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On the cover: Benedictine community members salute Benedictine Hall. See page 20 for photo identification. Cover photo by Jake Herrle.
President's Invitational GOLF OUTING

Benedictine University's 9th Annual President's Invitational Golf Outing at Cress Creek Country Club in Naperville

Give back to your Benedictine heritage while improving your swing! All proceeds go to the President's 21st Century Fund in support of student scholarships.

Monday, July 21, 2003
Cress Creek Country Club

$200 per person, morning
Call (630) 829-6080 for info.
$225 per person, afternoon
or visit www.ben.edu/alumni

Registration and Breakfast .................... 6:30 a.m.
Shotgun Start ............................... 7:30 a.m.
Registration and Lunch ..................... 11:00 a.m.
Shotgun Start ............................... 1:00 p.m.
Cocktails .................................. 6:00 p.m.
Dinner ...................................... 6:30 p.m.
2003 Upcoming events

May 10 | Undergraduate Commencement
May 31 | Graduate Commencement
July 21 | President’s Golf Outing
        | Cress Creek Country Club
October 18 | Homecoming
November 1 | Educare Scholarship Ball

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A Salute to Benedictine Hall

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Editor’s Note: The Benedictine memories supplied by faculty and alumni have been edited for space and content in some cases. To see the complete content, go to www.ben.edu/alumni.

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Letters to the Editor must be signed, and letters not intended for publication should be so indicated.

Please address all mail to:
Benedictine Voices
Benedictine University
5700 College Road
Lisle, IL 60532

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SPECIAL FEATURE

A Salute to Benedictine Hall

www.ben.edu
We are proud of Benedictine’s history and continue to feel the persistence, vision and values of the handful of monks who arrived in the middle of a cornfield.

Three years ago, when the cornerstone was removed from Benedictine Hall and placed in an outside column of Kindlon Hall, it was 100 years to the day since the original cornerstone was inserted in the brick and mortar of Benedictine Hall. The time capsule did not withstand the rigors of time, and everything in it disintegrated. But an account tells us that it held a photograph of Abbot Nepomuk Jaeger, O.S.B., founder and first abbot of St. Procopius; and copies of the Czech newspapers Narod and Katolik, printed by the monks and published for Czech and Slovak immigrants in Chicago. There was a script headed with I.O.G.D., which is Latin for St. Benedict’s motto: “That in All Things God May Be Glorified.” Before the first shovel of dirt was scooped from the earth, Abbot Jaeger knelt and wrote the motto in the dust. Those words continue to be the banner cry of this University.

The script tucked into that original time capsule was an historical account that began in the same format as the Christmas Gospel — “In the

Time Capsule Renewed

year six thousand sixty-five since the creation of the world, one thousand nine hundred since the nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, one thousand and six since the conversion of the Bohemians to Christ the Lord; five hundred and fifty-two years since the foundation of the University of Prague; one hundred and twenty-four since the beginning of the Republic of the United States of North America; thirteen since the establishment of St. Procopius Monastery as canonical priory, and again thirteen years since the beginning of St. Procopius College; six years since the elevation of St. Procopius Priory to the dignity of an Abbey; while the bark of Peter is happily governed by the Supreme Pontiff, Leo XIII; while Patrick Augustine Feehan is Archbishop of Chicago; and Hildebrand de Hemptine is Abbot Primate of the entire order of St. Benedict; John Nepomuk Jaeger is the Abbot of St. Procopius Abbey; William McKinley is president of the republic; and as the whole Catholic world is rejoicing in the year of the great jubilee:

This cornerstone was placed on July 2, AD, 1900, on the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by the Most Reverend and Honorable Leo Haid, D.D., O.S.B., apostolic vicar of North Carolina, in the presence of innumerable faithful, both lay and clergy, who prayed for success of what was begun here. May the great and best God bless this beginning.”

A new cornerstone for the year 2000 was placed in one of the outside Kindlon Hall columns. Among the items it contains: Baccalaureate and Commencement programs; a Benedictine football helmet;
Dear Benedictine University Alumni and Friends,

I wanted to share with you exciting events that have recently taken place at Benedictine University.

• In early December, Benedictine University took Springfield College in Illinois (SCI) under its wing in a strategic partnership. SCI is a two-year Catholic institution in the state capital. Benedictine plans to develop junior-senior year programs at the College, as well as adult and graduate programs. This is a significant step toward becoming a major player in Catholic higher education for Benedictine University. In my articles for Voices, I have spoken of new models of cooperation between colleges that will make us stronger. I trust that as you watch the Benedictine/Springfield partnership unfold, you will see such a model in action. (See story on page 29.)

• St. Procopius Abbey held an Abbatial Election on December 29-30, and Fr. Dismas Kalcic, O.S.B. was elected the new abbot. The Bible tells us that Dismas was the good thief who was crucified on a cross next to Jesus. Born in Joliet, Abbot Dismas graduated from Joliet Catholic High School and served in both the Army and Air Force before studying at St. Procopius College. He joined the monastery in 1954 and professed vows in 1955. After ordination in 1961, he completed his master’s degree in economics from the University of Notre Dame, continued graduate studies at Johns Hopkins University and earned a Ph.D. from Washington University. He taught at Benedictine and was the executive vice president in 1973-74. He began service at Benet Academy as business manager, then director of finance and electronic learning systems. He then served as pastor of three different parishes in Wisconsin. In 2001, he returned to the Abbey, and taught economics at both Benedictine University and Benet Academy. By election, Abbot Dismas becomes the ex-officio Chancellor of both Benedictine University and Benet Academy. Former Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B., is on sabbatical in St. Louis studying spiritual direction. (Abbot Dismas is pictured on the front cover of this issue.)

• Since the opening of Birck and Kindlon Halls, we have been focusing on renovating Scholl and Lownik Halls to accommodate those faculty and staff remaining in Benedictine Hall. Benedictine Hall has been the hallmark of this campus for more than 100 years, but it would be cost prohibitive ($15-28 million) to try to refurbish it. I am interested in ideas on how to ‘celebrate’ Benedictine Hall’s importance on this campus before it is closed forever. We welcome your ideas. (This issue of Voices is dedicated to this great building.)

• At the end of January, the University announced that Jim Ryan, C68, former Illinois Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate, was appointed the first Benedictine University Distinguished Fellow. Ryan will work with faculty and students and will represent the University to public and private institutions, government agencies and the community. (See story on page 27.)

Clearly, much is happening on campus. Please know that your ideas and input are always welcome.

Sincerely,

William J. Carroll
President
Individual Benedictine monasteries usually look to a ‘founding community’ that gave it its beginning, started a life that grew and moved into its own future. St. Procopius Abbey is a foundation (in 1885) from St. Vincent Arch Abbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Abbot Boniface Wimmer, O.S.B., the monk who first brought Benedictine life to America in 1846, had the vision for some of his men to be missionaries to Czech immigrants, just as the St. Vincent community had been missionaries to German immigrants.

St. Procopius Abbey engaged in this same life-giving action by founding St. Andrew’s Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio, and Holy Trinity Monastery in Butler, Pennsylvania. Both communities began with an eye to missionary work among Slavic peoples: people of Slovak ancestry in the case of the Cleveland community, and people belonging to the Byzantine-Ruthenian Rite of the Catholic Church.

Anyone entering the St. Vincent Arch Abbey basilica today would notice a variety of ‘coats of arms’ decorating the walls of the Arch Abbey church, symbols representing the independent communities that had their origin at St. Vincent. St. Procopius Abbey was Archabbot Boniface Winner’s eighth independent foundation, so quite naturally, the arms of St. Procopius Abbey is found there. Included among the various designs is the symbol of the Arch Abbey of Montecassino: a centuries-old oak tree stump with new shoots coming from its side. The motto ‘Succisa Virescit’ surrounds the symbol: cut it down and it will grow.

Most of what we know about the beginnings of Montecassino and St. Benedict has come down to us through the Book of the Dialogues written by Pope Gregory the Great some 50 years after Benedict’s death. The traditional year given for the birth of Benedict and his twin sister Scholastica has been the year 480 of our common era. In 1980, Benedictines around the world celebrated the 1500th anniversary of St. Benedict’s birth, just as in 1947 Benedictines celebrated the 1400th anniversary of his death. On that occasion, Pope Pius XII issued an encyclical letter ‘Fulgens Radiator’. 

Succisa Virescit
Cut It Down and It Will Grow!

by Fr. David Turner, O.S.B.
extolling the work of Benedictine monks over the centuries.

Between the year 500, a possible date given for Benedict’s leaving the village of his birth (the present-day Norcia [Perugia], Italy) and 529, the traditional date for his founding of Montecassino, Benedict had a variety of experiences: as a hermit, a temporary superior of a group of monks who early on tried to poison him, and finally as the founder of 12 small monasteries at Subiaco.

Benedict left Subiaco about the year 529 because of the difficulties being caused by a local priest, and he traveled to the ruins of a preexisting Roman fortification high on a mountain, the ‘municipium casinum.’ There is a theory that he settled there because a patrician benefactor gave the property to him. When Benedict arrived on the mountain, he found a temple dedicated to the pagan god Apollo along with a holy grove for sacrifices to this god. The accounts given by St. Gregory the Great would have us see Benedict changing these areas into places for Christian use. Benedict’s practical sense changed the existing temple into an oratory for his community, while using some of the other existing buildings as living space for his community and their work.

About the year 577, only 30 years after Benedict’s death, Zotone and his Lombard hordes destroyed Montecassino for the first time. Some monks did flee and settle elsewhere, though it was not until the early eighth century that Pope Gregory II commissioned Petronace, an architect/builder from Brescia to rebuild the monastery. Many flocked to newly built Montecassino and it is even recorded that Charlemagne visited there in 787 and granted many privileges to the abbot and his monks.

In 883, with the monks having lived there in peace for a little more than one hundred years, the second destruction of the monastery took place, this time by Saracen hordes that invaded and sacked the entire area and burned the monastery to the ground. Monks again fled and managed to settle elsewhere though monastic life was not resumed on the mountain until the middle of the 10th century. A number of great churchmen were involved in restoring Montecassino, including Frederick of Lorraine, who later became Pope Stephen IX. Many churchmen and civil rulers helped to restore Montecassino, culminating with Abbot Desiderius who rebuilt the basilica enriching it with great art and mosaics.

An earthquake caused the third destruction in 1349, leaving nothing but a few walls. The Archabbey was reconstructed over the years and remained in veritable peace — the Pax Benedictina — until February 15, 1944, when Allied bombs leveled the building to the ground.

This was during some of the final stages of World War II, as Montecassino, and its position high on a mountain, was on the firing line between German and Allied forces. Many have written about the event, including U.S. General Mark Clark in his celebrated book Calculated Risks. It has generally been admitted that there were no German forces actually in the monastery, though once the bombing took place the Germans had a strategic position and it took some months for the Allied Forces to break through and march on to free Rome.

On a personal note, I visited Montecassino in 1980, after its reconstruction and decoration that took more than 10 years, and spoke to Father Agostino Saccomano, O.S.B., a monk who lived through the bombings. He had planned to die, along with the abbot, as the building was being destroyed. However, the place where they stayed — the cell of St. Benedict — was the only spot not destroyed by the bombs and both monk and abbot lived to tell the story.

Succisa Virescit — cut it down and it will grow — has been a Benedictine watchword for these many centuries. We have seen how the destruction of this one building has always led to new life. The chopped down, broken, old oak stump always becomes the source for new growth, always green and alive. In all instances, we also see life that is stronger than ever — life that truly moves into the future.
In 1900 the cornerstone of what would become Benedictine Hall was set in place. Then St. Procopius College, the building would live through more than 100 years of monks, professors and students—all whose lives would be touched, not just by a building constructed by the men of the Benedictine order, but by a University whose founding beliefs were, and are, to nurture the whole person, to live life in balance and to instill the belief ‘that God may be glorified in all things.’

Here is a “Salute to Benedictine Hall.” As its service to a growing University is almost over, we honor all the memories it holds and all the moments it has experienced. As we look toward the future, let us also remember that the Benedictine traditions are not housed in any particular building, but live in the hearts and minds of the community. ♦
There are so many wonderful memories in the ‘Ad Building,’ as we knew it. It was down in the dining hall that I met my life long friends my first day of freshman year during my orientation. I will always remember that first day, as well as Paradise, all the talent shows held in the social center, the SGA meetings, the midnight breakfasts, The Pub, the Admissions Office, where most of us worked, not to mention endless classes and study nights, and the stairway right outside the Chapel that holds a special spot for my husband, Jim and me.

Olga (Garnica) Bond, C84

I just loved the “creak of the floor,” tin ceilings, marble stairs and the warmth of the Chapel. When former professor, Jim Hazdra, passed away, his wake was in Ben Hall. It was just so touching to listen to the monks sing/pray in the Gregorian chant.

I enjoy all the pictures of the Abbots, the religious statues and paintings and the definite feel of this school being a Catholic/Benedictine Institution.

Alice Sima, C83, M.B.A. ’87, Professor

Benedictine Hall
by Bernard Toussaint, C55, Professor

Benedictine Hall is “Just bricks and mortar,” they say. They do not see the shadows spirits cast upon the stones.

Benedictine Hall is Abbot Ambrose preaching over Sunday Vespers Chanted by rows of monks in choir.

Benedictine Hall is Father Tom welcoming freshmen Showing them the meaning of hospitality.

Benedictine Hall is Father Hilary greeting his “Senators” as they filed into the lab surrounded by mounted animals.

Benedictine Hall is Father Mathias pushing students to shed their inhibitions To speak from their hearts loud and clear.

Benedictine Hall is Father Leo making Byron, Keats and Shelly sing, Bringing Shakespeare back to life.

Benedictine Hall is Father Luke, always with his camera, Snapping the daily life of the monks and students.

Benedictine Hall is Father Alban writing music up in the north tower, Coaxing shy young men to sing.

Benedictine Hall is Father Basil in Latin class re-living Cicero’s expose of Catiline’s evil conspiracy.

Benedictine Hall is Father Valentine explaining natural law Rooting politics in morality.

Benedictine Hall is Father Richard with his gentle humor Trying to ease freshmen into algebra.

Benedictine Hall is Father John burying his can of beer to keep it cold While he tended his marigolds along the South wall.

Benedictine Hall is The long line of altars under the caves in the West wing Where pious monks greeted the dawn with Holy Sacrifice.

Benedictine Hall is Where boys became men And men lived out the rule, “Ora et Labora.”
When I first came here, Ben Hall housed the abbey, the high school and the college. Almost all my college classes were in Ben Hall, I made my novitiate to the abbey in what is now the music department on the fourth floor. I lived in the abbey section until we moved to our present location. I taught economics for seven years in Ben Hall and my office was [in room 266], I prayed many hours in the student chapel, which is now [the Ben Hall Theater]. I took all my vows there and was ordained deacon in that same chapel, and I could go on and on. I’ve said enough to let you know that Ben Hall had major significance in my life.

Abbot Dismas, O.S.B., C57
I first came to then St. Procopius College in 1957 on an altar boy picnic. We were eating down by the slough as it was called and I asked someone to direct me to a washroom. They sent me up to Ben Hall, but somehow I took a wrong turn and wound up lost in the monks’ private cloister. I still remember being met by an angry monk on the south stairs — the ones that are too deep and too shallow — and being ushered out the door by the scruff of my neck. Not the most auspicious beginning, but I returned as a student in 1963 and a faculty member in 1975 so I have many memories of the building.

I remember:

- On a warm summer evening walking by the building and hearing trumpet, drums or piano music drifting from the upper floors.
- Trudging up and down those stairs, grabbing the ball on the iron railing and wondering how many thousands and thousands of other hands had touched that same spot.
- The handles on the chapel door.
- Looking at the paintings of the abbots and wondering what they would think of how we have changed.
- In the sixties the ground level area directly across from the powerhouse was converted from an old cannery (yes, we had a farm, slaughter house and cannery) to the chemistry glass research lab. Distilled water was somehow made in the lower level probably from condensed steam. We would have to carry big bottles of distilled water over to the science building for our labs — what a way to get students not to waste distilled water.
- When given a chance, wandering through the many back stairways, tunnels, tiny rooms and storage areas.
- Cleaning out the old attic over the biology “bugs lab” with John Mickus. Being amazed and sometimes shocked at what we found.
- Riding the elevator that always takes forever.
- In the sixties, folding walls joined all the classrooms on the second floor. Some of my philosophy classes filled three rooms. One teacher took roll every day and being a “W” I could come 10 minutes late and still make the roll.
- Sitting on a bench by the glass lab and sharing part of my lunch and a wonderful conversation with Brother Andrew about our history. He liked strawberries and we grew a lot at home.
- Walking to the cemetery, then turning back to see Ben Hall and thinking it was home.

Wayne Wesolowski, C67, Professor

Benedictine Hall provided me with a variety of environments from 1954 when I arrived as a first-year student to the present day. Benedictine Hall has provided me with classrooms where I interacted with an almost all-monk faculty; a variety of dining rooms where I was well fed by the Benedictine Sisters or the laity who followed them; a small three room area for my novitiate year as a Benedictine monk; a Chapel where I pronounced my first vows and made my life commitment three years later; the same Chapel where I was ordained a subdeacon on the way to eventual ordination as a priest; a “Clericate” that gave me a study hall, a recreation room, as well as a common dormitory/bunk room from which my confreres would move my bed (with me sleeping in it!) out into the corridor to stop my snoring from disturbing their sleep; my first private room as a priest (now a professor’s office — and I frequently stop to ask her if the walls talk!); offices from which I could be a professor, a department head and a dean; space where I could offer Mass and be a campus minister; and now an office from which I can work and worry about the Catholic and Benedictine identity of our University. St. Benedict himself, according to a legend, had a vision of his Order’s future, showing him the great work the monks would do over the centuries. We can, with his spirit of faith, move into the future knowing that the best is yet to come.

Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., C58, Assistant to the Provost

Bugs Lab 1925:
Looking north. This second floor room is where Employee Services is now located.

The bugs lab

Kitchen Sisters:
From the basement, where the Sisters cooked from 1901 until around 1957. This picture is from 1953.

Sisters Chapel:
The convent for the Sisters who lived on campus was the wing that now has Health Services in the basement and the International Center on the second floor. The second floor, north end, contained the Sisters Chapel.
The old matriarch is coming down, Stoic in the shadow of her young successor. Quietly, without a sound, Her structure, like an old woman, Seasons eating at her rattling windows and red brick. Roof leaking and losing heat, Crumbling, beyond repair Some rooms hot, some cold, Unpredictable and frustrating. This matriarch has held in her bowels Unpredictable and frustrating. This matriarch has held in her bowels

As a relatively new biologist on the faculty, I was called over to the dormitories to trap out the bat that was “terrorizing” the faculty and students. I took a tour and found out about the history of when Ben Hall was the dormitory. I also spent time there for choir practice and voice lessons. That time is the most memorable for me.

I remember when I was on the third floor of Ben Hall for Halloween. We took a tour and found out about the history of when Ben Hall was the dormitory. I also spent time there for choir practice and voice lessons. That time is the most memorable for me.

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Ben Hall was the center of our college life. We ate our farm-raised food there, went to Mass, matriculated, and had ‘mixers’ in the cafeteria. Mixers were parties where ladies from all-female colleges were invited to our then all-male, social events. Virtually every day-to-day school activity was done at Ben Hall. None of my classmates or teachers ever dreamed that this building would be destroyed. It was so substantial. Its destruction reminds us that everyone and everything has a limited life on this earth.

Gerald Angermeier, C62

Part of what attracted me to Benedictine was Ben Hall. Despite its age, Ben Hall always had a very warm, welcoming feeling. You could sense the richness of its history as you walked through the halls. I’m very glad I had the opportunity to become a little part of that history.

Pam Nielson, C00

[I remember] Benedictine Hall’s excellent heating system. Even in the coldest days of winter, that boiler kept the place so very nice and warm. I wore glasses even then, and I recall many winter days when I would come in the northeast doorway and my glasses would fog over. I would dump my backpack on one of the windowsills in the hallway there and hold my glasses waiting a couple minutes until the lenses warmed up and I could see again.

This memory of the high-output boiler in Benedictine Hall also brings to mind a memory of its legendary caretaker, Art DeNardo. It had been snowing for several days, and the first 15-20 yards of cozy warm hallways just inside that northeast entrance were constantly full of dirty slush from people’s boots. Art never quit working at drying that floor. I came through there during times when you’d think he’d be on coffee break or at lunch, but there was Art, cleaning and drying that floor. After the third day, I stopped him for a moment and thanked him. He quit swabbing for a moment, looked at me, and said: “It’s nice of you to thank me, but what if one of you slipped and got hurt?” He turned away and resumed mopping. I never thought of Art the same way after that. I had assumed he’d kept the floor clean just to satisfy his boss, but it turned out he felt he had a duty to keep people from getting hurt.

David Fischer, C76

Twisting stairways

Slough 1914:

Once there was enough moisture to make ice!

Note the pool and the handball court.

You can see the Neff stone farmhouse between the groups of youths, and behind the figure with the fur hat (probably the monk-prefect) on the far right, you can see the “old barn” across the road — it was built by the monks around 1897, and taken down in the early 1940s.

David Fischer, C76
A SalutE To Benedictine Hall

1916 The completion of the south wing of Benedictine Hall, usually referred to as the ‘abbey side.’ This section provided living quarters, the ‘Choir Chapel’ and other facilities for the monastic community. The ground floor was an auditorium/gymnasium for all three schools now functioning: academy, college and school of theology (seminary). The dedication took place on June 18, 1916.

1917 Thirty-one students were enrolled in the seminary.

1925 The back (and final) section of the building was added, containing the Bugs Lab and Paradise. Also, with the building of the new gymnasium, the old auditorium/gymnasium was converted into the college library. The stage area was closed to form the librarians’ workroom. Frs. Adolph Hrdlicka and Vitus Buresh, O.S.B., processed many a book there.

1926 St. Procopius Seminary becomes bi-ritual. Eastern Rite seminarians for the Ruthenian Bishop Basil Takach begin to attend. The seminary continued to educate these students for the priesthood until 1951 when they established a seminary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Late 1930s A science building was erected on the spot where the Krasa Center now stands. This building was erected almost totally by the monks and student workers, led by the master mason Br. Procopius Koukal, O.S.B. For most of its life it was called simply ‘The Science Hall.’ The building housed offices for the science faculty, chemistry and physics laboratories and one residence room occupied by senior students in physics.

1951 With the completion of Jaeger Hall, college students moved out of Benedictine Hall as well as out of the Butler Building (a prefabricated tin...
When Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B., founded the studio art program in 1978, he was given the south end of the top floor in Benedictine Hall for studios, offices and storerooms. They had been used by the non-ordained monks as living quarters from 1916, when the south section was completed, until 1970 when the monks moved into their newly completed abbey building across College Road.

At my class reunion in 1986, I noticed many changes had occurred to the building since 1956, but I could still tell where the second floor dormitories had been and the third floor chapel where the auditorium is now, and the basement refectory where we ate ‘family style’ at long tables. A particular interest was seeking out the former Chapel of Altars behind the auditorium/chapel where I served Mass many early mornings for priest-monks; each of the now-private music practice booths was formerly an individual altar, and I noted that many of the original wood vestment tables remain in place extending from the walls. I found that the second and third floor ‘jakes’ remain in place, albeit converted from exclusive male use. The gravity water closets up by the ceiling, where we cooled quarts of beer on weekends when we out-of-state students remained on campus, were gone — but the memory lingers. It was interesting to walk through the North end of the building, which was the cloistered monastery, and I’m not sure I had ever set foot in that section until this visit. I looked into first and second floor rooms where I recall classes in Fr. Demetrius’ Algebra I, Al Rychtarik’s Plane Geometry, Solid Geometry and Trigonometry, Fr. Gilbert’s Latin I, Fr. Brendan’s Latin II, Fr. Paschal’s and Fr. Christian’s Religion, etc. I saw the outside fire escape stairs leading down, then back up to ‘Paradise’ where Fr. Roman (before he was ordained) lived and conducted the infirmary. I recalled a missing metal building in that same area, which was a chapel where the Eastern Rite monks, Frs. Chrysostom, Athanasius, Demetrius, as I recall, celebrated Mass amid lots of incense and chanting in [Slavonic]; some of us attended periodically and gained an appreciation of another culture’s approach to our common Catholicism. Some of us attended periodically and gained an appreciation of another culture’s approach to our common Catholicism. After a good building tour, I walked over by the ‘slough’ and on to the cemetery where I walked among the graves of so many familiar names of priests and brothers from those years long ago; I prayed for them, but also I requested them to remember and pray for me — one of the ‘kids from Kansas.’ After that, I stopped at the Abbey to see if Fr. Roman might be in and available to chat (he was my Freshman prefect, and later was president of a Catholic college in Wichita). He was and we reminisced at length.

It was a great afternoon and I am glad I detoured North from I-80 on my way to Indiana. Happy Days, those were in the Fifties… It was enjoyable to return to them for a few hours.

Lawrence A. (Larry) Tholen, C56

I remember these rooms as monastic quarters during my novitiate year, especially room 468, the Brother’s Chapel. My own office today, on the fourth floor, was once the novice master’s combination bedroom and study.

An artist friend recommended that insulated fiber panels be attached to all the walls to serve as backing for framed artwork. The window at the south end of the corridor was covered to prevent sunlight from fading the artwork.

Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B., C54, Art Curator

Dormitories, classrooms, life experiences
A SalutE To

Benedictine Hall

building that stood in what is now the parking area adjacent to the west entrance door at the ground level, near Benedictine Central). The ‘big move’ into Jaeger Hall excited the college men who now had the benefits of ‘high living’ in semi-private rooms.

1956 With the transfer of the academy to the former St. Joseph’s Orphanage property north of Maple Avenue (now Benet Academy), the second floor, east-west section, was converted into classrooms.

1957 The Benedictine Sisters discontinued running the kitchen/food service. Marie-Antoinette Haot-Denissoff became the kitchen manager aided by area women.

1960 During the summer, the kitchen area (now Sodexho’s Campus Services office space) was totally rehabilitated with new steam plumbing, hot and cold water lines, stoves and food service preparation areas. The bakery remained in operation, though the homemade bread recipe of the Benedictine Sisters did not seem to be duplicated. The former convent area was used by the Benedictine Brothers who until this time slept in dormitory/bunk rooms.

1966 The abbey decided to close the farm operation. This eliminated the fresh eggs brought in daily by Brs. George Rooney and Matthew Netreba, O.S.B. It also eliminated the dairy herd, as well as the steers.

I was leaving home for the first time, going away to college. I’ll never forget that cold January day in 1966. I took the Greyhound Bus from Detroit to Chicago, the train from Chicago to Lisle, and a cab from the Lisle train station to the administration building of St. Procopius College (Benedictine Hall).

It was between semesters so the campus was pretty much desolate. Here I stood in this circular drive in front of the impressive building. My mind was racing with thoughts and questions as I trekked up the stairs lugging my military-type duffel bag and a suitcase.

I entered the building and looked down the hallway, which seemed endless and saw no one. I left my stuff at the door and went off looking for someone to assist me. While strolling the halls and gazing at the high ceilings I couldn’t help but be impressed with this building. It had a certain aura about it.

After about 10 minutes of meandering a priest noticed me and asked if he could help. He said to wait about 15 minutes and he would take me to Jaeger Hall where I would be staying.

This was my introduction to St. Procopius College. The building was my first impression and many memories were made from that building in the following three years. As for that priest, it was Father Hugh Anderson. Go figure.

Bill Murphy, C67

I worked under Fr. Kevin’s direction in the old bookstore in Benedictine Hall in 1965-67. There weren’t many places to hang out on campus in those years, and we had a regular after-dinner-before-the-library crowd. Along with a number of student regulars, Fr. David and Fr. Dismas often dropped in, as did Mr. Smith. Fr. Christian occasionally stopped by too, and we had a couple of conversations that helped me to change my major to history.

The building holds many memories: reading Fr. David’s press releases on a first-floor bulletin board, chatting with Br. Columban in the business office, exchanging misplaced mail with the other “Bill Murphy” also in the business office, that funny pair of doors that opened on to each other in the back of the hall, the art work in the upstairs classroom where Mr. Meehan taught Rhetoric and American Lit at night.

Bill Murphy, C67

I had a wonderful class, Intro to Comm. Arts, in Ben Hall. I enjoyed giving speeches in class because there was an echo. I liked the aura and “antique” look of the building.

Salman Choudhry, C02

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Allen Goll, C69

Fourth floor music serenades

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Allen Goll, C69
I remember . . . Working nights at the main switchboard with the ‘Alexander Graham Bell’ era pull out cords, I frequently, accidentally, disconnected calls or connected calls to the wrong party. Walking in the hall late at night after studying alone in a classroom. Hearing the creaking, groaning floors and heating plant rattling the steam pipes and then suddenly running into a monk who seemed to come out of the shadows. All those stuffed specimens from the Jurica Brothers in their classroom. Bob Knetl, C70

1946 Election: At this election, strictly speaking to select a coadjutor abbot for the dying Abbot Procopius Neuzil, Father Ambrose Ondrak was chosen (the election was held on November 7, Abbot Procopius died December 1). The window, on the central entrance, means “God, Church and Country.”

I remember two things about Benedictine Hall that will always hold a special place for me. First, I was introduced to the first ‘love of my life’… coffee, while studying with the late night crowd. Additionally, I was introduced to the second ‘love of my life’… my wife… on the first day of my sophomore year, in 1980. To this day, 23 years, two beautiful kids and a home within rock throwing distance of Ben Hall, I still look at that building being there, at that place, at that time. It may be hidden now and soon come down, as history steps aside for progress, but I will always have the memories which progress can’t destroy.

Ben Hall has been my ‘home’ at Benedictine for two years. I’m grateful for having been assigned an office in this building. Somehow, I’ve felt more closely connected to the University’s history than I believe I would have felt had my office been located elsewhere on campus.

I’ll admit that from a physical standpoint, Ben Hall has certain deficiencies, however, the overall physical attributes of the building – the large offices with high ceilings and expansive windows, the rich wood doors and trim, to name just a few – are what I love most about Ben Hall. Together, these attributes impart a certain comfort and warmth that I believe will be very difficult, if not impossible, to duplicate.

I’ll truly miss Ben Hall.

Nona Jones, Professor

Stained glass windows

Ode to Ben Hall
by Ingrida (Latoza) Korsakas, C97

A true Ben Hall pleasure was hiding from everyone on the top floor in order to gather my thoughts for a tough exam or assignment. Looking at campus in the evening from the tiny window while listening to someone practice a piano piece always proved to be enjoyable, romantic, and even spiritual. All worries and fears disappeared as my mind was set at ease by the peaceful scenery and beautiful music. Campus in sight, no fear or fright; Chopin at nights, always a delight.

Ben Hall may claim rights as the birthplace of my college education. Administration offices with plenty of paperwork lived here but the magnificent beauty of the old hallways and staircases also showed me a path to higher intelligence. As an elementary education major, most of my classes and professors were in Ben Hall. So, to me, the middle of this building existed as the core of my studies at Benedictine University. Ideas exchanged, theories discovered, stories shared, languages learned. It developed the skillful, knowledgeable and diverse person that I am today. A sense of place, a sense of time, a sense of grace in your heart and mine.

To celebrate our academic successes, my friends and I would gather in the company of each other. We really enjoyed The Pub parties in the basement of Ben Hall as we danced the night away. We didn’t want the evening to end. The Pub wasn’t much, but all we needed was some loud music, a dance floor and each other. “Oh what a night” echoed loudly through the room and we lived in the moment, knowing it to be one of the best times we’d be sharing at Benedictine University. Music set us free. Dance tenderly. We let it be, just you, just me.

I remember . . . Working nights at the main switchboard with the ‘Alexander Graham Bell’ era pull out cords, I frequently, accidentally, disconnected calls or connected calls to the wrong party. Walking in the hall late at night after studying alone in a classroom. Hearing the creaking, groaning floors and heating plant rattling the steam pipes and then suddenly running into a monk who seemed to come out of the shadows. All those stuffed specimens from the Jurica Brothers in their classroom.

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I have many memories of Benedictine Hall from my days as a student (1963-1967). At that time, what is now the third floor—"Benedictine Hall Theater"—was the chapel; the entire biology department, including many of the specimens now in the Jurica Museum, was located in the west wing of the building, and most of the south section of the building was part of the monastic cloister. In fact, the office I now occupy was originally a bedroom for one of the monks. Administrative offices, classrooms, and even a very small bookstore were all located in the building. The cafeteria was in the ground floor section of the building now known as The Pub.

When I first came to campus for the fall semester of 1966, Lowenk Library was just ready to open. In fact, many of the books had not yet been moved from the old library that was in the lower level of Benedictine Hall. Where Benedictine Central is now located. During the first two weeks of classes, a steady stream of freshmen moved books from the old library to the new during their physical education classes (physical education was required of all freshmen at that time).

Ralph Meeker, C67, Professor

1967 The school of theology (seminary) discontinued operation. This opened up rooms on the third floor for faculty offices. Until the opening of Kindlon Hall, most of the language, communications, and literature faculty members were housed in this area.

1970 The monks moved to the new St. Procopius Abbey on the east side of College Road. This opened up the entire "abbey side" of Benedictine Hall. A few monks remained behind and lived in the building (the president and academic dean) in areas formerly occupied by the monastery superiors. The old "Bishop's Room" and the "Chapter Room" become space for campus ministry, with the former "choir chapel" being space for daily liturgy. The old "college chapel" on the third floor continues to be used for Sunday Masses, though the space became known as the "Social Center" and was used for a variety of other events.

This was also when Fr. Alban Hrebic, O.S.B., began to develop the north end of the fourth floor into music classrooms and studios for music lessons. The south end, especially the areas formerly occupied by the Benedictine Brothers (chapel, recreation room, dormitory and classroom), were developed into rooms for art lectures and classes.

1976 While the building of the "Physical Education Learning Center" (later to be named to honor Dan and Ada Rice) did not affect Benedictine Hall directly, it did close the old gym. Because the "PELC" (as it was affectionately called by those who are dedicated to acronyms) was erected with some federal money, the old gym had to be taken "off line" and could not be used by the campus community.
For me, Ben Hall is a symbol of the “caring community spirit” which is so prevalent on our campus. The old motto of IBC was a place where “people make a difference.” When I think of Ben Hall I see the faces of the difference makers. So many caring people (administrators, faculty and staff) who helped create the spirit, which is the lifeblood of what Benedictine University is all about.

Coach John Ostrowski

My very first memory of Ben Hall surfaces from a blustery fall day in 1989—the day my father brought me to Lisle for a campus visit. There were no leaves on the trees and very few people shared the sidewalks with us—and yet something about the place touched me. The red brick of Benedictine Hall spoke to me of history and tradition—and looked like the Ivy League schools of the East Coast. As we toured the maze of hallways and uneven schools of the East Coast. As we toured the maze of hallways and uneven stairs, I almost expected to find a classroom full of seminary students and one of the Benedictine brothers drilling them in Latin verbs.

[1 remember] many hours spent on the hard, slippery floors of The Pub rehearsing for “You Can’t Take It With You” or the “The Crucible.” Many anxious moments wondering if the whole production would be shut down due to fire code violations. Late nights, building sets, running lines, always behind schedule.

Memories from the fourth floor of Ben Hall are heard, not seen. I would leave other students lingering over dinner and hasten to the fourth floor for band practice—one night for concert band, another for “big band.” As one band practice—one night for concert band, another for “big band.” As one band.

It is true that Benedictine University is not the sum of its brick and mortar—it is much more. Benedictine University is the faculty, the students, the monks and the community of learning and fellowship they have built. It lives in the friendships we share with our former classmates and professors, and in the values we learned as part of this special community: hospitality, charity, moderation. But, I will miss Ben Hall. She was part of the reason I became a member of that community and will remain a cherished memory.

Holly Wehmeyer, C94
1988 The opening of the Krasa Center with its state-of-the-art cafeteria, ‘Eagle’s Nest,’ bookstore and offices, brought the kitchen and food service activities to an end in Benedictine Hall. For many years the old student dining room (there on the ground level since 1913) continued to be used under the name ‘The Pub’. This designation came when the State of Illinois changed the legal age for drinking to 19, and beer was available every weekday afternoon. The popular ‘Friday Afternoon Club’ (F.A.C.) brought many faculty and students together for exciting interactions.

As the State of Illinois changed its law back to 21 as the legal age for drinking, ‘The Pub’ continued to be a space for a variety of social events (Pub Parties) at which those of legal age were allowed to purchase alcohol.

2001 The opening of the Joseph and Bess Kindlon Hall of Learning and the Michael and Kay Birck Hall of Science made for more changes in Benedictine Hall and other buildings on campus, such as Lownik and Scholl. Many offices and classrooms were moved to these spacious, state-of-the-art buildings, including all the science laboratories, classrooms and office spaces, the departments of math, nursing, nutrition, communications and the School of Education. The new buildings also contain the Jurica Nature Museum, computer labs, television studios, a four-story library, the registrar’s office and much more.

2003 With the renovation of Lownik (the old library building), more offices moved from Benedictine Hall, including the admissions office. Scholl was also recently renovated and the remainder of the Benedictine Hall offices and classes will be moved to these two buildings very soon.

I remember my first days in graduate school running down the hallway after getting out of work only to find that the door I tried to get in was not only a small door, but it was locked and on the wrong side of the building.

I remember how Benedictine Hall reminded me of a good, sound institution and how it was my home for the four and a half years it took me to finish my degree.

Andrea M. Ahlsen, M.S.M.O.B. ’96
If The Walls Could Talk

BENEDICTINE CENTRAL . . . ONE ROOM, MANY USES

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

Since the laying of its cornerstone in 1900 and the opening of its doors to students in 1901, the building now called Benedictine Hall has changed many of its spaces.

The once “College Chapel” where so many events took place such as the professions of the monks, ordinations of seminarians to various sacred orders (e.g., deacons and priests), has served in past years as a theater and lecture room, and also as a place for Sunday Mass in the days where more than 300 students would participate.

There is one space, though, that probably has had more “lives” than any other in Benedictine Hall, and that is the area on the ground floor now housing Benedictine Central. With the completion of the monastery section in 1916, the ground floor area at the south end was designed to be an auditorium/gymnasium. The archives have a number of pictures showing a stage and stairs to that stage on the east and west walls. Unfortunately, us “older folks” depend upon humorous stories told by those who were the “young monks” at the time, claiming that to score a basket during a ball game one had to bounce the basketball off the ceiling!

When the new gymnasium building opened in 1925 (now no longer extant) at the south end of the football field, the area became the college library, with the stage boarded up for the librarians’ workroom. Many an hour was spent back there cataloging and preparing new books and periodicals for library use. Fathers Adolph and Vitus walked up and down those stairs many a time.

In 1963, with the big move to the new Benedictine Hall completely. With the food services people looking for more room to accommodate a growing student population, the area was converted into a student dining room, with the cafeteria line in what was the Brothers’ ‘Shoe Room,’ now an art laboratory for print making. A highlight was the fact that the old stage was opened up and became something of a “veranda” where the faculty could eat lunch together and discuss matters of mutual interest.

With the 1988 opening of the new Krasta Center (named after longtime friend of the University, John Krasta) and its state-of-the-art cafeteria and dining room, the space became a 24-hour study lounge for both residents and commuters. Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B., tried to make this a hospitable place with art pieces on the walls. Some were original works done by students in the oil painting class who wanted to make a contribution to their alma mater.

With the growing student population and the desire to provide a “one stop shopping” approach for registration, financial aid and other services, “Benedictine Central” was created — a place well-known to all who have registered for classes,
A Look At The Past and Into The Future.

Benedictine Hall has had a variety of lives. From the four-story ‘L’ shaped building that greeted the students in 1901, through its additions that completed its final shape in 1925, through the various changes when walls went up and walls came down. Many people will be able to tell stories and many memories will be shared. The one important element in it all is the driving spirit that continues to remain irrespective of the location. Whether one looks at the original auditorium/gymnasium or the old gym or the Rice Center, we continue to see students developing their athletic skills. Whether we think of the old chemistry laboratory at the west end of the first floor of the east-west wing or of a laboratory in Procopius Hall or in the Scholl Science Center or in the Birck Hall of Science, we continue to develop the minds of future scientists, health professionals and teachers. The spirit continues.

The old college motto of ‘Virtue and Knowledge,’ found on the covers of the old catalogs, is lived in the hearts of the students of the 21st century as it did in the hearts of those who first occupied Benedictine Hall in 1901. We move into the future with our one desire “that God may be glorified in all things.” †
Do you watch for ‘strange things’ hanging from ceilings? Do you ever ask about little doorways that seem to appear (and may now be screwed shut)? This is fundamentally a test for the curious!

1. The Music Department has soundproof practice rooms on the third floor north of the west end of the theater (accessible only by the back stairs). What was the function of the long tables with individual drawers located in that area?

2. On the fourth floor, extreme north end of Benedictine Hall, is a small door with a padlock on it. One can easily peek in through the screen on this door. In the past (prior to 1950) what was the function of this room?

3. There is still a water tank in Benedictine Hall. Can you identify its location?

4. If you stood at the entrance to Health Services (north door) and looked up to your left, you would see a small “shed” attached to Benedictine Hall. What is/was the function of this addition to the building?

5. While you are standing looking at the entrance to the Health Service, can you explain the reason for the beautiful stonework at this doorway? You need to think back to the 1950s.

6. Where did college men sleep prior to the opening of Jaeger Hall?

7. In the 1950s, where did the “rector” of both college and high school have his office?

8. Where was the original Procopian News room, the place where the newspaper editors and writers produced the paper that covered both college and high school news prior to 1956?

9. What was the original use of what is now known as Ben Central?

10. At one time there were three bells on the roof of Benedictine Hall. Can you identify where the bell ropes were available for the bell-ringer?

*Prizes to top winners will be distributed through the alumni office.

Send your answers to jnelligan@ben.edu. Answers will be published in the next issue.

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

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**Benedictine Community Members Salute Benedictine Hall**

(From top to bottom)

1. Coach John Ostrowski, M.S., Head Baseball Coach
2. Wayne Wesolowski, C67, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry
3. Alice Sima, C83, M.B.A., ’87, M.S.N.,R.A., Director of Pre-Professional Health Programs
4. Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., C58, Assistant to the Provost
5. Nona Jones, M.B.A., M.A.T., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Marketing
6. John Mickus, Ph.D.; Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
7. Abbot Dismas Kalcic, O.S.B., C57, Chancellor of Benedictine University
8. Bernard Toussaint, C55, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy
9. Alicia Tait, D.M.A., Associate Professor, Chair, Department of Fine and Performing Arts
10. Coach David Swanson, C76, M.S., Assistant Athletic Director, Baseball Coach
11. Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B., C54, Curator, Benedictine University Art Collection
Get a piece of Benedictine Hall History: “Centennial” Lithograph

A limited number of copies of the “Centennial” lithograph, by celebrated artist Franklin McMahon, are available through the alumni office for $300.

This beautiful, colored 32” x 24” lithograph depicts Benedictine Hall on its 100th birthday. Also pictured are the Krasa Center and the Neff Farmhouse. There were only 300 printed and each one is numbered.

To purchase this lithograph of the building that holds so many memories for so many people, contact the alumni office at (630) 829-6080 or dsmith@ben.edu.

Abbot Honors Martha Duda

Chancellor of Benedictine University, Abbot Dismas Kalcic, O.S.B., presents a recognition plaque to Martha Duda. The plaque will be placed at a new walkway at the Ave Maria Shrine. Thanks to generous donations and pledges totaling $35,000 from Duda, the Shrine was refurbished and a new walkway and landscaping will be made possible. The gifts were made by Duda, in honor of her sister, Mary Duda. Duda’s nephew Dr. Ralph Duda, is an alumnus of Benedictine and a practicing physician in Springfield, Missouri. (Voices had incorrectly acknowledged Ms. Duda as “Ms. Duba” in the previous issue. We regret the error.)

If everyone made a gift, it would really add up to something.

Working together, we can achieve the goal of keeping the Benedictine Experience alive and prospering.

Your financial donations are deeply valued, as are your gifts of time and talent. To learn more, contact the Office of Advancement, (630) 829-6366.

Giving Makes the Difference.
Alumni Board of Directors

The Alumni Board of Directors meets quarterly and works to keep Benedictine alumni connected to their school. Currently, there are open positions on the Board. Excited, positive alumni are wanted to fill these positions. This is not a large time commitment and is an excellent way to stay involved with your alma mater. Interested and want more information? Call Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077.

Alumni Discount for Cybercamps

Cybercamps offer cutting-edge technology programs for 7-16 year olds at leading university campuses each summer, and will once again host their weeklong camps for five consecutive weeks at Benedictine University. Both day and residential programs are being offered. As part of their community outreach, Cybercamps is offering a $50 discount for alumni children and grandchildren to attend the program at Benedictine, or any of their 47 other university locations across the country. Visit www.cybercamps.com to learn more, or call toll-free (888) 904-2267 and speak with one of their knowledgeable camp consultants. Don’t delay, summer registration is now open and classes are filling quickly.

E-Mail Addresses

The alumni office would like to utilize e-mail to keep you informed of Benedictine happenings. Please forward your preferred e-mail address to dsmith@ben.edu and look for our informative messages.

President’s Invitational Golf Outing

The 9th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing is approaching — Monday, July 21. We are looking for all alumni — golfers or not. If you are a golfer — get a team together and compete for the coveted Alumni Cup proudly displayed at the University. Don’t wait too long to get your foursome registered, this event sells out fast. If you aren’t a golfer — we still need you to volunteer the day of the event. You could be a hole watcher chatting with the golfers and the first to see the hole-in-one winner, or man a beverage station keeping the golfers hydrated and happy. The possibilities are endless. If you are interested in spending a lovely summer day at Cress Creek Country Club in Naperville, phone the alumni office today.

For information on any of these alumni matters, please contact Debbie Smith, assistant alumni relations director, at (630) 829-6080 or dsmith@ben.edu.†

Benedictine Alumna Gives From The Heart

When asked to give a charitable donation, the immediate thought is to pull out a checkbook. When alumna Bridget Wickert, C97, computer science, donates, she gives from her generous heart as well. Wickert, a computer consultant with SoftLink, Inc., has traveled to rural Romania two times in the last year through the organization Global Volunteers.

Her visits bring care and compassion to at-risk infants and toddlers at a small, under funded hospital in the Romanian village of Tutova. The children live in a ‘failure to thrive’ clinic, and volunteers work with approximately 10 children from 11 to 18 months of age.

“There is always a desire to help those less fortunate than oneself,” Wickert reflects. She credits her thinking to her family influence and experiences at Benedictine University. “The experience, at Global Volunteers, helped me realize that we [those from other cultures and countries] are more alike than we are different,” she avows.

Although Wickert’s volunteer experiences are only three weeks in length at each visit, she feels that she truly makes a difference in the lives of the children. She is anxious to go back to Romania and will do so as soon as she can save the necessary funding.

Wickert is living in the Benedictine spirit of giving back and finding great joy in her endeavors.†
Q & A With Coach Cally

Voices recently contacted Bill Callahan, C78, to get his perspectives as the first-year head coach of the Oakland Raiders and his experiences with taking his team to the Super Bowl. ‘Coach Cally,’ as his team calls him, had some interesting insights.

Voices: 
Tell us a little about your Super Bowl experiences. How did it feel to be there?

Coach Cally: 
This was truly an experience of a lifetime, seeing how many of my goals and life dreams came true. I always wanted to lead a team and be responsible for a group of men. I had this opportunity and was proud of the fact that I could do this for the first time in 20 years. Most people who watched the game on television can understand that there is a great deal of “surrounding activities” and a head coach has to keep his mind on all his players and maintaining a focus on the game.

One element that people do not see or experience, although it would be great if they could, is the enormity of the media. I had to be highly focused as I faced more than 250 members of the media at daily press conferences. The international pool of reporters is a challenge as they come from all over the world — for example Japan, Mexico, European countries — and they all want “scoops” for their papers. This was intense as they all kept asking questions and one had to think rapidly and give correct answers. Keeping in mind anything said would be quoted!

Voices: 
Did your time at Benedictine help you get to where you are now?

Coach Cally: 
Coach Marvin Carlson gave me the model of a competent and caring coach. Fr. David Turner challenged me educationally and helped me develop the strong analytical approach that I bring to the game. I was always encouraged to do the best job I could do, and this has carried me through the many experiences I have had on a high school, university and now professional level as a football coach. My “playbooks” and other “notebooks” seem to be a focus when sportswriters describe my work. All this had its start at IBC [now Benedictine] along with the opportunities I had to watch films of other teams and do analysis of their approaches to the game.

Voices: 
Your alma mater is very proud of your accomplishments and how well you hold yourself in the public eye. Do you have any advice for students today on how to follow in your footsteps in terms of successfully reaching their goals and holding themselves well?

Coach Cally: 
My first bit of advice is “Be your BEST self.” Develop an attitude of respect for other people, even for people who may act in such a way as not to deserve respect. But more importantly, always have a strong spirit of gratitude. While I may have worked very hard along the way, there were always teachers, mentors — and now — owners, who make it possible for a person to see dreams become realities.

Voices: 
What is your most vivid memory of your time at Benedictine?

Coach Cally: 
We had a spirit of making the very best out of the experiences we had. My friends and I never seemed to fall into having “pity parties” as some might call the activity. Yes, we were Division III, but that did not prevent us from playing the best games we could play, setting the records that we could set. The college had that great spirit and attitude of providing good experiences for us. I will be forever grateful. ♠
Come on Safari with Steve

Steve Grobl, C81, is an alum with many close connections to his alma mater. He is a President’s Associate and contributed to the Benedictine 2000 Capital Campaign, naming a study room in the library. In addition, he employs an alum, Patti (Kiss) Marchese, C83. Now, he wants to connect clients from his real estate business, Steve Grobl Real Estate, with the University.

Steve hosted a brunch event for more than 200 real estate clients on Sunday, March 16, in the Jurica Nature Museum. ‘Safari with Steve’ benefited Benedictine University with increased exposure to the community while providing clients to a very unique experience that builds loyalty to his business. In appreciation for use of Jurica, Grobl made a donation to Fr. Theodore Suchy, O.S.B., to help him frame 21 sketches made by the Jurica brothers that will hang around the outside of the Museum.

The number one purpose of the brunch is customer appreciation. Grobl’s philosophy of doing business is to invest in his clients and show his appreciation for their business in a unique way. The venue of the Jurica Museum appeals to the variety of clients he has, empty nesters, couples new to the area and families with children. All found the brunch event educational and entertaining.

“Coming up with a novel idea and carrying that idea through to reality shows a level of commitment and perseverance that mirrors what we do during a buy or sell transaction with our clients,” commented Grobl.

He credits his education at Benedictine with giving him success in his professional life. This pride in his alma mater is why he wanted to share the Jurica Museum with his clients. “The University allowed me to be creative and to try things out. The small class size and the close contact with professors expand your horizons, while encouraging adaptation and experimentation. In real estate you must be flexible, be able to adapt, to think on your own and on the spot.”

New Officer Trio to Lead Alumni Association

The newest slate of officers for the Benedictine University Alumni Board of Directors is now in place for 2003-2005: President is Susan (Udelhofen) Ross, C79; Vice President is Joan Henchen, C91; and Secretary/Treasurer is Patrice Kucia, C91/96. The new executive team, leading a board of 24 members, would like to bring the Alumni Association in closer alliance with entities of the University to support common goals.

Starting with the new term, the Board of Directors will be utilizing its recently updated by-laws. In that guiding document, the purpose of Alumni Association has been defined as follows: “To support the University’s objectives by collaborating on projects and activities that involve our collective and individual financial contributions, our talents and skills and our time and presence.”

The officers envision Board members connecting with areas of the University where they can make a positive and meaningful difference influencing students, partnering with faculty and staff and carrying the Benedictine identity into the external community, all while yielding benefits for alumni themselves. “The Board is planning to focus on opportunities for alumni representatives to participate in causes that support the University, which in turn enable them to network with each other for their own personal and professional fulfillment,” Ross said. “What we’re working toward is an energized Board of Directors to lead the way for an expanded presence of the Alumni Association on and off campus.”

The Alumni Association’s history of dedicated service sets the stage for a continuing but renewed role. The new officers hope to bring the Board in sync with the evolving needs and interests of various aspects of the University’s extended family, so that the Alumni Association brings relevant value to the school and to its own members.
Great Speakers Inspire at Annual King Day Breakfast

by Phil Brozynski

Arlander Keys, United States presiding magistrate judge for the Northern district of Illinois, told several hundred people gathered in the main dining room of the Krasa Center on January 20 about growing up in racially-divided Mississippi during the 1950s and how he was profoundly influenced by the civil rights movement.

Keys and Brigadier General Sherian Grace Cadoria (U.S. Army, Retired) were the keynote speakers for the eighth annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast sponsored by Benedictine University, the College of DuPage, NICOR, TECHSERV and The Northern Trust Company.

Keys talked about the murder of 14-year-old Emmet Till, who was dragged from his bed and killed and whose body was dumped in a river after he allegedly whistled at a white man’s wife in Money, Mississippi, during the summer of 1955. Till’s attackers were later acquitted by an all-white jury.

“Imagine what a profound impact this terrible event would have on a 12-year-old African-American boy only two years younger than Emmet,” said Keys, who grew up about 40 miles from where Till was murdered. “I remember the fear and rage through the African-American community.”

Keys, who lived with his grandparents in Mississippi, was later sent to a boarding school in Alabama for his own safety. He recalled participating in sit-ins and other civil rights demonstrations and that he admired King’s courage to fight the injustices and inequalities facing the black community.

Keys was joined by Cadoria, the highest ranking female officer in the United States Armed Forces when she retired from the Army in 1990. Cadoria is a much sought after keynote and motivational speaker because of her sense of humor and long list of personal achievements. She holds an honorary doctorate from Benedictine University.

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The breakfast also featured entertainment provided by the College of DuPage Chamber Singers and a presentation of scholarships and recognition of King Day poetry contest winners. †
Political Commentator and Author

Tavis Smiley Motivates Crowd

by Phil Brozynski

Tavis Smiley said the goal of an advocate is simple… “The goal of an advocate is to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable.”

Smiley — author, former talk show host and current radio political commentator — appeared at Benedictine University on February 22 as part of the University’s celebration of Black History Month. Nicor sponsored his visit.

Smiley spoke to about 40 students, faculty and community members in the Krasa Center Presentation Room prior to his speech in the Dan and Ada Rice Center in front of about 400 people.

He told the small gathering of students that college was not all about committing algebra, physics and other information to memory.

“About half of what you learn you will never use again,” he said. “College is about learning to think critically, about learning how to navigate life. That will always come in handy.”

Later in his presentation, Smiley said that each person can be great and that greatness is not about being served or being held in high esteem.

“Martin Luther King said that any of us can be great because all of us can serve,” Smiley said. “We think the way to be great is to be served. The way to be great is by being of service to others.”

An exhibit featuring photographs of the Civil Rights Movement by Ernest C. Withers was displayed February 21-23 in the Kindlon Hall of Learning at Benedictine University as part of the school’s celebration of Black History Month.

The display, sponsored by the Northern Trust Company, is part of a national traveling exhibition.

Withers has been a photographer for more than 60 years and still maintains a studio on Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee. He documented the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, as well as the southern entertainment and social scenes.

Well known and trusted by civil rights activists such as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers and James Meredith, Withers gained a unique view of the people and events that altered the course of American history. Because of his intimacy with his subjects, Withers was often the first and sometimes only photographer to capture rare moments as they unfolded.

Withers also published a booklet of the infamous Emmet Till murder trial, “Complete Photo History of the Till Murder Case,” which mobilized interest in the southern Civil Rights movement throughout the United States.
## Continuous Quality Improvement Is Key

### Benedictine Accepted as AQIP Institution

Benedictine University has been formally accepted as an Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP) Institution as of February 10. This is a new and exciting way for the University to set and meet goals for improvement.

By joining AQIP, Benedictine University demonstrates a willingness to identify concrete targets for continuous improvement and to hold itself accountable for re-engineering processes and operations to improve the results and activities for itself and its students.

Benedictine President William Carroll has signed the agreement for participation in the Academic Quality Improvement Project, which formalizes the relationship and provides the University with NCA accreditation over the next seven years until the next reaffirmation of accreditation in 2009-10. As an AQIP institution, Benedictine will continue to be involved in the quality improvement efforts that began in the fall.

Presently, the University has five action project committees in place that include members of the University Council. Each committee is charged with addressing the following action projects:

- Maximize margins while maintaining a Benedictine balance.
- Improve the graduation rate of all student groups.
- Create a collaborative community through systems of shared governance.
- Implement: Benedictine University — a Catholic University in Benedictine tradition.
- Implement: Values-centered Liberal Arts Education enriched by our excellence in the sciences.

Moving beyond the boundaries of traditional accreditation, the AQIP model is designed to align accreditation with an institution’s program of continuous quality improvement in order to meet the rapidly shifting needs of educational institutions in the 21st century.

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### Alumnus Jim Ryan Named First Distinguished Fellow at Benedictine

Former Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan, C68, has been named a Distinguished Fellow at his alma mater. As a Distinguished Fellow, Ryan will interact with students, faculty, public and private institutions, government agencies and ordinary citizens on behalf of the University.

“The professors at Benedictine University stimulated my interest in politics and government,” Ryan said. “I had a great experience at Benedictine and want to give something back to the school that has done so much for me.”

“I would like to use the experience I have gained during my 30-year career in law, politics and government to assist the University in preparing students to be responsible citizens and leaders,” he added.

Distinguished Fellows are top-level public service or government professionals who utilize the practical experience gained from their public service to assist the University in fulfilling its mission.

They work with faculty and students as resource persons in the delivery of educational programs, and serve as liaisons between the University and other institutions and agencies.

“We are very honored to have Jim in the classroom at Benedictine,” Carroll said. “He will share his vast knowledge through programs that will benefit the University and the community at large.”

Ryan was elected Attorney General in 1994 after gaining attention as one of Illinois’ most successful prosecutors during his 10-year tenure as DuPage County state’s attorney. He won re-election as Attorney General in 1998 by more than 2 million votes.

Ryan and his wife, Marie, live in Elmhurst. 

Spring 2003
ACCA Bioterrorism Seminar Generates Community Interest

The biology section of the Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area (ACCA) hosted a 10-week seminar series at Benedictine University this spring on Bioterrorism. The subject was especially timely as it started the week of the national “orange level” alert for terrorism in February. Margaret O’Leary (M.B.A. Programs and Task Force Chair of the Suburban Emergency Management Project) started off the series with a historical perspective of bioterrorism leading to a discussion of the current situation today. Other topics covered were the biological effects of several biological and chemical agents that are considered to be most likely to be used by terrorists, detection of these agents, the types of basic research currently being done on these agents, concerns of the food industry and the agricultural community, the epidemiology and investigation of a bioterrorism incident, and the local, statewide and national response plans for such an incident. Speakers included local microbiologists, researchers from Argonne National Laboratory and University of Illinois Chicago Biodefense Center and officials from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The ACCA consortium is composed of 15 of the smaller liberal arts institutions in the Chicago area, which cooperate together to present courses, seminars and symposia that could not be offered as individual curricula. It was formed 37 years ago in cooperation with Argonne National Laboratory to promote college-level education and training in biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics and physics. A major activity of ACCA is an annual student research symposium, a forum for undergraduate research.

Students from all of the ACCA schools can take these seminars for biology credit. Typically, the fall seminar series is ecologically or environmentally oriented and the spring series is more cell biology in nature. The seminars are designed to expose students to the current thinking presented by experts in the field on topics such as invasive species, biorhythms, the Chicago watershed, special topics in virology, immunology and micro biology and current issues in biomedical ethics.

These seminar series are open to the public. For more information, visit the ACCA Web site at www.ben.edu/acca/acca_biology.html.

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Fast Facts

After a year hiatus, the Master of Exercise Physiology program has returned in a new form to Benedictine University. The new program reflects the need for a more clinical approach to exercise physiology. The new name of the program, Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology (M.C.E.P.) is indicative of this change. The revisions were made with the help of an advisory committee composed of members of the exercise physiology community, many of them practicing graduates of the former program. This two-year, part-time program is designed in accordance with the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) for certification as a Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist. Graduates of this program will be qualified to work in the prevention of cardiovascular disease and in the rehabilitation of those who have experienced cardiovascular problems.

The M.C.E.P. program requires coursework in the biological bases of cardiovascular and respiratory disease. It uses a case study approach in combination with laboratories to better integrate academic information with practical application. It also requires two internships for further application of learned concepts in the workplace setting. Students are exposed to the latest information from the natural sciences through graduate-level courses in physiology, pathophysiology, biochemistry, pharmacology and nutrition. Specialized intergenerational needs are addressed. The mind and spirit are addressed in courses such as behavioral modification and stress management. Other courses assist the students in program development and administration and expose students to complementary health care options. The ethics of health care administration and research are also addressed.

Master’s program graduates are found in leadership roles in a variety of professional settings including hospitals, independent rehabilitation programs, agencies, schools, corporations and health clubs. The program also provides an educational background for those who wish to pursue further study at the Ph.D. or M.D. level. For further information, visit http://www.ben.edu/Academics/CAS/parch/index.html or contact Allison Wilson at (630) 829-6520.
Benedictine University Welcomes Partnership With Springfield College in Illinois

Benedictine University has formed a partnership with Springfield College in Illinois (SCI), located in the state’s capital. The partnership was formed to take SCI under Benedictine’s wing and to offer programs and services to the Springfield area. It will also move the two institutions toward a merger, following the guidelines of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the U.S. Department of Education.

“This strategic alliance between SCI and Benedictine University transforms Benedictine University into a regional university,” said William Carroll, Benedictine president. “I am firmly convinced that alliances such as ours, which make each of us a stronger and more viable institution and will ensure our success and longevity, is the future of higher education.”

Upon approval by the appropriate governing agencies, junior and senior level adult accelerated programs and graduate programs will be offered at SCI. Junior and senior level programs for traditional undergraduate students will be developed for courses leading to a bachelor’s degree on the campus as well.

Meanwhile, SCI will continue to operate as a two-year college. The campus will maintain its Catholic identity as well as its liberal arts heritage and traditions. The College will remain a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II and continue to offer its full athletic program of seven sports.

SCI is a two-year liberal arts college founded in 1929 by Catholic Ursuline Sisters and the first institution of higher learning in Springfield.

Alumni Get Together In Naples

An alumni reception was held on January 4 in Naples, Florida for area alumni. Fr. David Turner, O.S.B, and Vice President of Advancement, Mike Wall, went to the event, along with 20 alumni. Pictured (from left) are: Leo Ochs, C77; Deborah Ochs; Fr. David Turner, O.S.B.; LaVeme Iaffaldano and Richard Iaffaldano, C55.

Class of ‘59
Jaroslav K. Richter, Biology, is the chief of the Department of Urology at the Guam Memorial Hospital, regional navy hospital. Richter resides in Tamuning, Guam.

Class of ‘63
Dominic Castino, Literature, produces and performs in productions at Goodshow Productions in Minnesota.

Class of ‘65
Terence M. Burns, Social Science, continued his education and earned a Master in Social Work degree in 2001 and a Master in Public Administration degree in 2002 from Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI. He is currently enrolled in their Master of Criminal Justice program. He is working for Multi-Cultural Counseling Services as a therapist/program counselor. Burns resides in Saugatuck, MI.

Class of ‘67
Thomas G. Ebel, Philosophy, has recently retired after more than 21 years as a trial judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit of Illinois. During his tenure, he presided in criminal, civil, equity, juvenile, family and traffic courts. Ebel resides in Peoria with his wife, Sandra, and their son, Dominic.

Class of ‘71
Dennis Motyka, Political Science, was recently named senior vice president and director of banking centers for Cole Taylor Banks.

Class of ‘72
Mary Gubbe Lee, Sociology, was featured in the October 10, 2002, issue of the Rockford Register Star. Readers learned of Lee’s many accomplishments in the “Get to Know Me” column of the newspaper.

Class of ‘76
David Fischer, Psychology, was invited to speak at a training session for the Chicago Police Department’s Organized Crime Division. Fischer is in his 18th year of service in the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office and is
**Golf Trip To Scotland**

An alumni golf trip is being planned to Scotland, in conjunction with the British Open, for the summer of 2004! More details will follow. Call the Office of Alumni Relations at (630) 829-6077 for more information.

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assigned to the Narcotics Nuisance Abatement Unit. He and his wife, Linda, along with their five children, reside in Chicago.

**Class of ‘80**

Terry K. Cahill, Sociology, was promoted to Colonel, United States Marine Corps Reserve, in December 2002. Cahill also is a sergeant in the Dallas Police Department. He and his wife, Diane, reside in Garland, TX.

Bill Gleeson, Physical Education, is a history/physical education teacher and head track coach at Brother Rice High School in Oak Lawn. He is also the football coach for St. Xavier University. He and his wife, Mary Joan, have a son, Thomas John, and a baby due in August. The family resides in Oak Lawn.

James J. Kocak, Physical Education, is a senior professional health care representative with Pfizer. Kocak and his wife, Julia, have three children and live in Valparaiso, IN.

**Class of ‘81**

Petra V. Contreras, Political Science, currently is serving as the deputy inspector general for the 49th Armored Division in the Texas National Guard. He is also a senior special investigator for Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.

**Class of ‘84**

Ann S. Barker, Psychology, received the 2001 June Bucy Award for Excellence in Leadership of Youth Service Agency from the Texas Network of Youth Services. Barker is the executive director of the Montgomery County Youth Services. She and her husband, Lynn, reside in Conroe, TX with their children, Kara and Kevin.

**Class of ‘88**

Jeff McShane, Business & Economics, was recently promoted to director of sales for Kaltron-Pettibone, a Chicago based specialty chemical distributor. McShane is a member of the Chicago Drug and Chemical Association, The Institute of Food Technologists and the American Chemical Society. He resides in Carol Stream with his wife and their two children.

Paul Toussaint, M.D., Mathematics, was recently named chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Rehabilitation Medical Center. He and his wife, Veronica, reside in Glenview, IL.

**Class of ‘90**

Brian Butler, International Business & Economics, is currently working for the Chamberlain Group. He and his wife, Ana, reside in Hoffman Estates with their soon to be, two children.

**Class of ‘91**

Ursula Bielski, History, was recently featured in the Chicago Tribune Magazine. The article was entitled “Telling Moments” about five Chicagoans recalling some lesser-known people and places that helped to define Chicago. Bielski’s book “Chicago Haunts” discussed the inhabitants of Roschill Cemetery.

**Class of ‘93**

Andreas Papakostas, Physical Education, works as the clinical director of West Suburban Health Park. He and his wife, Lauren, have two boys, Mateo and Marcos, and reside in Plainfield.

Ed Romero, International Business, recently made President’s Club (2002) in his job as sales manager for Comark. He and his wife, Kristina, have a daughter, Karley, and a baby born this spring. The family resides in Barlett.

Anthony Schultz, M.D., Health Science, successfully completed his board certification in Emergency Medicine in 2001. He recently returned from a six-month tour as an emergency physician in the Middle East. He is an emergency medicine physician for the U.S. Army stationed in Ft. Riley, KS, at Irwin Army Hospital.

**Class of ‘96**

Andrea Ahlsen, M.S.M.O.B., has recently accepted a position as manager of Distance Learning for Waubonsee Community College. Additionally, she earned a master of arts degree from National-Louis University in Adult Education. She resides in Batavia with Frank Mall.

**Class of ‘98**

Michael McCarthy, M.D., Biochemistry, is currently a surgical resident at Midwestern University. He resides in Schererville, IN.

**Class of ‘99**

Chris Murphy, Accounting, works as a financial auditor/consultant for McGladrey & Pullen, LLP. He resides in Chicago.

**Class of ‘00**


John J. Cabral, History, is currently the assistant principal at Benjamin A. Friedman Middle School. He earned a master of education degree from Cambridge College in 2000 and is completing a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) in Educational Leadership and Management from Fitchburg State College this spring. He and his wife, Cristina, reside in Fall River, MA.

“‘There’s a picture in the Annual Report [Voices, Winter 2003] that you are asking be identified. There’s a great looking guy in the middle of the picture, so it caught my attention!”

From left to right: Phil Horvath, C69, Mike Gormley, C69, Bob Enderle, C69, Ron Greco (glasses), C69 and Russ Bulis, C69 (now deceased).

“In fact, right over my head is Mike’s wife, Karen (dark outfit) and to her right is the profile of my wife, Barbara, (I believe).” ✝

Submitted by: Bob Enderle, C69
Let us know . . .

If you know where any of the following alumni are, please contact the alumni office at (630) 829-6080 or alumni@ben.edu.

Class of 1999

Mr. Mohamed S. Alsalahi  Mr. Peter L. Cosme  Mr. Joel P. Elliston  Ms. Jamie L. Fornek  Ms. Heidi Frey  Mr. Wasay Humayun  Ms. Elaine M. (Miller) Johnsrud  Mr. Rudolph W. Kellerman  Mr. K. Todd Keylock  Ms. Tamara A. Kowalski  Ms. Jennifer L. Lopez  Mr. Phil E. McGee  Mr. Michael P. McKenna  Mr. Christopher M. Murphy  Ms. Lorene A. (Husa) O’Connell  Ms. Susan M. (Koppenhaver) Pasakarnis  Ms. Gloria Pavlovic  Mr. John J. Perron  Ms. Sara J. Polaski  Mr. Walter R. Pynas  Ms. Donna J. (Seplak) Ristoff  Ms. Stephanie M. Sabin  Mr. Marc Schuett  Ms. Sanjay K. Srivastava  Ms. Isabell Stephan  Ms. Melissa A. Wojtecki

Missing alumni

Class of '01

Catherine (Rhodes) Jaeger, Language/Literature, is working as a high school English teacher in District 94. She is pursuing a Master of Library Science degree at Dominican University. Jaeger and her husband, William, reside in Naperville.

Monika Maciag, Biology, was one of two Benedictine students who received the Chicago Health Executives Forum (CHEF) Future Leader Student Award. She also volunteers at Good Samaritan Hospital and is president of the MPH Academic Club at Benedictine University while working on her graduate degree. The other recipient was Meena Veluri, M.D., current M.P.H. student. Veluri currently volunteers at Medical College of Wisconsin and has worked as an extern at Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital. She is also a member of the M.P.H. Academic Club of Benedictine University. This was the first time Benedictine students have received this award.

Marriages

Sally (Lundgren) Jensen, M.S.M.O.B. '99, was recently married to Jeffrey Jensen. They are at home in Aurora, CO.

Amy Noel (Klodzinski) Levy, Elementary Education '95, was married in July 2002 to Jacob Levy. She also earned her Master of Education degree in Special Education from Loyola in December 1999. The Levys reside in Hartsburg, MS.

Jennifer M. (Damratowski) Lubinski, Social Science '99, was married to Art Lubinski in November 2002. They reside in Orland Park where she is a social worker at Palos Community Hospital.

Jennifer Schindl, M.C.P. '98, was married in November 2002 in Nassau, Bahamas to John Hanson. They reside in Chicago.

Births

Heather (Matusiak) Baranivsky, Marketing '96, and Gregory Baranivsky, Finance '94, announce the birth of their daughter, Anastasia Maria, in September 2002. The family is at home in Minneapolis where he works for U.S. Bancorp Asset Management as managing director of the Product Group and she is a buyer for Target Corporation.

Eileen (Cibula) Curry, Elementary Education '82, and her husband, Ken, announce the birth of a baby girl in August of 2002. They are at home in LaGrange Park.

Deana (Kozak) Gelino, Business & Economics '93, and David Gelino, Accounting '90, announce the birth of triplet boys: Nicholas, Jeremy and Trevor. They welcomed the boys in November.

Keep In Touch

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

First Name  Middle/Maiden  Last Name  Major  Class Year

Address  City  State  Zip

Home Phone  E-mail Address

Your Title/Company Name  Work Phone

Job Description

Spouse’s Name  Major  Class Year

Tell my classmates that . . .

Please clip and mail to: Debbie Smith, Benedictine University Alumni Office 5700 College Road Lisle, Illinois 60532

or fax to (630) 829-6313 or e-mail alumni@ben.edu

Spring 2003
Lisa Natalie Hauser, Accounting ’89, and her husband, Richard, announce the birth of their twin sons, Anthony and Richard, in April 2002. Big sister, Elena, welcomed the boys to their Darien home.

Kimberly (Pisanschil) Johnson, M.C.P. ’99, and her husband, Rudy, announce the birth of their first son, Griffin Patrick, on New Years Day 2003. The family is at home in West Chicago.

Jim Norris, Psychology ’81, and his wife, Eileen, announce the birth of their daughter, Katherine, in November 2002. Her siblings Michelle, Christian and Benjamin, welcomed her to their Half Moon Bay, CA, home. Norris is the head of the Sea Crest School in Half Moon Bay.

Sharon (Daniels) Novack, Business & Economics ’93, and her husband, Mike, announce the birth of their first daughter, Jordyn Elizabeth, on New Years Eve 2002. The family is at home in Oswego, IL.

Elizabeth (Pelletier) Schwarz, Philosophy ’91, and her husband, Dave, announce the birth of their daughter, Rachel Renee, in February 2002. Big sister, Claire, welcomed home her sister to their Davenport, IA home.

Dr. Germaine (Rodeo) Yang, Biology ’95, and her husband, Patrick, announce the birth of Stephanie Ann in November 2002. The family resides in Elmhurst.

† in memory


Mary Patricia “Mary Pat” Lappe, Sociology ’90, passed away on March 7, 2003.


Don Stuprich, ’50 St. Procopius Academy, passed away on December 28, 2002. †

Jane Boumgarden (Psychology and Sociology) and Thomas Wanger (Mathematics and Physical Sciences) have been recognized for educational excellence in Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers 2002.

Jane Crabtree, Ph.D. (Business) presented the paper “You Can’t Go Home Again: Repatriation Failures and Successes” at the Institute of Behavioral and Applied Management conference in Denver, CO, November 12-15.

Mark Djordjevic (Music) presented a recital on the viola on February 28 in the Benedictine Hall Theater.

Kevin Doyle (Computer Science) has been approved for candidacy on the J. William Fulbright Senior Specialists Roster. The roster is a list of all approved candidates who are eligible to be matched with incoming program requests from overseas academic institutions for Fulbright Senior Specialists.

Fr. James Flint, O.S.B. (History, Philosophy and Religious Studies) will soon have his dissertation, “Great Britain and the Holy See: The Diplomatic Relations Question, 1946-1952” published in book form. Fr. James, who is also the University archivist and historian, examines the political, economic and religious problems that prevented the establishment of relations between Great Britain and Pope Pius IX.

Mardelle Fortier, Ph.D. (Literature) has been selected as the new president of the Illinois State Poetry Society. She will start her position in June 2003. Fortier served as president of this society for a two-year term in 1999-2001.

Beth House (Fine Arts) exhibited two works at “Exploration,” the 17th annual juried exhibition of the Chicago Calligraphy Collective held at the Newberry Library. The exhibition ran from January 22 to March 8.

Jim Iaccino, Ph.D. (Psychology and Sociology) wrote an article, “The Shadow Trickster in Italian Horror Cinema: Mario Bava’s Baron Blood (1972) and Lisa and the Devil (1972),” that was published in November in Kino-eye: A Fortnightly Journal of Film in the New Europe. The article is also up at the Web site www.kinoeye.org.

Larry Kamin (Biology) recently earned a master’s degree in Economics from Roosevelt University.

John Kloos (Religious Studies) presented “Chicago, Hub of the World’s Religions” on January 3, 2003 to the American Society of Church History, the American Catholic Historical Association and the American Historical Association meeting jointly at the Palmer House.

Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B. (Fine Arts) gave an illustrated lecture on the spiritual meaning of modern art at the Rubloff Auditorium of the Art Institute of Chicago. Fr. Michael also presented an hour-long photographic slide presentation on the Annunciation on February 26 at St. Joseph Church in Downers Grove. Fr. Michael revealed the religious meanings of the figures, objects and settings in five famous paintings commemorating the conception of Christ in the womb of the Virgin Mary as described in the first chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke.

Alfred Martin (Biology) was the guest speaker at a luncheon on February 6 at Knox Presbyterian Church. Martin spoke on the topic, “Should a Christian Believe in Evolution?”

Diane Moran (Psychology) and Amy Wapinski, a senior psychology student, presented a poster entitled “Stop Procrastination... It’s Time for Change: A Cooperative Approach to Behavior Modification” at the Mid-America Conference for Teachers of Psychology (MACTOP) October 11-12 at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. The poster was awarded first place and is automatically accepted for the American Psychological Association’s National Conference in 2003.

Dr. Pete Nelson, Ph.D. (Mathematical and Physical Sciences) was published in the December 22 issue of the Journal of Chemical Physics. His article, entitled “A permeation theory for single-file ion channels: Corresponding occupancy states produce Michaelis–Menten behavior,” proposes a simplified theory for the basic functioning of biological ion channels. Ion channels are the electrical enzymes that run the nervous system. These enzymes are the targets of roughly a third of all drugs. This topic was discussed in BIOL/PHYS 323, which Nelson taught this spring. This research was funded by a National Institutes of Health fellowship and a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The article is available online at http://link.aip.org/link/?jcp/117/11396.

Dan Nohl (Computer Science) took four teams of Benedictine University computer science students to the 16th Annual Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area (ACCA) Programming Contest at Wheaton College. The advanced team of Tom MacKenzie, Grace Nijn, Larry Pollack and Colleen Powers finished third. Eight teams from five ACCA schools competed in the advanced division and five teams competed in the novice division.


Peter Seeley, M.A. (Communication Arts) presented a paper entitled “Surrealistic Stoges: The Supernatural and the Extraordinary in Slapstick Comedy” on November 21 at Lewis University as part of that institution’s Arts and Ideas series. The paper represented the media literacy component of the series.

Alicia Cordoba Tait, D.M.A. (Music) performed with the Downers Grove Choral Society on
Benedictine University Honors Commitment and Service to Education

This year Ralph Meeker, professor of computer science, was the recipient of the Benedictine Life Award, for fostering a spirit of community, creating an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality and living the Benedictine values during his 33 years of service to the University. This is the highest honor Benedictine faculty/staff can receive. It was presented as part of Employee Recognition Day this past March.

Campus Community Loses One Of Its Biggest Fans

by Elizabeth Summers, C00

The Benedictine University community has suffered a great loss. Fr. Stanley Vesely, O.S.B., the senior monk of St. Procopius Abbey, died of congestive heart failure on January 11, 2003.

Fr. Stan, as he was affectionately known, was a very visible fixture at Benedictine University for the past 76 years. He began his association at the school as a high school student at Benet Academy in 1927 and professed his monastic vows in 1934. His service to the Benedictine University community included teaching religion and Latin, serving as the College’s athletic director and most recently working in the alumni office. The Benedictine University baseball field was named Vesely Field in 1994 in honor of his contributions to the University’s athletic programs.

Known on campus as the ‘Super Fan,’ he was a constant source of Benedictine University sports history. One could also count on Fr. Stan to cheer up the day with his enormous repertoire of jokes and puns.

Fr. Stan will be greatly missed by the many persons he touched over the last seven decades.

Fr. Stanley Vesely, O.S.B.

November 3. She was the oboe d’amore soloist in their performance of Johann Sebastian Bach’s “Christmas Oratorio” under the direction of Robert Holst, a former conductor of the Benedictine University Concert Chorus. She performed with the trio Arbitrio on January 11. The group performed the International Guest Artist Recital at the end of Bassoon Day at Ohio State University. She also performed with the Mozart Wind Quintet at the University of Illinois Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Urbana on January 26 at a Chamber Music Concert with other principal players of her Sinfonia da Camera, during a faculty recital with Arbitrio at Benedictine University on January 31, and two concerts with Sinfonia da Camera on February 8 and 9 in the Great Hall of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois – Champaign.

Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D. (Molecular Biology) presented “The Peptide LSARLAF Directly Induces a Conformation Change in the Platelet Integrin alphaIIibeta3” at the annual meeting for the American Society for Cell Biology during the week of December 14-19. Taylor’s research was supported by grants from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Abbott Laboratory Fund.

Lisa Townsley, Tim Comar and Mannohkan Kaur (Mathematics) attended the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Baltimore, MD on January 13-18. Townsley presented “Effective Student Presentations in a Liberal Arts Setting” at the MAA General Contributed Paper Session; Comar presented “Increasing Student Participation via Online Communication in Calculus Courses” at the MAA Session on Innovative Use of the World Wide Web in Teaching Mathematics, and “Visualizing the Construction of Hyperbolic Surfaces and Three-Manifolds using a CAS” at the MAA General Contributed Paper Session; and Kaur presented “Ternary Rings of Operators and C*–Algebras” at the AMS Special Session on Functional Analysis, “Use of the Computer Algebra System DERIVE in a Multivariable Calculus Course” at the MAA Session on Classroom Demonstrations and Course Projects that Make a Difference, and “DERIVE Labs to Aid Visualization in a Multivariable Calculus Course” at the MAA Session on Creative Visualization Labs. The latter talk was accepted, but not presented due to a time conflict. In addition, Comar attended workshops on “Visual Linear Algebra” and “Getting Students Involved in Undergraduate Research,” and Kaur attended “Project NExT Workshops.” Kaur also took a short course on “Public Key Cryptography.”

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Sabbaticals: Helping Professors Enrich Students and Themselves

Notes from Donald Taylor, professor, biological science

Much of molecular biology and medicine is evolving efforts to elucidate the structural information encoded in the Human Genome. One aspect of this growing area of study is called Bioinformatics (a rapidly evolving discipline which combines computational chemistry and structural biology in the post genomics era). The National Institutes of Health (NIH) have deemed this a significant priority in our attempt to use the information acquired from the Human Genome Project to ultimately provide a rationale for molecular based therapeutic interventions of human disease. The necessity to have technologies to investigate the genome evolved to the point that the NIH organized an institute called the National Center for Biotechnology Institute (NCBI), which is housed at NIH and is in charge of developing software and Web-based tools to study molecular biology.

During my sabbatical leave I took a series of workshops and short courses to better enable me to integrate these techniques in my courses. I have implemented several database and software tools in Bioinformatics in my BIOL 371 Molecular Biology course. I now offer a one-hour weekly laboratory session in which the students learn to explore genomes of organisms by using Web-based tutorials. Students are required to complete two research projects which use bioinformatics resources to see the potential for their application in modern genetic analyses. At the end of the laboratory course, I sponsor a student symposium where students give a poster presentation of one of their projects. Students are also required to give an oral presentation using PowerPoint.

In addition to the professional development work, I continued existing research collaborations with colleagues from other institutions of our work characterizing the mechanism of an integrin receptor activating peptide and the development of peptides with cytokine activity. Finally, I made peer-reviewed presentations at the 18th International Congress of the Society for Thrombosisis and Haemostasis in France, at the annual meetings of the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Society, the Experimental Biology/FASEB society and the National Council on Undergraduate Research conference. I also attended the annual program director’s meeting of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Sabbatical leave offers the faculty member a focused opportunity to obtain additional specialized training and career development that then allows them to bring these experiences into the classroom. In my case, the scholarly development that resulted from my sabbatical leave was a combination of completing ongoing research and initiating a project in a new area of investigation. The sabbatical leave is also a way to reinvigorate a faculty member.

Notes from Barbara Grabowski, professor, computer science and information systems

I am extremely grateful to the University; the College of Business, Technology and Professional Programs; the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (CS and IS); and my faculty colleagues for the opportunity for a sabbatical for the 2001-2002 academic year.

I had served as director of the M.S.M.I.S. Program since 1992 and chair of the CS and IS department since 1999. In these administrative roles, I taught just a few courses. I had come to the realization that I wanted to do more teaching.

To prepare to get back into the classroom, I set two goals for my sabbatical: first, to create Web-enhanced courses, and second, to create a new course.

I created WebCT courses for Computer Organization and Architecture, Knowledge-based Systems, Electronic Commerce and Application Development Methodologies. I am still working on a WebCT course for Strategic Information Technology Management.

I also worked on a new course titled Ethics and Technology and its WebCT companion. The first offering was during spring quarter 2003 as part of the Management of Information Technology Lecture Series.

I am very excited about Ethics and Technology. The M.S.M.I.S. Program has always been concerned about effectively and efficiently managing information technology. Ethics and Technology gives students an opportunity to grapple with social and ethical issues. Topics we examine include privacy and personal information, encryption, trust, freedom of speech, intellectual property and professional ethics and responsibilities. We also examine broader issues of computers and the changing nature of work and information have and have-nots.
Sports Complex Plan In The Works

Benedictine University will be the envy of the suburbs when a proposed sports complex comes to fruition. The Village of Lisle is working with the University to make a multi-purpose sports complex a reality.

The plans are to create a football, track and baseball facility that would be used by Benedictine students, Lisle High School and Benet Academy. Lights would be added to the football field, a stadium would be built with offices, locker rooms and seating for 5,750 people. The University baseball field would also get lights and bleachers with a capacity for 650 fans.

The plan calls for concessions, washrooms and more parking.

continued on page 36

Lynn O’Linski Heads University’s Athletic Department

Lynn O’Linski has been named the new athletic director at Benedictine University. O’Linski previously worked as athletic director and head softball coach at St. Xavier University in Chicago and director of operations-fastpitch softball at the Bulls/Sox Training Academy in Lisle.

O’Linski joined an elite group when she was named athletic director at Benedictine University. Fewer than 150 women nation-wide serve as the chief athletic administrator at an NCAA-member institution.

She served as athletic director at St. Xavier University from 1988 to 2000 where she supervised a staff of 35 coaches and administrators, monitored the academic

continued on page 36

Veteran Baseball Coach Ostrowski Inducted into Hall of Fame

Benedictine University baseball coach, John Ostrowski, was inducted into the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association (IHSBCA) Hall of Fame as part of a ceremony on February 1, 2003 at the Hickory Ridge Marriott Hotel in Lisle.

Ostrowski earned his 698th career victory during the 2002 season. He has a 30-year career record of 698-545-6, which places him 23rd among all active NCAA college coaches and 10th among Division III coaches.

“This honor truly humbles me,” Ostrowski said. “It makes me reflect on all the great student-athletes I’ve had the pleasure to work with.”

The Eagles have finished either first or second in the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) 27 times under Ostrowski and have made 12 post-season NCAA and NAIA tournament appearances. Ostrowski has had three players chosen in the major league draft and has coached four Division III All-Americans and 42 all-region players.

“I really enjoy small college athletics,” Ostrowski said. “You put the individual first and winning second in a Division III situation like we’re in.”

Several of Ostrowski’s former players have gone into coaching. Eight former players and assistant coaches have gone on to become head college coaches and many other former players and assistants have gone into high school coaching.

“It’s an unbelievable snowball effect,” Ostrowski said. “We have had several kids who have seen what coaches can do in the lives of others. It certainly is a labor of love.”
Lynn O’Linski is the new athletic director at Benedictine University.

academic status of 275 student-athletes, oversaw the planning and construction of a $12 million convocation and athletic center and implemented the addition of three varsity sports.

A 1976 graduate of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in Terra Haute, Indiana with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism and physical education, O’Linski earned a master of arts degree in education from St. Xavier. ✝

Sports Complex continued from page 35

as well. (For more details, see rendering on page 35.)

Once the project receives the green light necessary to proceed, the complex would take an estimated 12-18 months to complete.

The facility would not only heighten University athletics for students and fans, it would also be a prime host for regional and national sports events. ✝

**Eagle Basketball Achieves Program Milestone**

The Benedictine University men’s basketball team accomplished something this season that has never been done in the 63-year history of the program. The Eagles, under the direction of head coach Keith Bunkenburg, recorded their seventh consecutive winning season with a 14-13 overall record.

The Eagles strung together six consecutive winning seasons from 1976 to 1981 and five consecutive winning seasons from 1963 to 1967. Both streaks were under the leadership of long-time head coach Tony LaScala.

The Eagles went 6-6 in the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) for a fourth-place finish. Along the way, junior Bryan Uselding received NIIC Player of the Week recognition during the ninth week of the season.

Uselding, who led the Eagles with 13 points and 5.5 rebounds per game, was the only Eagle to receive NIIC All-Conference honors.

Freshman standout Chris Hebeler, who handed out a team-high 72 assists and was the Eagles second leading scorer with 10.5 points per game, received NIIC All-Conference honorable mention. Hebeler started all 27 games for the Eagles.

Highlights of the Eagles season included winning the Wisconsin Lutheran Tip-Off Tournament title the opening weekend of the season. The Eagles went 0-2 at the College of Wooster Tournament, but Hebeler walked away with All-Tournament honors. ✝

Sophomore Kristin Racine received NIIC All-Conference honorable mention for contributing 8.3 points and 6.4 rebounds per game.

Highlights of the Lady Eagles’ season were a third-place finish at the Wisconsin Lutheran Tip-Off Tournament and second-place finish at the Ohio Northern University Tournament. The Lady Eagles ended the season with a 13-14 overall record. ✝

**Lady Eagles Finish Tied For Second In The League**

The Benedictine University women’s basketball team posted strong performances in the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC), concluding the season with an 8-4 conference record. The Lady Eagles finished tied for second place with Rockford College in the NIIC final standings.

The Lady Eagles beat out Rockford for the No. 2 seed in the NIIC Tournament, which allowed them to host a first- and second-round game. They played their way into the second round of the tournament with a 71-50 win over Concordia University.

The Lady Eagles were upset at home by Rockford in second round action to conclude their season.

The Lady Eagles landed two players on the NIIC All-Conference team. Two juniors, Erin McGunnigal and Julie Robinson, received All-Conference recognition. McGunnigal averaged 12.6 points and 5.8 rebounds per game, while Robinson averaged 12.4 points per game.

**Ryan Lands On Academic All-America Team**

Benedictine University senior Pat Ryan continues to make his mark in Benedictine football history, this time for his performance in the classroom. Ryan was named to the 2002 Verizon Academic All-America College Division Football Team. Ryan was a first-team selection as a defensive lineman.

Ryan boasts a 3.63 G.P.A. as an accounting major. He started all 10 games for the Eagles on the defensive line and racked up 79 total tackles, 33 tackles for a loss (minus-138 yards), 11.5 sacks, one interception, five passes defended, one fumble recovery and one forced fumble.

With his 33 tackles for a loss, Ryan set a school record for the second consecutive season. Along with his academic accolade, Ryan was awarded the Illini-Badger Football Conference (IBFC) Outstanding Defensive Lineman and named a first-team All-Conference selection. ✝

Eagles discuss future athletic endeavors and opportunities

Eagles seek to build on successful season

Athletic Director continued from page 35

An Eagles men’s basketball team that finished third in the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) concluded the season with a school record of 12-14 overall.

The Eagles were led into the NIIC Tournament by a 7-0 start, their best start for 19 years. The Eagles started their season with a 71-50 win over Concordia University.

Eagles freshman standout Chris Hebeler, who handed out a team-high 72 assists and was the Eagles second leading scorer with 10.5 points per game, received NIIC All-Conference honorable mention. Hebeler started all 27 games for the Eagles.

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Younger sister of a Benedictine Voices alumna

Senior class member of the Benedictine Voices publication

Athletic Director continued from page 35

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**Ryan Lands On Academic All-America Team**

Benedictine University senior Pat Ryan continues to make his mark in Benedictine football history, this time for his performance in the classroom. Ryan was named to the 2002 Verizon Academic All-America College Division Football Team. Ryan was a first-team selection as a defensive lineman.

Ryan boasts a 3.63 G.P.A. as an accounting major. He started all 10 games for the Eagles on the defensive line and racked up 79 total tackles, 33 tackles for a loss (minus-138 yards), 11.5 sacks, one interception, five passes defended, one fumble recovery and one forced fumble.

With his 33 tackles for a loss, Ryan set a school record for the second consecutive season. Along with his academic accolade, Ryan was awarded the Illini-Badger Football Conference (IBFC) Outstanding Defensive Lineman and named a first-team All-Conference selection. ✝