volunteer initiative to connect alumni with prospective students. Participating alumni sent postcards to admitted students to congratulate and encourage them to complete the enrollment process to attend Benedictine. Alumni from across the country (from Maryland to Hawaii) volunteered and together sent postcards to more than 400 students. Thank you to all who participated, especially those who wrote 20 or more postcards:

- Shawn Bozarth, M.B.A.’13
- Debbie Daniel, C08
- Roxanne Dilegge, C01
- Padraic Gallagher, C96
- Stephen Glennan, C71
- Geoffrey Goodfellow, C97
- Christopher Hayward, C94
- Marge Hilson, C99
- Chinyere Nwoke, M.B.A.’06, C02
- Kathleen Orlowski, C97

Don’t miss out on the next postcard project. Stay tuned for more details coming this fall.

BENEDICTINE DAY AT THE PARK—CUBS VS. SOX SPRING TRAINING GAME

Benedictine alumni and friends gathered to watch the Cubs take on the White Sox at the second annual Benedictine Day at the Park in Mesa, Ariz. Attendees had the chance to check out the Cubs’ new training facility, cheer on their favorite Chicago team and mingle with Hall of Fame pitcher Ferguson “Fergie” Jenkins and other special Cubs guests. In the evening, alumni gathered at Benedictine University at Mesa’s Gillett Hall to socialize and learn more about the new branch campus. We would like to thank alumni George Krakora, M.B.A.’97 and Deborah Pagel, M.S.’92 for being wonderful hosts at the event. We can’t wait to come back next year!

STAY CONNECTED!

Visit the Alumni and Friends page on the BenU website for all the latest information about upcoming alumni events, Alumni Association benefits, volunteer opportunities and more. You can also stay up-to-date by liking the alumni page on Facebook and connecting with us through LinkedIn and Twitter.

ben.edu/alumni | facebook.com/BenedictineUniversityAlumni
Twitter: @BenU_Alumni | LinkedIn: Benedictine University Alumni group

STUDENT AND ALUMNI Webinar Series

If you are looking to learn more about a variety of topics such as the art of networking, personal branding or how to eat healthier, check out our monthly Student and Alumni Webinar Series. Normally held on Fridays from 12:00-1:00 p.m., this series of webinars covers a variety of topics hosted by a Benedictine University alumnus, student, faculty or staff member. We are always looking for new topic ideas or volunteers. If you are interested in hosting a webinar, please contact Trente Arens at tarens@ben.edu.

BENEDICT10

We are excited to welcome the Class of 2014 into our alumni community as the newest members of Benedict10 (which currently includes the last 10 years of alumni from 2005-2014). Benedict10 alumni have the opportunity to attend special events just for them, such as the June 1 architecture cruise on the Chicago River and other events throughout the year. Visit ben.edu/alumnievents for more information.
The Office of Alumni Development held the Who’s Who Among Benedictine University Alumni Awards Dinner in March to recognize a select group of alumni as Benedictine “Visionaries” (those who have reached the pinnacle of their career and have made a significant impact through leadership and philanthropy), and “Rising Stars” (alumni who have made a considerable impact in their career field and have displayed a growing commitment to leadership and philanthropy). All of these alumni demonstrate a commitment to maintaining a relationship with Benedictine.

The Who’s Who program is an extension of last year’s Top 40 Under 40 Society, which has transitioned to an all-encompassing group of alumni who embody the Benedictine spirit with their support of education, professional fortitude and benevolence.

EMBODYING THE BENEDICTINE SPIRIT

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES HONORED

Athletic Hall of Fame inductees are recognized and honored for their exemplary athletic achievement and who through their service, have significantly contributed to the growth and success of Benedictine University Athletics and student-athletes. Members of the Class of 2014 Hall of Fame were honored at a ceremony on February 9.

Laura (Martinek) Cavallaro, C85, Physical Education and Elementary Education, Softball and Basketball. Cavallaro (pictured right) was an all-star shortstop for the softball team and earned All-American honors in 1984. She was also part of the 1982 and 1984 teams that advanced to the National Collegiate Athletics Association tournament.

Tom McGuire, C75, Social Science, Football. McGuire (pictured right) was one of the football team’s greatest quarterbacks. He played for the 1972 football team, which finished the season with the most wins in school history (9-2) and holds the all-time record of 16 touchdowns in a season with a 64 percent completion percentage.

James Socha, C84, Political Science, Track and Field. Socha was an All-American pole vaulter in 1984 and was a national champion semifinalist in the pole vault from 1982-84. Along with being team captain, Socha was named the Most Valuable Field Athlete in 1984.

To view photos, go to benueagles.com/galleries.

ACCEPTING ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year at Homecoming, the Benedictine Alumni Association presents awards to honor three of our most prestigious alumni. The Alumni Association Board of Directors is currently accepting nominations for the 2014 Alumni Recognition Awards in the following three categories:

Distinguished Alumni Award: in recognition of outstanding achievement in a career field or personal endeavor.

Alumni Service Award: in gratitude for donations of time and talent in service to the University or the Alumni Association.

Benedictine Spirit Award: presented to an alumnus who has exemplified the Benedictine values of service, hospitality and dedication to a given cause in their personal or professional life.

Submit nominations to Trente Arens at tarens@ben.edu or ben.edu/alumni. Nominations must be received by August 1, 2014.

To view photos, go to ben.edu/whoshopics.

To view photos, go to ben.edu/whoswhopics.

VISIONARIES
Manuel Barbosa ..........1969
Donna Hrozencik.........1982
Raymond Konopka ...1989
Jeffrey Swallow ......2008

RISING STARS
Joe Baldino...............1999
Bridget (Carpenter)CALE ..1998
Mark Connelly ............2000
David Do ..................1998
Nina (Oberoi) Goyal ....1998
Tim Hayden .................2006
Kathryn Loritz ..........1996
Dan Martinez .............2006
Keeli (Ellison) Mickus ...1997
Cleamon Moorer ..........2001
Mario Parker ...............2005
Betsy (Willet) Petrovic ...2000
Christopher Pohlman ......1999
Lloyd “Jeff” Shields ....2000
Omer Sultan .................1997
Michael Ulleweit ..........1992
Kimberly Waichulis .......2001

To view photos, go to ben.edu/whoswhopics.
Alma matters | Laura Smetters
M.B.A.’05, C01, Accounting

Alumna Stays Connected, Imparts Power of Giving Back

Laura Smetters credits Benedictine with helping her find and land the internship that launched her career more than a decade ago.

That is one of the many reasons she continues to give back to the University while also juggling a family, working as a manager in the corporate tax department for McDonald’s Corp. and volunteering in the community.

“Benedictine is part of my history and I would not be where I am today without the strong sense of community and education I gained here,” Smetters said. “This is why I believe it is important for me to show how appreciative I am for those opportunities by supporting the University.”

At McDonald’s, Smetters’s responsibilities include assisting the filing of more than 300 state income tax returns, managing state income tax audits and contributing to the federal income tax return preparation. In 2009, she received the President’s Award, which is given to the top 1 percent of employees.

She also oversees McDonald’s internship placement program, and during the past 12 years has helped launch the careers of many talented Accounting students from Benedictine.

In addition to donating financially to her alma mater through the University Phonathon, Smetters has also given of her time by sharing some of her professional insights with Benedictine students who are preparing to join the workforce.

Smetters explained how giving back can provide volunteers with a number of personal benefits.

“I thought it was important to get people to think of volunteering in a different way,” Smetters said. “The obvious benefit is to help others, but the benefit that you personally receive is sometimes never talked about. By taking on new volunteer opportunities, you can build new skills, networks and perspectives that can help you advance your career.”

Outside of Benedictine, Smetters volunteers as treasurer of the Working Mother’s Council, an organization that seeks to empower working mothers to achieve success through education, community service and networking. She is also the founder of the CHARGE Ahead Foundation, a nonprofit which supports children with CHARGE syndrome, an extensive pattern of birth defects which may affect a number of vital organs such as the heart, lungs and brain, which likely requires medical and educational intervention for many years.

“I have always enjoyed giving, not only to see the difference you make in others’ lives, but to see the difference it makes in your own life,” Smetters said. “I have met so many great people and built some amazing new skills—all while helping others.”

Smetters transferred to Benedictine during her junior year, choosing the University based on its sense of community, strong academics and athletics programs. Almost immediately, she noticed how different it was than her previous school.

“After transferring, I learned when expectations were high, I could push myself to do great things,” Smetters said. “Looking back, I think Benedictine helped create the drive that I have today and challenged me to push myself to achieve things I otherwise didn’t think were possible.”

As a member of the volleyball team, Smetters learned how to work within a team framework and perform under duress, as well as critical time-management skills. Her coach at the time taught her how to visualize making a successful play—a valuable tool that she still uses today.

“That is the one lesson that I typically resort to when times get stressful or challenging,” Smetters said. “Once you know what the prize looks like, you just have to figure out how to get there.”
Richter was eventually awarded a scholarship to attend St. Procopius Academy in 1951, an opportunity that led him to continue his studies at St. Procopius College (Benedictine University), where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1959.

While here, Richter developed his English speaking skills and was involved in hobby shop, yearbook and theater. He also pursued a growing thirst to explore the world, reading books about Henry Morton Stanley’s conquests in Africa which he found in the library.

“Africa has always enticed me from the days when I used to go to the theater in Naperville and watch Tarzan movies—even moreso when I found old books on Stanley’s trek across Africa,” Richter said.

Shortly after earning his medical degree, Richter volunteered to work in a Guatemalan mission, living among the Maya-Quiché and treating patients with various tropical diseases and vitamin deficiencies. While there, he compiled a medical dictionary in their native language.

In 1966, Richter was called up to serve in the U.S. Air Force. With no experience as a pilot, he was ordered to attend flight training at Brooks Air Force base in San Antonio, Texas.

“When I was drafted, I was asked if I wanted to fly, and heck, that seemed like a fun thing to do, so I volunteered,” Richter said.

In the Vietnam War, he completed 100 combat missions, flying in F-4C Phantom II and North American F-100 Super Saber jets as a flight surgeon/pilot.

When he was not flying missions, he performed medical volunteer work for the Medical Civic Action Program, treating South Vietnamese civilians.

After Vietnam, Richter completed a residency program in urology from the Mayo Clinic at the University of California and immediately went to Africa in 1970 as an Air Force reservist. While there, he treated the royal family of Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie and served as a doctor for the U.S. Embassy and several other local hospitals. He also lived among the Arabic tribal people of the Afar Danakil, who are considered to be among the fiercest people in the world, and the Surma, who are known for wearing large plates in their lips, during the First Sudanese Civil War, the predecessor to the war in Darfur.

“Working with these tribes, often in remote areas in primitive conditions, was rewarding as I was able to help others and satisfy my anthropological curiosity about the tribes and treat medical diseases I have seen only in books,” Richter said. “I found the work absolutely fascinating.”

The health issues Richter treated included vitamin and protein deficiencies, smallpox, typhoid, typhus, fever, malaria, hemorrhaging fevers, parasite infestations, worm infection, tapeworms and liver flukes, he said.

In 1974, a communist-controlled military took over Ethiopia and Richter was forced to leave the country.

He returned to the United States and then volunteered in the Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam and throughout the South Pacific islands, where he provided care to remote tribes in mountains and jungles through Maryknoll missionaries and Assemblies of God.

In 2004, Richter was sent to Slovakia to advise the country on joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as an Air Force attaché officer and chief of the Military Liaison Team. His duties involved flying Soviet MiGs in order to review and assess the nation’s military capabilities and provide recommendations for collaboration with NATO’s forces.

After 10 years serving as a commander with the Alaska Air National Guard and a combined 26 years in the military, he retired from military service and moved to Guam and then to Saipan. Today, he resides in San Jose del Cabo, Mexico.

Richter has learned much about people and life throughout his travels, and is thankful for the opportunities that he had in America to pursue his dreams.

“What I learned is that most Americans do not realize how blessed they are being in the United States, a free country protected from totalitarian regimes like communists, Nazis or other extremist groups. It is this freedom that gave me the opportunity to become a doctor, instead of ending up in the uranium mines as I was destined, which would have surely resulted in death,” he said.

“It also gave me the knowledge that in America, one can become anything he or she really wants to be. In the end we have to take care of each other. I was blessed by successfully defecting and becoming a doctor. I thank God for that and for the values and beliefs I received at St. Procopius College.”

Do you know an alumnus who is giving back in the Benedictine tradition?
Email lhale@ben.edu.
Phonathon Caller Makes First Contribution to 2014 Class Gift

Of all the hallmarks Allie Hooker learned during her time at Benedictine, it was the values of stewardship and community that she most took to heart when she decided to give back to the University—not only through her time as a student phonathon caller, but also monetarily as the first contributor to the 2014 Class Year Giving Program.

“As a leader, I wanted to set a good example to my fellow students by giving back to the University,” Hooker said. “By being the first to donate to the 2014 Class Year Giving Program, I hope other students will be inspired to follow in my footsteps.”

Each year, the graduating class presents a legacy gift or donation to the University as a way to honor the memory of their time here.

The Class of 2014 is attempting to match the previous graduating class by raising $5,000 for a donor recognition brick and permanent bench for the Neff Welcome Center’s Alumni Plaza.

“Benedictine is a growing University that provides an excellent education,” Hooker said. “What is great about this school is that its students have the chance to learn from some of the best professors in the field that know your name, give you the individualized help you need and truly care about your success. This is why I am very proud to be graduating with a degree from Benedictine.”

Through the Annual Fund’s Student Phonathon, Hooker helped raise funds for student scholarships and other projects. The position also allowed her to share some of her campus experiences and memories with alumni.

“Many students depend on scholarships to further their education,” she said. “Personally, I would not have been able to attend Benedictine without the help I received, and that is why I want to give back to help students who may be in the same situation.”

Please remember to support the Phonathon when you hear from a BenU student.

ONLINE GIVING
Easy. Quick. Appreciated.
ben.edu/giving
It’s easier than ever to make a difference.

Grant Assists University’s Emphasis on Life Purpose, Vocations for Students

Benedictine students will be challenged to identify personal goals and further develop or pursue a life calling as part of a new $50,000 grant-funded initiative to strengthen and integrate the importance of vocation discovery across all academic disciplines.

The University was one of 34 universities and colleges nationally to receive the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVue) Program grant in January from the Council of Independent Colleges and the Lilly Foundation to enrich the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation among undergraduate students.

Christine Fletcher, Ph.D., associate professor of Theology, applied for the grant to help University students better identify careers that align with their personal values and goals, while also matching up with their expectations for financial compensation.

$10K M.B.A. Program Makes Graduate Education More Attainable for Students in Central Illinois and Southwest Arizona

To respond to the need for more affordable education and to honor The Benedictine Promise of creating values-based business leaders, Benedictine’s new National Moser Center for Adult Learning is piloting its Next Generation Learning M.B.A. program to experienced business professionals in underserved populations in the Central Illinois and Southwest Arizona regions for just $10,000—an unprecedented higher education pricing strategy.

Although studies indicate that most graduates feel earning a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) is worth the investment—according to the U.S. Census Bureau, adults with a graduate degree earn about $400,000 more during their lifetime than those with a bachelor’s degree—the average cost of an M.B.A. degree is somewhere between $80,000 and $130,000.*

The high cost of earning an M.B.A. has contributed to student loan debt that has reached $1.2 trillion. This prompted President Barack Obama to call on Congress to advance new reforms to give more hard working students a fair shot at pursuing higher education, while emphasizing that the federal government, states, colleges and universities all have a role to play in making higher education more affordable.
The Benedictine M.B.A. program has been preparing students for executive and managerial positions in both the private and public sectors for more than 35 years. The program has more than 5,000 alumni and was ranked the fifth-largest M.B.A. program in the Chicago area in 2013 by Crain’s Chicago Business.

Benedictine has a history of bringing affordable education programs to the communities it serves. Following the tragedy of 9/11, Benedictine began offering free tuition to first responders to give them an opportunity for a career once they left public service. When the country’s financial crisis was at its peak in 2008, Benedictine was one of only a handful of universities nationwide to freeze tuition for all its students. The University has also offered tuition breaks and financial assistance to students whose parents were hit hard by the financial crisis, and created the “Illinois Back to Work” program in 2011 to help people get a better education that would increase their job options.

Experienced business professionals who enroll in the two-year, $10K M.B.A. program will receive the same high quality program and follow the same curriculum that is offered at the University’s main campus in Lisle, Ill., but in an updated blended format featuring Next Generation Learning.

Next Generation Learning is creating a disruptive change in the traditional approach to teaching/lecturing. At the core of this approach is problem-based learning—encouraging students to work on “real-life” problems and issues. The coursework is collaborative, group-based and utilizes highly interactive technology that allows for 24/7 remote learning, which increases student engagement.

These seemingly opposing forces (independent digital learning and collaborative engaging technology), operate in concert with each other to facilitate critical-thinking and problem-solving.

“The Benedictine promise meets needs with character and ethics,” said Benedictine President William J. Carroll.

For more information about Benedictine’s $10K M.B.A. program, contact the National Moser Center for Adult Learning at (877) 353-9622, 10Kmba@ben.edu or visit ben.edu/10Kmba.

* According to mba360.com.
Some Benedictine students gave up a portion of their winter break to help build homes and form a deeper connection with a community 8,000 miles away in the Philippines, two months after the country was struck by devastating superstorm Typhoon Haiyan.

Through a joint partnership with the Diocese of Joliet and the Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation, the students laid foundations for three duplexes during the trip, which lasted from January 1-12.

Every year, Benedictine students commit to a wide range of service activities, and in increasing numbers have opted to travel across the globe to serve people in some of the most disadvantaged communities. The experience prepares students to be better world citizens, helps them to forge a bond with people from different cultures, and allows them to become more aware of their potential for giving back.

In previous years, Benedictine students had spent the majority of their time in the Philippines building homes and schools near the city of Bacolod. This year, however, there were other areas of the country that faced more critical housing needs, such as Manapla, where scores of refugees affected by the typhoon had relocated to seek shelter and begin rebuilding their lives.

While Manapla wasn’t directly hit by the storm, it had quickly become a high-needs area, according to Carrie Roberts, University Ministry’s pastoral associate for outreach.

“Gawad Kalinga chooses the villages that we go to,” Roberts said. “They chose Manapla specifically because they did not have as much help and we were the first outside group to provide help to that region.”

Each day, Benedictine students traveled by bus from Bacolod to Manapla. They worked alongside the villagers, braving the unseasonably intense heat and humidity as they dug trenches and mixed concrete with hand tools.

“Even though it took an hour and a half to get there and an hour and a half to get back, we all felt it was worth the time commitment to be able to come back and help them,” Roberts said.

When the group wasn’t busy with work, they interacted with the local population by attending the village’s first community Mass in six months and trying indigenous foods. Villagers showed students how to drink out of fresh coconuts and eat sugar cane straight from the stalk.

After returning to the States, students were able to reflect on the experience. Many of them, like junior Psychology major Jessica Dillon, said the trip helped them realize how much more they could do to help others.

“I always thought I understood what it meant to put other people before yourself, but this trip really taught me that selflessness is giving of yourself even when you have nothing or very little left to give,” Dillon said. “That has really changed my perspective of what I am capable of as an individual, and I am now more capable of giving than what I once believed.”

She described a bonding experience she had with a girl in the village who gave her a seashell as a token of remembrance.
“She told me that it wasn’t much, but that it was from her heart,” Dillon said. “It really opened my eyes that it doesn’t always have to be something substantial. I just have to give all that I can.”

John Risos, a senior Health Science major, said the trip made him more thankful that his parents were able to leave the Philippines for greater opportunities in America.

“The one big question I had is that this was a culture that had raised me, but why was I so lucky? Why are my cousins not the ones who have American citizenship? Why is it me?” Risos said. “Getting a chance to go back there on my own terms—not as a vacationer, not to see my cousins, but on my own with a point and a mission—really helped to open my eyes. When I came back home, I went up to my mom and said, ‘Thank you for everything you have done because I have seen it and experienced everything about life in the Philippines that you told me about—how much you struggled and what you had to do to get here to build a better life. This is where I can take the next step.’ That was my biggest blessing—how life-changing this experience was.”

A portion of the fee students paid to go on the trip, in addition to other donations from the Diocese of Joliet, helped villagers in Manapla purchase six fishing boats and three tricycles, and begin construction of a floor and two bathrooms in a school.

A student-led chapter of the Gawad Kalinga organization, GK Benedictine, which last year held a shoe drive and sent 300 pairs of shoes to the Negros island village of Banago, is currently planning a book and school supplies drive to benefit the children of Manapla.

**CANDIDATES SPAR AT GOP GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE**

**THE CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP (CCL) AT BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY HOSTED A REPUBLICAN GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE ON MARCH 6 IN THE RICE CENTER ARENA.**

About 700 people attended the debate, which was broadcast live by co-sponsor AM 560 after an hour pre-debate program hosted by former U.S. congressman Joe Walsh.

**State Sen. Kirk Dillard (R-Hinsdale), state Treasurer Dan Rutherford and state Sen. Bill Brady (R-Bloomington)** fielded questions from a three-person panel, which included Phil Hardy, Ph.D., assistant professor of Political Science at Benedictine and acting CCL director, allowing them to present their ideas for the future of Illinois. Bruce Rauner, the fourth Republican candidate for governor, did not attend the debate.

Each candidate addressed poverty, education and the state income tax.

The debate was organized by the CCL to provide local residents and Benedictine students an opportunity to hear and question the candidates for one of the biggest gubernatorial jobs in the country.

Benedictine was one of only two Illinois institutes of higher education to host a Republican gubernatorial debate. Students working at the event included CCL volunteers and members of the College Republicans.

Many Chicago area media attended the event, including ABC 7 News, Fox 32 News and WGN 9 News, which reported live from the event. Benedictine’s central location in the western suburbs of Chicago makes a perfect backdrop for speakers and public servants to visit and reach a large audience.

In the fall, the CCL will host two lectures, one featuring U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock (R-Peoria) and the other featuring Austan Goolsbee, the Robert P. Gwinn Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business, former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and a cabinet member for President Barack Obama. Both discussions will be free and open to the public.

To read more, go to ben.edu/webextras.
Art Gallery Hosts New Exhibits

In January, the University debuted a collection of Br. Kevin Coffey’s, O.S.B., paintings and drawings of small toys and stuffed animals as part of a new exhibit, “Toy Stories.”

Br. Kevin, who is the director of visual arts at Benet Academy, gave a public talk about his work, which often groups toy characters not meant to go together in sometimes quirky and amusing situations. The art collection tells a story that “intermingles the awkward, ironic, cute and surprising with the sometimes harsh and edgier moments of life that have the potential to become amazingly relevant experiences over time,” according to Br. Kevin.

In March, the gallery hosted a dance performance by Chicago choreographer and University artist-in-residence Emily Stein. The performance, “Corps/Corpus” was inspired by the Rule of St. Benedict and explored the idea of “Community as Body.”

The First Sunday Tea and Lecture Series features programs that engage art-lovers of all ages in monthly discussions on specific topics related to artistic elements and time periods.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 16-July 25</td>
<td>Fr. Michael E. Komechak, O.S.B., Art Gallery</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 4-September 26</td>
<td>Prints by Scottish printmakers from the University of Aberdeen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 6-November 30</td>
<td>“Coolness” A sculpture exhibition by outsider artist Larry Ballard.</td>
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Kindlon, Fifth Floor, North Atrium

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<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 18-October 10</td>
<td>“Sanctuary” Photography by Arvydas Zabulionis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 17-December 19</td>
<td>Biennial Benedictine Art Faculty Exhibition.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Through June 27</td>
<td>Naperville Community Unit School District 203 Art Teachers Exhibition.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Through May 30</td>
<td>Ceramics by Carolyn Klima.</td>
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<td>September 24-October 8</td>
<td>“The Velvet Revolution” multimedia.</td>
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Kindlon, Second Floor

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<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 6-30</td>
<td>Art Appreciation Honors Class Exhibition.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 11-September 30</td>
<td>Relief printmaking by Benedictine students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 6-December 19</td>
<td>“Ruins” Photography by Aya Takada.</td>
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<td>“Appalachia Portraits” Photography by Andrew Auten.</td>
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Kindlon, First Floor, North Atrium

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<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Through June 27</td>
<td>IC Catholic Prep Exhibition.</td>
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For more information on the art gallery and exhibits, call (630) 829-6320 or visit ben.edu/komechakartgallery.

Students Spread Word on New Health Insurance Options

When it comes to health insurance coverage, college students and young adults rank near the top as one of the largest groups of Americans who are uninsured.

Students set up information booths across campus for three days and distributed fliers and applications, answered questions and explained the steps necessary for applying for health insurance under the new law.

“There is a great disparity in health care, in particular with adult students who are uninsured,” said Agim Jusufi, C12, Health Science. “We are encouraging anyone who is not insured to get insured or visit EnrollDuPage.gov to see if they are eligible.”

Jusufi is the president of the M.P.H. Student Advisory Panel at Benedictine and a volunteer emergency medical technician for the DuPage Community Clinic. After his anticipated graduation this May with an M.P.H. degree, he plans on attending medical school.

Organizers learned some students had limited knowledge of health insurance terms. They offered a tutorial on common vernacular like premiums, co-pays, out-of-pocket expenses and deductibles, to help students understand how to compare their options and calculate what they could afford.

Pam Deely, director of Student Health Services, said there is considerable incentive for young adults to seek insurance as it directly impacts their wellbeing—both physically as well as financially—and keeps them on a path to earning a degree.

“Most students think of themselves as healthy and not at a point in their lives in which chronic health problems take a priority. But the rising cost of health care leaves the uninsured student vulnerable health-wise, financially and possibly academically,” Deely said.
The Center for Mission and Identity

Focusing on Five Areas As Part of Strategic Plan

The Center for Mission and Identity (CMI) recently organized five implementation teams as part of a five-year strategic plan to advance the Catholic and Benedictine mission, vision and character of the University.

Under the leadership of Alicia Cordoba Tait, D.M.A., assistant to the president for mission integration, and the CMI Board of Directors, the five implementation teams will focus on Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue, Cocurricular Catholic Education, Community Outreach and Development, Stewardship and Sustainability, and University Ministry.

I

As a Catholic university, it is the school’s responsibility to participate in Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue. As affirmed in Nostrae Aetate (The Second Vatican Council’s Declaration on the Church’s Relation to Non-Christian Religions), this means we are to welcome people of all religions and are exhorted to enter into a dialogue with them. To encourage continued growth in this area, Rita George-Tvrtkovic, Ph.D., assistant professor of Theology, is overseeing the Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue team that will continue to advance and provide multiple opportunities for dialogue through the Catholic-Muslim Student Dialogue group, Interfaith Youth Core Campus Engagement Initiative, Visiting Scholar for Interreligious Dialogue and other programs.

II

The Cocurricular Catholic Education team led by Vince Gaddis, Ph.D., professor of History, supports programs that provide students of all faiths direct access to explore the importance of Catholic intellectual and Benedictine wisdom traditions. The programming is unique to the University because it incorporates the Benedictine hallmarks into various topics and includes the Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought lecture series, the Benedictine Heritage Lecture, the Faith and Reason Symposium and more.

III

The Community Outreach and Development team led by Alfred Martin, Ph.D., professor of Biological Sciences, will foster the integration of faith and work, raise the awareness of spirituality and the importance of connecting personal faith with teaching and research, and promote the University as a resource for the suburban community. Current community outreach activities include, but are not limited to, orientation programs for staff, Conversatio Round Table Discussions, the Catholic Readings Group and the Benedictine Pedagogy Conference.

IV

How the University works to instill a sense of appreciation and care for all of creation is the focus of the Stewardship and Sustainability team under the direction of Tim Marin, Ph.D., associate professor of Chemistry. Current sustainability efforts include reducing waste and energy use on campus, various community service and beautification projects, and other initiatives.

V

Mark Kurowski, M.Div., director of University Ministry, and his staff support the faith community of the University by providing pastoral care for students, staff and faculty, and encouraging faith development and service. The Office of University Ministry is the chief provider of Catholic Benedictine ministries to inspire faith for students, staff and faculty, and includes programming in student-led ministry, daily Mass and sacramental celebrations, and opportunities for local, national and international service and outreach.

Together, the five teams support a framework for continued excellence in the integration of Catholic social teaching, Catholic intellectual thought and the Benedictine wisdom tradition. Their work will further the mission of the University, honor the legacy of the Benedictine monks of St. Procopius Abbey, and provide programming that deepens, enriches and invigorates the faith of the University’s Catholic community while nurturing an environment for the integration of Catholic and Benedictine values into all aspects of campus life.

For more information, visit ben.edu/CMI.
MEN’S BASKETBALL

The Benedictine men’s basketball team went on a late season run to vault up the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC) standings, finishing 14-11 overall including 12-8 in the conference, good for fifth place. Benedictine won seven of its last eight games only to fall to rival Aurora in the conference tournament for the second straight year.

Benedictine led the conference in rebound margin while ranking second in free-throw percentage and fourth in 3-point percentage. The numbers were even better in conference games, where the Eagles led the way in all three departments.

Junior Tim McGinty capped the year by earning first team all-conference honors. McGinty averaged 15.8 points per game, tying for fifth in the NACC. McGinty also led the conference in 3-point percentage, ranked fourth in free-throw percentage and eighth in rebounds.

Freshman Michael Blaszczyk was selected as the conference’s Freshman of the Year. Blaszczyk established himself as one of the top shooters in the conference, knocking down 50 3-pointers for the season while averaging 13.5 points per game.

Michael Woolf also received all-conference recognition, earning a spot on the honorable mention team after scoring 11.8 points per game.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

The Benedictine women’s basketball team advanced to the NACC conference tournament for the third consecutive season under head coach Kristen Gillespie. Benedictine, 12-14 overall, finished fifth in league play at 12-8. In the conference tournament, Benedictine fell to Edgewood for the third time during the 2013-2014 season, 63-45.

Meghan Novak was the lone player to receive recognition from the NACC, earning a spot on the all-conference first team. Novak led Benedictine in scoring at 12.4 points per game. The junior finished 10th in the conference in free-throw percentage and eighth in 3-point percentage. Benedictine led the conference in 3-point percentage while ranking fourth in free-throw percentage and third in field-goal percentage defense.

INAUGURAL LETTERMAN’S DINNER

Chicago Blackhawks president and CEO John McDonough (above, left) was the guest speaker at the inaugural Letterman’s Dinner hosted by the Benedictine University Athletics department in March. The dinner served as a fundraiser to support current and future student-athletes.

More than 250 guests attended the event in the Dan and Ada Rice Center to hear McDonough talk about his experiences, the importance of setting goals and expectations, the Olympics, marketing and more.

Under McDonough’s reign, the Chicago Blackhawks have become one of professional sports’ biggest success stories.

Some of the items that were auctioned or raffled off during the event included a Chicago Blackhawks hockey stick signed by the entire team, tickets to several Chicago sports teams including the Blackhawks, Fire and White Sox, golf packages to Cantigny Golf and Seven Bridges Golf Club, and other sports memorabilia.

BUEHRING WILL LEAD NEW MEN’S VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

Naperville Central High School graduate Dan Buehring has been named head coach of Benedictine University’s new men’s volleyball team which begins play during the 2014-2015 season.

Buehring previously served two years as an assistant coach for the Loyola University Chicago women’s volleyball team and as an assistant coach at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), where he helped to lead the Flames to some of their best seasons in recent history. An active beach volleyball player, Buehring owns 24 tournament wins.

Buehring earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at California Baptist University, where he won a pair of National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national championships in 2006 and 2007. He earned a Master of Education in Instructional Leadership at UIC in 2011.

Catch the Spirit! Stay connected to Eagles sports.

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Read news about Springfield Bulldog Athletics at BenUbulldogs.com.
St. Procopius Academy/College

‘58
Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., Ph.D., Philosophy, assistant provost for Mission and Identity at Benedictine, relocated his office from Scholl Hall, Room 234 to Kindlon Hall, Room 411. Visitors welcome.

‘68
Brian McDermott, Political Science, retired from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Oregon after 31 years as a registered nurse. McDermott and his wife have been married for 36 years. They have two children, Emmarose and Alanna.

Illinois Benedictine College

‘71
Paul Hebda, Music Education, begins his fifth year as chief administrative law judge at the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Anchorage, AK.

‘89
Janet (Ellis) Hunzinger, M.B.A., earned her Lean Sigma Six Black Belt management strategy certification in December 2013.

‘95
Andrea (Keith) Vasel, M.B.A. and M.S. ‘97 (Management and Organizational Behavior) was recently promoted to president of Aspen API Inc., and is a company board member.

Benedictine University

‘96
Diane (Moore) Enos, Nutrition, was promoted to vice president of professional development and assessment at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

‘97
Tim Weber, M.B.A., is the chief financial officer of U.S. Fiduciary Services and manages the financial operations of the company’s wholly owned subsidiaries. He joined the company in 2012.

‘02
Michael Liss, M.D., Biology, completed a urologic surgical residency at the University of California, Irvine in 2012. He expects to earn a Master of Applied Science in Clinical Research and complete a Urologic Oncology Fellowship from the University of California, San Diego, in June. He and his wife have a 2-year-old son, Grayson.

‘03
Michael Robinson, Communication Arts, and his wife welcomed a daughter, Peyton Anise, in October 2013. He was recently promoted to senior direct sales supervisor/trainer for Comcast’s Xfinity brand.

‘04
Kelly Devine-Rickert, Nutrition, received the Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year Award from the Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (IAND) in 2013. She is the president-elect for the South Suburban Dietetic Association and a spokesperson for IAND. She and her husband, Ryan, have four children: Connor, Justin, Emily and Addison.

‘06
Christopher Mansolf, Health Science, and his wife opened their own chiropractic office in Wheat Ridge, CO. In November 2013, they welcomed their first child, Jackson Taylor.

‘07
Andrew Meyer, Pharm.D., Biology, passed the Board of Pharmacy Specialties exam in November 2013 and is now a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist. He has accepted a position at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, IL.

Yadav Nathwani, M.B.A., was elected as a board of trustee member for Milton Township in April 2013 and was recently appointed to the Village of Glen Ellyn’s Finance Commission.

‘09
Sean Callahan, Psychology, attended the wedding of Keisuke Kume (above), an international student who studied at Benedictine from 2005-2006, and his wife,Sayaka, at a ceremony held in January 2013 in Nagoya, Japan.

Jason Williams, M.S. (Management and Organizational Behavior) is approaching 19 years in executive management with a local law enforcement agency.

‘10
James Kubinski, Management, was promoted from firefighter/paramedic to lieutenant in December 2013.

Jennifer Brechtle, Communication Arts, was promoted to director of promotions for the Kane County Cougars minor league baseball team in Geneva, IL. She is also a new lecturer at Benedictine where she teaches sports journalism and broadcasting.

‘11
Danielle Spada, Biology, earned an M.S. in Nursing in 2013. She is working in the Medical/Oncology Unit at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Heidi (Monk) Walsh, M.P.H., was promoted to project coordinator of a study funded by the National Cancer Institute examining policies to maximize restrictions of tobacco marketing at the point of sale. Walsh and her husband welcomed a son, Nicholas, in October 2013.

Thomas Matthews, M.P.H., had an article published in the Cystic Fibrosis Therapeutics Development Network’s TDN Times titled “Effective Integration of Clinical Care and Clinical Research Benefits Everyone.”

‘12
Scott Bea, M.S. (Management and Organizational Behavior) opened a new product development consulting firm called Overwatch Development Group in September 2013. His business is located in Lisle.

‘13
Leah Vercelli, Health Science, is currently teaching biology to freshmen at McHenry East High School and has started a master’s program.
Vincent Cheng, M.P.H., has been promoted to co-director of the Health Profession Opportunity Grant at the Northern New Jersey Health Professions Consortium. Cheng is also teaching as an adjunct clinical professor in the Dental Hygiene Clinic at Bergen Community College and running a small medical and dental consulting business. He welcomed his first son in 2013.

Springfield Junior College

1955
Barbara (Galassi) Bensi, A.A., and her husband, John, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in August 2013.

1956
Glenn Jacobs, A.A., and his wife, Eileen, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in June 2013.

1961

1965
Dick Little, A.A., of Pleasant Plains, IL, was elected vice president of the Illinois Forestry Association in 2013.

Springfield College in Illinois

1968
Jim McCaffrey, A.A., published his eighth book through the University of Oklahoma Press titled “Going For Broke: Japanese-American Soldiers in the War Against Nazi Germany.”

1971
Nancy Simpson, A.A., and her husband, John, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in August 2013.

1972
Julie Titone, A.A., co-authored a new illustrated memoir with Grady Myers titled “Booco Dinky Dow: My Short, Crazy Vietnam War.”

1975
Brad Buecker, A.A., wrote an article for Chemical Engineering in April 2013 titled “Combined Heat and Power for the CPI: Modern Concepts.” He has written more than 100 articles and three technical books since the mid 1980s.

1976
Ken Feraris, A.A., celebrated 30 years of service with Horace Mann Educators Corp. in Springfield in August 2013.

1983
Robert Dodd, A.A., and his wife, Molly, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in June 2013.

1986
Chris Butler, A.A., is the president of Butler Funeral Home in Springfield and was the 2013 recipient of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce’s Diamond Lifetime Award. This award recognizes an individual whose company has been in business for a minimum of 25 years in Sangamon County and has made significant contributions to commerce and the community. Butler and his wife, Val, also welcomed a second daughter, Audra Grace, in August 2013.

1988
George Rakin, A.A., and his wife, Christine, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in October 2013.

1994
John Stremsterfer, A.A., received the Illinois College Young Alumnus of the Year Award in February.

2009
Dennis Wilkinson, A.A., successfully completed the Leadership Springfield program in June 2013. Leadership Springfield is an eight-month series of seminars during which participants gain leadership skills and in-depth exposure to critical issues affecting the Springfield area.

St. Procopius Academy/College

Bernard Basgalii, C63, passed away February 7.

Illinois Benedictine College

Mary Manthey, C76, passed away September 1, 2013.

Springfield Junior College


Dorothy Bumgardner, SJC’37, passed away December 13, 2013.

Nova (Blankenship) Godbey, SJC’38, passed away in June 2013.

Pauline (Frances) Tolan, SJC’38, passed away July 10, 2013.

Jerome ‘Jerry’ Wolfson, SJC’38, passed away December 14, 2013.

Wilma Martens, SJC’40, passed away November 22, 2013.

William McRoberts, SJC’40, passed away May 9, 2013.

M. Laverne (Clancy) Leigh, SJC’41, passed away May 2, 2013.


Charles O. Metzmaker, M.D., SJC’42, passed away December 5, 2013.


Richard Yates Reid, SJC’50, passed away August 27, 2013.

Marvin D. Denton, SJC’54, passed away January 4.

Carol E. (Embry) Ford, SJC’54, passed away July 17, 2013.

June (Paul) Kolis, SJC’54, passed away July 6, 2013.

William B. Risse, SJC’55, passed away October 5, 2013.

John Elbera, SJC’57, passed away October 9, 2013.


John Saner, SJC’61, passed away December 12, 2013.

Gary Stremsterfer, SJC’62, passed away July 31, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Marianne Stremsterfer, SJC’69, M.A.Ed.’10; son and Benedictine University at Springfield faculty member, John Stremsterfer, SJC’94; and daughters Sara Ratcliffe, SCI’90 and Lara Donovan, SCI’03.


Matt Helms, SJC’65, passed away June 9, 2013.

William P. Dietsch, SCI’68, passed away May 2013.

David Steffen, SCI’68, passed away July 3, 2013.

Penny (Moore) Swigert, SCI’72, passed away May 10, 2013. She is survived by brothers and sisters, Denise (Moore) Rau, SCI’73; Kevin Moore, SCI’75; Brian Moore, SCI’80; Michelle Moore, SCI’85; and Andrew Moore, SCI’87.

Timothy Sullivan, SCI’78, passed away October 20, 2013.

Ellis Blue, SCI’06, passed away September 15, 2013.

Benedictine University at Springfield

Kerry Harden, M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior, and her husband, Michael, welcomed a son, Nicholas Jacob, in July 2013.

Jeremy Cook, Communication Arts, and his wife, Jennifer Cook, a Benedictine University at Springfield staff member, welcomed a son, Hudson Cox, in July 2013.

Sarah Arnish, (SCI, A.A.) married Eric Enlow in October 2013.

Ellen (Heffington) Nichols, Elementary Education and M.Ed.’12 (Reading and Literacy) and Matthew Nichols, M.S.’12 (Management and Organizational Behavior) (SCI, A.A.’10), welcomed a daughter, Layken Marie, in September 2013.

Kenneth Golden, M.B.A., accepted a new position at Memorial Medical Center as a Software System Engineer. •
Faculty Retirements

RALPH MEEKER, Ph.D., began his affiliation with the University as a student of Physics and Mathematics at St. Procopius College in 1963. He began his teaching career at Benedictine in 1970 as an assistant professor of Physics and later held a variety of leadership roles—from chairperson of the Department of Physics to dean of the College of Science.

His many contributions included coordinating materials for the University’s first master’s program in 1976 (the Master of Business Administration) and the University’s first doctoral program in 1996 (the Ph.D. in Organization Development). He was also responsible for securing several million dollars in grant funding to support various academic and institutional programs.

In 1978, Meeker and the late Rose Carney, Ph.D., successfully secured a grant to launch the Computer Science program, which Meeker would eventually oversee as chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and professor of Computer Science and Information Systems.

He has received several notable awards for his accomplishments, including the Benedictine Life Award in 2003 and the Judith Ann Whinfrey Award for Leadership in 2012.

EILEEN CLARK, M.S., began her career at Benedictine in 1971, one year after Fr. Richard Shonka, O.S.B., received a grant to purchase the University’s first Hewlett-Packard minicomputer. After working as an instructor and assistant professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, Clark became an associate professor of Computer Science in 1978, the same year the B.S. in Computer Science program was first offered at Benedictine.

From 1981 to 1996, Clark oversaw the development of computing systems and facilities, replaced the University’s old Unix time-sharing system, and helped establish microcomputer labs and a campus-wide network. When an Information Technology unit was established, Clark went back to teaching and supported faculty through technology training. She helped oversee multiple changes to the University’s Learning Management System software and was a constant source of support through the evolution of WebCT, Blackboard, the more recent adoption of Desire2Learn and the ongoing expansion of online classroom delivery.

EDWARD WINKLER, Ph.D., joined the Science faculty at Benedictine as an assistant professor in 1979 and ascended to a variety of leadership roles, including professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, president of the Academic Senate, member of the Health Sciences Recommendations Committee and academic advisor to Benedictine’s student-led chapter of the American Chemical Society.

Throughout his 35 years with the University, Winkler played a major role in developing the science curriculum for a number of courses and for encouraging the academic achievements of many. ●

Read more about these faculty members at ben.edu/webextras.
Festival of Asia

In keeping with the Benedictine tradition of hospitality, the University celebrated Asian culture with the surrounding community on January 31 at the annual Festival of Asia. Guests enjoyed food, festivities and fun that highlighted a variety of cultures including Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Indian heritages.

This year’s festival also featured a dance performance by the Ray Chinese School based on the legend of the female warrior Mulan, who volunteered to go to war in place of her elderly father, as well as traditional Hindu-inspired dance.

Read more at ben.edu/webextras.

To view a video of the 2014 Festival of Asia, visit ben.edu/FOAvideo.

19th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

Tim Goody, Ph.D.’07 (Organization Development), senior vice president of human resources for CNN Worldwide, Turner Broadcasting System (TBS) Inc., recounted the spirit of the civil rights leader in his speech at the 19th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund. Benedictine students awarded a King scholarship were Deborah Afiriyie, a sophomore who is pursuing a double-major in Marketing and Management and Organizational Behavior from Romeoville; and E’Laina Craven, a junior Social Science major from Oak Park.

To read more, visit ben.edu/webextras.
We will be celebrating a period of remarkable progress as the fastest-growing campus in the nation during this year’s Homecoming festivities. Don’t miss this great chance to get back on campus and connect with the Benedictine community.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**
12:00 P.M.
Homecoming Parade

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**
Homecoming Day celebration and festivities—including tailgating and live music.

For details, visit ben.edu/homecoming.
CELEBRITY GUESTS
Gary McCord and Lee Trevino

SCHEDULE
8:00 a.m. Registration and breakfast buffet.
10:00 a.m. Shotgun start.
4:00 p.m. Cocktails, carving and appetizer stations open.
6:00 p.m. Program featuring Gary McCord, professional golfer and CBS Sports analyst, and golf legend Lee Trevino.

BEN.EDU/GOLF
Make your reservations today!

Sponsorships Available
Contact Debbie Smith at dsmith@ben.edu or (630) 829-6080.

Relax at the BenUnion
In keeping with the Benedictine tradition of hospitality, the University celebrated Asian culture with the surrounding community on January 31 at the annual Festival of Asia. Guests enjoyed food, festivities and fun that highlighted a variety of cultures including Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Indian heritages.

Desmond Washington, a freshman Accounting major from South Holland, Ill., made sure to get as much out of the experience as he could.

From going up against a table-tennis champion, to trying Chinese dumplings and Gujeolpan, a traditional Korean dish comprised of vegetables and meats served with thin pancakes, Washington sampled a little bit of everything the festival had to offer.

"I’m a big food person, so when it came down to the cooking, I was so interested," Washington said. "I never tasted anything like this in my life, and I’m really grateful for the opportunity.

“It is important that we recognize other cultures and this event helps to make students who are new to Benedictine and the United States feel more welcome here,” he added.

The event, which coincides with the Chinese New Year, allows attendees to observe a cooking contest, sample traditional cuisine made from Benedictine students and shop in an Asian-style market featuring authentic clothing, jewelry and art.

This year’s festival also featured a dance performance by the Ray Chinese School based on the legend of the female warrior Mulan, who volunteered to go to war in place of her elderly father as well as traditional Hindu-inspired dance.
Xiao Yu, an international student studying in the Master of Science in Accountancy program from Xian, China, shared a piece of his heritage—an 11-by-5-foot cross-stitch of a traditional geisha scene, which took his aunt two years to complete—with faculty, students and guests at the festival.

Benedictine routinely holds events that bring individuals from different cultures, backgrounds, religions and traditions together. The Festival of Asia showcases the diverse culture and traditions of students with ties to Asian nations.

“We encourage people to interact and learn from one another, which hopefully leads us to build a more connected and mindful world community,” said Elsie Yuan, executive director of International Programs and Services at Benedictine.

To view a video of the 2014 Festival of Asia, visit ben.edu/FOAvideo.

The University has greatly expanded its Asia programs at home and overseas.

Today, there are Benedictine class sites in China and Vietnam serving approximately 500 students. U.S. students have consistently been awarded full and partial Chinese Government scholarships to study in China through the generous support of the Consulate-General of the People’s Republic of China in Chicago. Benedictine faculty members have also conducted research and participated in faculty exchanges, and every year the University hosts visiting scholars from China.

To prepare more students for an increasingly China-centric global community, Benedictine added a Chinese Language (Mandarin) minor with an option for a Chinese Culture track in fall 2013.
While there were many leaders of the civil rights movement, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. recognized that his greatest asset was the strength and resilience of ordinary people to stand up for a cause larger than themselves.

This is the definition of a hero, and one of many words of inspiration and encouragement King left as part of a lasting legacy—a blueprint for social justice and change still relevant today, said Tim Goodly, Ph.D. in Organization Development’07, senior vice president of human resources for CNN Worldwide, Turner Broadcasting System (TBS) Inc.

“King not only walked the hero’s journey, he served as a catalyst that encouraged so many others to stand up, cast their fears aside and make bold and daring contributions to a cultural revolution that transformed America,” Goodly told a crowd of about 600 people gathered for the 19th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast at Benedictine in January.

Goodly, who is responsible for the development of human resources policies and procedures for domestic entertainment, animation and young adult, news networks and businesses including TBS, TNT, Cartoon Network and CNN, was selected to speak at the annual event as an alumnus of the University’s nationally-recognized Ph.D. in Organization Development program, a discipline steeped in many of the core values of the civil rights movement.

While many things King echoed 50 years ago in his famous “I Have a Dream” speech have now been realized, a clear gap still remains among the day-to-day experiences of blacks and whites when it comes to education, economic status, unemployment and crime and punishment, he said.

How well the country addresses these issues and others associated with a demographic shift as minorities are expected to become the majority in the next decade, will depend on a new generation of “everyday heroes,” Goodly said.

“We will need everyday heroes to help our country transition through this change and realize not only Martin Luther King’s dream, but those of the founders of this country where life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are available to all citizens.

“As we look back on Martin Luther King’s dream, the challenge before us remains today to look within ourselves and ignite the hero within,” Goodly added. “We must overcome our petty desires, our fears, social pressure and live the lives that we were supposed to live. Each of us has a unique journey to make. And each of us is challenged to make our own special contribution for our families, our communities and to the larger society.”

At TBS, Goodly has led strategic personnel efforts, planning and implementing organizational restructuring and redesign efforts, and has served as chief human resources advisor to the company’s top executives. His 20-year-plus career in human resources and general management includes service at Mobil Corporation, the Pepsi-Cola Company and as an officer in the U.S. Army. In addition to his work with TBS, Goodly is a senior executive scholar for the Ph.D. in Organizational Development program at Benedictine University at Springfield.

This annual breakfast is one of many ways the University encourages open dialogue and understanding to bring our students and community members closer together. As one of the most diverse schools in Illinois and the nation, Benedictine strongly believes our strength is in our diversity.

The King Breakfast is one of the largest events of its kind in DuPage County and is sponsored jointly by Benedictine University and College of DuPage. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund at both schools. Two Benedictine University students were honored as recipients of King scholarships, which are awarded based on a number of criteria including community service.

Benedictine students awarded a King scholarship were Deborah Afiriyie, a sophomore who is pursuing a double-major in Marketing and Management and Organizational Behavior from Romeoville; and E’Laina Craven, a junior Social Science major from Oak Park.

A Day of Service

To commemorate the spirit of service that was engendered by King, the University organized several community service projects for the day. Volunteers could donate blood to the American Red Cross, write letters to U.S. servicemen and women, read to visually impaired veterans, make build-a-bears for the Ronald McDonald House and sort birthday bags for children served by local food pantries.
STUDENT LIFE NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Benedictine University develops student-athletes into well-rounded leaders who excel both on and off the field through memberships in the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.

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**BenUnion [[$250,000]***
The BenUnion in the lower level of the Krasa Student Center will serve as a central location on campus providing students with a plethora of recreational activities and lounge space for decompressing, relaxing and interacting with students when not in class or studying. The BenUnion will serve as an area of respite for entertainment and social interaction, encouraging students to spend more time on campus in a safe environment while also fostering a stronger connection to the daily life of the University.

- Furniture ($70,000)
- Technology ($80,000)
- Gaming ($50,000)
- Vending ($50,000)

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**Student Success Center [[$200,000]***
The Student Success Center supports students’ academic, personal and professional development through resources and services which serve to maximize their academic success, enhance their student experience and better prepare them for further study or the workforce. This funding opportunity will specifically aid the Student Success Center’s Bridge to Success program and transition programs for freshmen and transfer students. The program will provide new students with study skills, tutoring and other remedial learning support, and help them to set goals and balance school with other life responsibilities.

- Bridge to Success Program Scholarships ($50,000)
- New Student Transition Curriculum ($80,000)
- Book Need Award ($50,000)
- Enhanced Tutoring Program ($20,000)

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**The Career Development Center [[$100,000] ***
The Career Development Center offers one-on-one counseling for career planning and identification, job search coaching, interview preparation, job postings, networking opportunities and other career-related support services. Funding for Career Development staff, programming, media, job library materials and internships will help the University fulfill its mission to help every student gain employment after graduation or acceptance to a graduate or professional school supporting their field of interest.

- Career Technology Center ($40,000)
- The Career Exploration Initiative — The Four Year Model ($20,000)
- Experiential Education — job shadowing, internships, etc. ($20,000)
- The Career Mentoring Program ($20,000)

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**The Office of Student Engagement and Leadership Development [[$90,000]***
Development funding for the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership will advance the University’s student leadership and mentorship programs through the establishment of an intensive training program. Students will be challenged to take on leadership roles as they plan, organize and implement events and activities so that they may better understand the process of leadership and its impact on the greater community. This will also include the addition of a ropes challenge course for use as part of the leadership development component of the program.

- Intensive Training Program ($30,000)
- Rope Challenge Course ($20,000)
- Service Learning Trips ($20,000)
- Leadership Certificate Program ($20,000)

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**Student Health Services [[$80,000]***
Funding for Student Health Services will allow the University to meet the increasing need among students for counseling and medical services. The addition of educational programming will address a wider spectrum of wellness issues and other health needs so that medical concerns do not get in the way of a student’s education.

- Alcohol Education Program ($30,000)
- Harm Reduction Training ($30,000)
- Online Health Screening Tools ($10,000)
- Healthy Program Activities ($10,000)

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*Price to start project. Funding needs may increase.
Benedictine University hosted a Republican gubernatorial debate on March 6 in the Rice Center Arena.

About 700 people attended the debate in the Rice Center Arena, which was sponsored by the Center for Civic Leadership (CCL) and broadcast live by co-sponsor AM 560 after an hour pre-debate program hosted by former U.S. congressman Joe Walsh.

“The debate was a big success,” said Phil Hardy, Ph.D., assistant professor of Political Science at Benedictine and acting CCL director. “I heard many people offering very positive comments about the event aesthetics, organization and format.”

State Sen. Kirk Dillard (R-Hinsdale), state Treasurer Dan Rutherford and state Sen. Bill Brady (R-Bloomington) fielded questions from a three-person panel, which included Hardy, allowing them to present their ideas for the future of Illinois. Bruce Rauner, the fourth Republican candidate for governor, did not attend the debate.

The CCL regularly invites prominent figures to speak on campus to involve and engage students and the community in multiple issues and topics of public concern.

Many Chicago area media attended the event including ABC 7 News, Fox 32 News and WGN 9 News, which broadcast live from the event. Benedictine’s central location in the western suburbs of Chicago makes for a perfect backdrop for speakers and public servants to visit and reach a large audience.

At the event, each candidate addressed poverty, education and the state income tax. Rutherford pushed his plan to freeze hiring and promotions for state employees, form a performance review committee and improve government services including an overhaul of the redistricting process through a fair map amendment.

Dillard, who served as chief of staff under former Gov. Jim Edgar and has represented the 24th district since 1994, proposed placing a moratorium on the health care mandate and forming a panel of advocate groups and businesses to rewrite the tax code.

Brady, the Republican candidate in 2010 who defeated Dillard by 193 votes in the GOP primary but lost to incumbent Democrat Gov. Pat Quinn in the general election, called for maintaining the current minimum wage, guaranteeing tax cuts in 2015 and eliminating the State Board of Education.

The debate was organized by the CCL to provide local residents and Benedictine students with an opportunity to hear and question the candidates for one of the biggest gubernatorial jobs in the country.

Benedictine was one of only two Illinois universities to host a Republican gubernatorial debate. Students working at the event included CCL volunteers and members of the College Republicans.
Lisa Madigan, who has served as Illinois’ attorney general since 2003 and is the state’s longest tenured chief litigant, visited Benedictine at the behest of Distinguished Fellow Jim Ryan, himself a former attorney general, and the University’s Center for Civic Leadership (CCL) founded by Ryan. Established in 2005, the CCL seeks to shape a new generation of public leaders and responsible citizens and regularly invites prominent public figures to speak on campus to expose students and the community to multiple viewpoints on current topics.

“I have a connection with Benedictine that none of you probably know about,” Madigan confessed to the audience of students, faculty, staff and community members. “Years and years ago, long before I was attorney general, long before I was a lawyer, when I was in high school, Benedictine had a volleyball camp that my volleyball coach actually taught at.

“I remember spending several grueling weeks on this campus having volleyballs spiked and served at my head,” she added. “It’s one of those camps where the only things you really ever want to do is sleep and eat, so luckily I don’t have any wild stories that I have to admit to. But I do have very fond memories of my time here on campus.”

Madigan also visited Benedictine years later when the school hosted a forum on identity theft issues organized by Ryan in 2006. She recently returned from testifying before a congressional committee about identity theft issues and praised Ryan and the University for their foresight on the issue.

“The most important thing you can do with your life is figure out what interests you, what is your passion,” she said. “Don’t be afraid to try something that is new or challenging or even slightly scary if it interests you. Internships are obviously a great opportunity. I don’t want you to be a career intern. I know that is happening with some kids these days.

“If you have an interest in government, it is my hope that you would do it because you want to help others, you want to make a difference, you want to serve,” Madigan added. “You need to recognize that is the satisfaction. You are not going to get rich. If that is a goal of yours, my advice is do something else. Do something else in the private sector.”

Madigan also alluded to the Benedictine values during her closing remarks.

“If you do run for office, be prepared to work very hard,” she said. “It’s harder than volleyball camp, and I found that pretty grueling. And make sure you have a life. That you set some limits. Because at the end of the day, if you’re lucky enough to have a family, you will find out that is the most cherished thing in your life.”

The attorney general made a considerable impression on those students in attendance, including senior Derek Murphy of Downers Grove, a Political Science major who works with the CCL and is president of the College Republicans.

“I want to go to law school, so I like the fact that I got the opportunity to hear some advice from the attorney general,” he said. “I also talked to Jim Ryan about law school. That’s two attorney generals. Whatever advice they give you, you listen to them.

“She represents what Jim Ryan represents—civic education, civic engagement,” Murphy added. “And as a person who wants to be a lawyer and then go into public service and government, no matter what your party affiliation is, she is someone you can look up to.”

To learn about more upcoming speakers sponsored by the CCL, visit www.ben.edu/ccl.
Steven Day (Foreign Languages) and Cheryl Heinz (Biology) were awarded $34,955 by the ASIANetwork-Freeman Student-Faculty Fellows program to take five undergraduate students to China this summer to conduct field research on pollination.

Christine Fletcher (Theology) wrote an article, “Love in a Time of Adultery: The Moral Vision of Jane Austen and Dorothy Sayers” that was published on the Australian Broadcast Company website. In the article, Fletcher argues that Sayers and Austen share a commitment to the virtues, and like all virtue ethicists, define freedom as freedom for pursuing the good as opposed to those who argue that freedom is freedom from restraint. Fletcher also gave a lecture, “Vatican II and the Secular Vocation of the Laity,” at St Augustine’s Seminary, the diocesan seminary for the Archdiocese of Toronto, in March.

Joyce Jeewek (Education), a member of the Chapter Services Committee, presented a peer-reviewed session titled “Meetings to Go” at the 2013 Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) International Honor Society in Education’s Conference in Dallas, Texas in October 2013. The presentation discussed how to effectively use webinars in all aspects of education, from teaching lessons to providing professional development opportunities to educators and administrators. Chapter Services Committee members are appointed by the KDP president and they are commissioned to develop and implement strategic planning for the KDP organization. Jeewek also teamed with undergraduates Tameka Smith and Karyn Tupek to present a peer-reviewed workshop session titled “Effective Reading Strategies in Action.” The workshop presented educators with a variety of research-based, hands-on reading strategies that improve comprehension and writing.

The artwork of David Marcet (Fine Arts) was displayed at the Robert Crown Center for Health Education in Hinsdale. The show, titled “In The Chair,” featured a collection of Marcet’s works, which he describes as contemporary figurative painting. The Robert Crown Center for Health Education is the largest provider of health education for school-age children and young adults in the metropolitan area.

Tim Marin (Chemistry/Biochemistry) wrote a paper as part of his ongoing collaboration with Argonne National Laboratory that appeared in the Journal of Physical Chemistry C titled “Mechanistic Insight into the Protective Action of Bis(oxalato)borate and Difluoro(oxalato)borate Anions in Li-Ion Batteries,” Journal of Physical Chemistry C, 2013, 117 (45), pp 23750–23756.

Alfred Martin (Biological Sciences) was an invited speaker at St. Raphael Catholic Parish in Naperville. He spoke on the topic of “The Compatibility of Science and Religion,” which explores these two ways of thinking and how they complement each other.

Susan Mikula (History) was honored with the Prize of Milan Hodža by the Government of the Slovak Republic last October for her outstanding work relative to one of Slovakia’s most important political figures. The event took place at the Embassy of Slovakia in Washington, D.C. Mikula has been recognized as the most important expert on Milan Hodža.

Phil Novack-Gottshall (Biological Sciences) and undergraduate student Keoki Burton had a manuscript accepted for publication in the Journal of Paleontology. Their paper, titled “Morphometrics indicates giant Ordovician maculitid gastropods switched life habit during ontogeny,” is based on Burton’s independent research project using fossil snails from The Field Museum in Chicago. Novack-

Gottshall also presented a talk titled “Regression and classification trees are powerful and intuitive analytical methods for complex datasets in paleontology” at the 10th North American Paleontological Conference in Gainesville, Fl. His co-authors were from Swarthmore College and the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center.

Teresa Parker (Fine Arts) participated in “Posada Centenario,” La Calacas Press III International Print Exchange at the Eugenius Gallery in Melbourne, Australia, and showed one of her prints in a group art exhibition called “Sanititos” at Loyola University Museum of Art.


Ovid Wong (Education) led students enrolled in “Geography/Physics 107—Earth and Space Science” to Fermilab in Batavia. The students were inspired by the high energy physics research and the many real-world applications. Students met with Roger Dixon, Ph.D., head of the Accelerator Division at Fermilab, who talked about how scientists collect data from the invisible world of particle physics, his defining life moments leading to where he is today, and the possible coexistence of the Big Bang Theory and creationism. Wong also wrote a book titled “Instructional Primer: Foundations to Career Success” based on his experiences training Benedictine graduate business faculty in China and Vietnam as well as Dalian Nationalities University faculty in China. The book was published by Roman and Littlefield in 2013 and led to Wong receiving the 2013 Distinguished Faculty in Research Award. The book and Wong’s training discuss such topics as defining personal teaching philosophies, inductive and deductive reasoning methods, questioning strategies and demonstrating the traits of an effective instructor in a mini lesson.

Jan Writer (Education) gave a peer-reviewed presentation and paper at the 2013 National TASH Conference on Severe Disabilities in December. Her interactive workshop, “Talk WITH Me! Communication Strategies that Empower Students with Significant Disabilities,” detailed diverse techniques for enhancing the communication abilities of children and youth with low incidence disabilities (intellectual disabilities, autism, orthopedic impairments and multiple disabilities), who are educated within inclusive school settings. Her session was rated by attendees as being among the top 15 percent of the more than 300 sessions conducted at the conference. Writer has subsequently been invited to design and present a pay-per-view, web-based training program on the quality education of students with low incidence disabilities for TASH, the largest international organization that advocates for the interests of individuals with severe disabilities. Writer also was appointed to leadership positions in two professional special education organizations. She has been selected to serve on the Committee on Severe/Multiple Disabilities for the international Council for Exceptional Children’s Division for Communication Disorders and Deafness (DCDD). The committee focuses on current issues, curricula and family-centered practices for students with speech, language and/or hearing difficulties who also have multiple or severe disabilities. Writer has also been appointed to the Organization Steering Committee for the Illinois chapter of TASH. She will also serve as historian for the group.
**Influential Faculty Members Oversaw Computing Revolution on Campus**

**Ralph Meeker, Ph.D., and Eileen Clark, Ph.D.**

Two pillars of the University, Ralph Meeker, Ph.D., and Eileen Clark, Ph.D., retired in May at the conclusion of the academic year, leaving a lasting legacy of service and inspiration for the many students who were lucky enough to be in their classrooms and benefit from their many University-wide contributions.

Ralph Meeker, Ph.D. began his 50-year affiliation with the University—first as a student of Physics and Mathematics at St. Procopius College in 1963. After earning his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree, he began a career at Benedictine in 1970 as an assistant professor of Physics, and later successfully managed a variety of leadership roles—from chairperson of the Department of Physics to dean of the College of Science.

His many contributions included coordinating the necessary materials for awarding the University’s first master’s degree—the Master of Business Administration—in 1976, and the University’s first Ph.D.—the Ph.D. in Organization Development in 1996. He was also responsible for applying and securing several million dollars in grant funding to support various academic and institutional programs over the years, such as the $1 million U.S. Department of Education Advanced Institutional Development Grant in 1975, which greatly influenced the University’s potential for growth.

“This was at a time when the entire annual institutional budget was about $6 million,” Meeker said. “So, the grant had a significant impact on new program development. In fact, one of the outcomes was the development and implementation of the first on-campus administrative computer system to support student records, financial management and fundraising.”

In 1978, Meeker and the late Rose Carney, Ph.D., successfully secured a $250,000 Comprehensive Assistance for Undergraduate Science Education (CAUSE) program grant from the National Science Foundation, which was used to expand a burgeoning Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science program. Meeker would eventually oversee the new program as chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science from 1988 to 1994 and as a professor of Computer Science and Information Systems up until his retirement.

Meeker also advocated for the hiring of full-time physics faculty with a background and research experience in biophysics to better serve an increasing number of students pursuing the life and medical sciences, and was involved in the initial planning that led to the construction of the Birck Hall of Science in 2001.

He has received several notable awards for his accomplishments, including the Benedictine Life Award—the highest honor awarded to a University faculty or staff member—in 2003 for fostering a spirit of community, creating an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality and living the Benedictine values.

In 2012, he was presented with the Judith Ann Whinfrey Award for Leadership, for his distinguished record of leadership excellence, with a passion for fairness and evidence-based decision-making that helped shape the character of the University.

Although his plans outside Benedictine include traveling and visiting with friends in Florida and other destinations, both Ralph and his wife, Pam, plan to stay connected to the University.

“I will continue to follow Benedictine athletics and I do hope to continue serving out my terms on a couple of advisory committees of which I am currently involved for the Athletics department and the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum,” Meeker said. “I’m always happy to interact with alumni, so I’ll continue to attend a variety of campus events that bring graduates back to campus.”
It is through the dedication and care exhibited by Benedictine’s such as Meeker, Clark and Winkler that keep the University focused on student success in a values-centered academic environment.

Eileen Clark, Ph.D., began her career at Benedictine one year after Fr. Richard Shonka, O.S.B., received a National Science Foundation grant to purchase the University’s first Hewlett-Packard minicomputer. After four years as an instructor of mathematics, Clark became an assistant professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, eventually transitioning into associate professor of Computer Science as the B.S. in Computer Science program was developed and first offered during the 1978-1979 academic year.

Funding from the CAUSE grant dramatically changed the academic and administrative operations of the University—from a Unix-based time-sharing computing system to a new system dedicated to academic use—and Clark stepped into the role as director of Academic Computing in 1981. From 1981 to 1996, Clark oversaw the development of computing systems and facilities, replaced the old time-sharing system, helped to establish microcomputer labs and a campus-wide network. When an Information Technology unit was established to oversee the new network, Clark returned to a more traditional role supporting faculty through technology training and education as coordinator of Learning Technologies.

In 2000, the University was awarded with a $1.75 million Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, which among other areas of support, included the implementation of new technologies in the classroom. Through the grant, Clark became the professional development coordinator and up until her retirement worked to encourage and train faculty in their use of various technological learning tools to enhance their courses.

She helped oversee multiple changes to the University’s Learning Management System software and was a constant source for faculty support through the evolution of WebCT, Blackboard, and more recently with the adoption and implementation of Desire2Learn and the ongoing expansion of online classroom delivery.

When the grant ended in 2005, she returned as a professor and continued to provide training to faculty. While Clark also has plans to travel and visit with family in places such as North Carolina and New York, she expects to stay in touch with the many friends of the University and attend special campus events.

Longtime Chemistry Professor Edward Winkler Retires

Edward Winkler joined the Science faculty at Benedictine as an assistant professor in 1979 and aspired to a variety of leadership roles—from professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry to President of the Academic Senate, member of the Health Sciences Recommendations Committee and academic advisor to Benedictine’s student-led chapter of the American Chemical Society.

Throughout his 35 years with the University, Winkler played a major role in developing the Science curriculum for a number of courses and for encouraging the academic achievements of many.