Benedictine Voices
The News From Benedictine University

Spring 2006
St. Benedict’s Rule for Monks begins with a powerful imperative: Listen. And at Benedictine University, we believe in the importance of listening to one another. We therefore have named our magazine Benedictine Voices. We pledge that within these pages, members of the Benedictine community will speak with candor about issues facing our University and our world. We cordially invite you to enter into dialogue with us.

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It seems that not a day goes by that we do not hear of something happening in the Catholic Church. Unfortunately, much of this news has not been good, and we pray that the Spirit will lead and guide the Church through these troubled times. It is likely you have heard parts of our story but may not have been privy to the whole thing. That story is the changing of the guard at our Catholic colleges and universities. The last half of the 20th century saw a precipitous decline in the number of professed religious serving these institutions. As fewer religious were available (at every level), more lay people assumed leadership roles. During this time, several momentous meetings and publications took place that culminated in Pope John Paul II’s Apostolic Constitution, Ex Corde Ecclesiae (From the Heart of the Church). This vision for Catholic higher education has become our roadmap for the 21st century.

The following timeline highlights the significant events that served as a prelude to the Apostolic Constitution.

1949
- Catholic higher education leaders from around the world formed the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) in collaboration with the Vatican’s Sacred Congregation of Catholic Education.

1965
- IFCU began developing a statement about Catholic universities, using as its point of departure the Vatican II document, “The Constitution on the Church in the Modern World” (Gaudium et Spes), the largest document issued by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. On July 20-23, a regional IFCU meeting in Land O’Lakes, Wis., worked on that statement. The Land O’Lakes text asserts that a Catholic university needs to be a “university in the full modern sense of the word.” It also declared “the Catholic university must have a true autonomy in the face of authority of whatever kind, lay or clerical, external to the academic community itself.” However, at the same time, the position paper said that a Catholic university must be a community “in which Catholicism is perceptibly present and effectively operative.”

1972
- “The Catholic University in the Modern World” statement was issued by the IFCU in Rome. The document discussed the nature of a Catholic university in general terms, and listed four defining characteristics: 1) a Christian inspiration of both individuals and community; 2) reflection of human knowledge in the light of the Catholic faith; 3) fidelity to the Christian message that comes from the Church; and 4) commitment to the service of the people of God and the human family.

This document also suggested that “faculty members who belong to the Christian and Catholic tradition can bring to their research a further dimension of reality which often needs to be emphasized,” and that the department of religious studies should be “pre-eminent in scholars of the Christian and Catholic tradition.”

“We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.” — REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
April 15, 1979  Pope John Paul II issued the Apostolic Constitution Sapientia Christiana. This document was regarded as his most extensive statement on Catholic education. Its thinking prefigured Ex Corde Ecclesiae in many ways. The document applies, however, only to “ecclesiastical universities and faculties” that have a special charter from the Holy See (for example, The Catholic University of America).

1980 The document “Catholic Higher Education and the Pastoral Mission of the Church” was issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It reflected the continuing discussions between the U.S. Bishops and American Catholic higher education leaders.

August 15, 1990  Pope John Paul II issued his text on Catholic higher education, Ex Corde Ecclesiae (From the Heart of the Church). The document outlines the papal vision of the identity and mission of Catholic universities and sets forth specific norms to accomplish this.


With this background, I invite you to read the article on page 4 to see how Benedictine University has responded to the vision so beautifully expressed by Pope John Paul II in his Ex Corde Ecclesiae.
The tone in Abbot Valentine’s remark in some ways influenced the development of an institutional mission statement for Benedictine University, coming partly from the very life of the sponsoring Benedictine community that could well be joined to what the dedicated lay men and women came to hold dear as they worked within the University’s structure. As is reflected in Abbot Valentine’s statement, the changes that have taken place in both the institution’s life and in the life of the Benedictine monastic community (especially since 1970, with the new abbey building built on a separate campus) have in a very concrete way challenged the people working within the University community to look at the role of the articulated Benedictine values in all aspects of both program development and personal interaction within that community.

As we examine the ways in which Benedictine colleges and universities have expressed Benedictine values in their individual mission statements, we see that one of our values, “A tradition of hospitality,” is reflected in almost all of the mission statements of the higher education institutions belonging to the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities. Another value that is reflected — and expressed in a variety of ways — is the idea of showing respect for all persons.

Recognizing that St. Benedict in his Rule for Monasteries specifically calls for “all guests to be received as Christ,” we have clearly come to understand that this respect will include an appreciation for the insights as well as the journey paths of those who come to share our campus life, whether as teachers, support staff personnel or employees in other fields. Through our orientation programs for new employees, as well as through our “mentoring program” for new faculty members, we try to explain what we hold as focal points as we define ourselves as Catholic and Benedictine. It seems very important when speaking of this aspect of our University life to emphasize that we try to do so without imposing any doctrinal approach or insist on specific approaches to belief as we meet the other persons.

The Apostolic Constitution “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” (from the Heart of the Church) of the late Pope John Paul II spoke rather strongly that people involved in Catholic institutions of higher education did not need to be defensive about their faith and that they should always be “aware of their essential connection with the Supreme Truth, Who is God.” The Council in some of its documents (e.g., “Declaration on Religious Liberty” or the “Declaration on the Relations of the Church to Non-Christian Religions”) stresses each person’s freedom to believe in God and worship God according to one’s conscience. An interesting point made in the “Declaration on the Relations of the Church to Non-Christian Religions” is that the Church respects whatever is found to be true in these religions. It isn’t too hard to see that the Church maintains that truth is truth no matter where one finds it.

When asked what Benedictine’s stand on this issue brought up by the Wall Street Journal article would be, we clearly could go to “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” and see how consistent the Church is relative to its official documents and principles.

In Part II, Article 4, the Church expects the university to recruit “adequate university personnel, especially teachers and administrators, who are both willing and able to promote [the Catholic identity].” This section also stresses that “all teachers and administrators, at the time of their appointment, are to be informed about the Catholic identity of the Institution and its implications, and about their responsibility to promote, or at least to respect, that identity.”

Article 4 addresses the fact that the Catholic college or university can well have “teachers and administrators who belong to other Churches, ecclesial communities or religions, as well as those who profess no religious beliefs . . .” For this reason, we would not find ourselves taking the kind of action Wheaton College did with Professor Hochschild. While we do recognize the College’s right to set its own policy relative to its identity as an institution with “evangelical Protestant convictions,” we would not take a similar action against one of our professors.

To bring our consideration to a close for this issue, this writer was pleasantly surprised by a remark made by Mark W. Roche, the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters at the University of Notre Dame and author of an exceptional little book, The Intellectual Appeal of Catholicism and the Idea of a Catholic University, when during a speaking engagement on our campus explained, “I sometimes find a greater support for the Catholic identity of Notre Dame from some non-Catholic faculty members than I do from some of the cradle Catholics.”
You may have heard in recent years discussions in the popular media regarding the late Pope John Paul II’s Ex Corde Ecclesiae (From the Heart of the Church). This Apostolic Constitution was published in 1990 as the end result of decades-long conversations regarding the meaning and role of a Catholic university. Ex Corde outlines in general terms John Paul’s vision of the identity and mission of Catholic universities and sets forth specific norms to accomplish this. Traditionally, norms are certain rules or beliefs prescribed by the Church. In the decade and a half since Ex Corde’s publication, much dialogue and discussion has taken place among Catholic college/university presidents and the United States Catholic Bishops.

On behalf of Benedictine, Richard Becker, Ph.D., my predecessor, began the conversation, and I have continued it to this day.

Since the document is universal, the Church required countries to respond as to how each was to implement the norms. This conversation took up most of the dialogue in the 1990s among bishops and presidents. On November 17, 1999, the Catholic Bishops of the United States, meeting in Plenary Session of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, approved The Application of Ex Corde Ecclesiae for the United States, implementing it according to the norm of law.
The action was granted recognitio (approval and recognition) by the Congregation for Bishops in accord with article 82 of the Apostolic Constitution Pastor Bonus and issued by Decree of the Congregation for Bishops signed by His Eminence Lucas Cardinal Moreira Neves, Prefect, and His Excellency Most Reverend Francisco Monterisi, Secretary, and dated May 3, 2000.

Most Reverend Joseph A. Fiorenza, Bishop of Galveston-Houston and President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, decreed that The Application of Ex Corde Ecclesiae for the United States will be in force as particular law for the United States on May 3, 2001.

What are the immediate consequences to the University? Is the University in accord with the norms of Ex Corde? First, Ex Corde is a clarion call for us to focus on our Catholic tradition and Benedictine heritage. What the Church is asking from us is much what McDonalds’ demands of every store in its display of the “golden arches.” Every McDonald’s restaurant — if it is to be a McDonald’s — must subscribe to a corporate philosophy and a particular business practice. The “golden arches” recognize and guarantee brand identity. In a similar way, institutions that espouse being “Catholic” must in some way guarantee brand identity. Catholic institutions are a particular instantiation of a larger Catholic Church. By their very being they are charged with living the tradition. How institutions like Benedictine University evidence their “Catholicity” is the impetus and focus for the current discussion. Remember, the “general norms” prescribed by Ex Corde Ecclesiae are not suggestions but have the force of law.

For example, Ex Corde requires that teachers of Catholic theology must receive a mandatum from the local Bishop. This is a recognition by the appropriate Church authority that the theologian is teaching in communion with the Church. All Catholics who teach theological disciplines are required to have the mandatum. While this requirement has caused much angst among theologians at other Catholic institutions, I am pleased to report that the same did not occur at Benedictine. In fact, all Benedictine University professors required to have the mandatum have received it from Bishop Joseph Imesch (the Bishop of Joliet).

The Apostolic Constitution is much more than the mandatum. It is a powerfully written expose on Pope John Paul II’s vision for Catholic higher education. The publication of this vision has spawned a wonderful discussion among higher education, our local bishops and the world-wide Church. The tables on pages 7 and 8 list some of the events that have taken place at the University since Pope John Paul II shared his vision.
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<td>1990s</td>
<td>Discussions on the Catholicity of the University, especially faith and reason using the Catholic Intellectual Tradition as basis.</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Faculty members began to participate in national Collegium conferences with faculties from other Catholic institutions to discuss meaning/purpose of a Catholic University.</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>A Midwest Collegium summer workshop for faculty focused on the Catholic intellectual tradition, the meaning of a Catholic University and the differences in traditions, i.e., Benedictines, Jesuits, Dominicans, etc.</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Benedictine University Institute of Science and Values was established to foster discussion on recent scientific-technological ideas and research, and the humanistic, value-minded interests traditionally associated with liberal arts, faith and reason.</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>“Maintaining our Catholic and Benedictine Identity” was reinforced as a key component of the University’s strategic plan. In 2000, the production of a video on the “Benedictine Identity” was started and when completed, widely disseminated.</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>A weekly seminar was initiated on campus that centered on the “Catholic Intellectual Tradition.” Discussions were based on Cernera and Morgan’s book, Examining the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>In spring, a second group of faculty was formed to discuss our Catholic identity, using Ex Corde Ecclesiae and Gallin’s Negotiating Identity. Members of this group continue to meet and discuss the Catholic character of the University.</td>
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<td>2002-03</td>
<td>The University adopted a Vision Statement — Benedictine University is a Catholic University in the Benedictine Tradition that Provides a Values-Centered Liberal Arts Education Enriched by our Excellence in Science. Discussions were held by the Board of Trustees, the Benedictine monks, administrators, faculty, staff and students.</td>
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<td>2003-04</td>
<td>Each part of the Vision Statement was assigned to a faculty focus group for study and implementation. Focus Group I studied and discussed, “A Catholic University in the Benedictine Tradition.” Focus Group II concentrated on “A Values-Centered Liberal Arts Education Enriched by our Excellence in Science.” Each group discussed “who we are” and “who we are becoming,” apropos to their section of the statement.</td>
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<td>2003-05</td>
<td>In the fall of 2003, a small group of faculty began meeting as a team to assess Benedictine University’s understanding of Ex Corde. Discussions focused on: How are we already meeting expectations? What more can we do? What does it mean to be a Catholic University? How should the curriculum reflect our Catholic character?</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>The work of Focus Group I has been fully integrated into the Strategic Planning and the on-going University accreditation processes. Specific attention is now placed, in the accreditation process, on what it means to be a Catholic University grounded in the Benedictine tradition.</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>The initial report of assessment done of Ex Corde norms and their application to Benedictine University (May 18) was completed. The report demonstrated major progress toward full implementation of the “general norms” of the Apostolic Constitution.</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>A “Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought” series was initiated to bring a scholar who works within the Catholic Intellectual Tradition to the campus each semester to give lectures on Catholic thought relating to contemporary issues, conduct faculty workshops, visit classes on related topics, and support efforts to integrate Catholic/Benedictine values and traditions into the curriculum.</td>
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| 2005     | A Center for Mission and Identity was created utilizing a committee to investigate and assess the Catholic vision and mission of Benedictine University concerning curriculum and environment. It is a task-oriented committee, with one person responsible for gathering faculty to work with him/her on a selected task pertaining to mission and identity. Seminars are presented throughout the year to develop awareness of Catholic and Benedictine values and their relationship to the curriculum. ▶
While this timeline shows much of the work done around things Catholic and Benedictine, we are not able to capture in a timeline the systemic activities and relationships that take place daily. Nor are we able to capture an amazing event taking place in the American Catholic Church — the emergence of the laity. With fewer and fewer religious available to our colleges and universities, institutions that once were obviously Catholic because of who worked there are no longer so. With the decline in professed religious, the natural question arises as to how these institutions can continue to be Catholic. This timeline is itself a snapshot of the emerging role of the laity at Benedictine University. While many fine monks have been involved in the above events, many more lay faculty and staff have stepped forward to help oversee, guard and develop our tradition and heritage. Many faculty and staff have participated in the “Catholic/Benedictine Dialogue.” I want to thank Alicia Tait, Ph.D. and Kevin Doyle, Ph.D., for their leadership roles in this on-going process.

2006 Preparations are being made for the initial five-year assessment between the University and Bishop Imesch as mandated by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops regarding the institution’s progress in realizing the general norms of *Ex Corde*. The following areas are the subject of the assessment:

1) Catholic Identity and Character,
2) Communion with the Local Church,
3) Incorporation of Spirit and Norms,
4) Continued Dialogue.

2006 The Center for Mission and Identity is developing a “Benedictine pedagogy” based on *The Ten Characteristics of a Benedictine Institution* developed by the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities.

St. Procopius College — Illinois Benedictine College — Benedictine University was founded as Catholic and Benedictine and continues to be Catholic and Benedictine. In fact, being Benedictine and Catholic are our compass and guide — from welcoming the stranger, to listening to conflicting views, to stewardship of the environment, to liturgy, to social justice issues, to the continuation of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition in our classrooms and lecture halls — all are warranted and mandated by who we are as a Catholic Benedictine University.

**EX CORDE ECCLESIAE: FROM THE HEART OF THE CHURCH**

The dialogue around the Apostolic Constitution, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, has raised, in a wonderful and productive way, the meaning of a Catholic institution of higher learning. Every year, the Catholic university presidents in the Chicago area meet several times to discuss with Cardinal Francis George (Chicago) and Bishop Joseph Imesch (Joliet) matters of mutual concern. In some manner, every meeting has to do with our Catholic identity. In a recent meeting, a question was raised that there is growing concern among laity and clergy alike: How can institutions like Benedictine University be Catholic and Benedictine without a large representation of ordained religious on our campuses?

My answer to the question is that not only can we be Catholic and Benedictine, but can be so with gusto. Roger Whittaker, a contemporary folk singer, has a line in one of his songs that says, “You have raised me well, now trust me as I go on my way.” If there is one thing our religious brothers and sisters did was that they raised us well. The emergence of the laity is taking place — a laity that has been well-trained by its religious predecessors. Responding to those who question the University’s ability to be Catholic and Benedictine without a large presence of monks, I say, “They (monks and religious) have trained us well, now trust us as we go on our way.”
Values

“I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.” — MAYA ANGELOU

Dr. and Mrs. Richard V. Remijas receive the Society of Procopians Award in 1975 from Archbishop Daniel Kucera O.S.B., then-president of Illinois Benedictine College.

Richard J. Remijas, D.D.S., C43, Remembered and Memorialized

The passing of Richard J. Remijas, D.D.S., was marked with great sadness. He had been a devoted alumnus and had donated considerable time volunteering at Benedictine University as well as contributing many financial gifts.

E. Michael Banas, M.D., C43, remembered Remijas, noting that, “Richard was very outgoing and popular. He enjoyed a good time and his fair share of campus hijinks. He was athletic, and was an asset in basketball, baseball and football.”

Remijas went on to dental school after leaving what was then St. Procopius College, and entered the Navy during World War II. He began his dental practice after the war and retired from dentistry in 1989. Simultaneously, he was involved in management at Gage Park Savings and Loan Association. When he retired in 1992, he had served as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Benedictine was Remijas’ favorite cause. With his devotion to the University in mind, the Remijas family decided to memorialize him by naming in his honor the Organic Chemistry lab and classroom in Birck Hall, as well as funding two scholarships, one an endowed scholarship and the other a scholarship award fund. The endowed scholarship is one of the largest at Benedictine. It will benefit pre-med students with a financial need.

The University and the students to benefit from the scholarship and the classroom extend their deepest thanks to Thomas J. Remijas, D.D.S., C77 and Pamela Remijas, Liandra and Joseph Bozich, Cindy Byron, Melissa Curtis, Anita Remijas and Donald Bertucci, David and Sandy Remijas, Jonathon and Hillary Remijas, and Richard and Sherry Remijas, Jr.

The gifts were funded by naming Benedictine University as the beneficiary of Remijas’ IRA account. There were many tax-related reasons that made this form of gift particularly sensible for the estate.

If you have any questions as to how you might maximize the power of your estate through philanthropy to Benedictine, please call Bradley E. Carlson, chief development officer, at (630) 829-6362.

Benedictine Heritage Wine: Helping the Scholarship Fund

Limited quantities of Benedictine Heritage Wine are still available. Help to make this scholarship fund-raising event a success. Purchase a case of wine today.

A case of this delicious wine is $350. The wonderful 2003 vintage has a smooth texture and medium spice, raspberry, cherry and anise flavors. All proceeds go to the Benedictine University Scholarship Fund.

Contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu.

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Remijas went on to dental school after leaving what was then St. Procopius College, and entered the Navy during World War II. He began his dental practice after the war and retired from dentistry in 1989. Simultaneously, he was involved in management at Gage Park Savings and Loan Association. When he retired in 1992, he had served as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Benedictine was Remijas’ favorite cause. With his devotion to the University in mind, the Remijas family decided to memorialize him by naming in his honor the Organic Chemistry lab and classroom in Birck Hall, as well as funding two scholarships, one an endowed scholarship and the other a scholarship award fund. The endowed scholarship is one of the largest at Benedictine. It will benefit pre-med students with a financial need.

The University and the students to benefit from the scholarship and the classroom extend their deepest thanks to Thomas J. Remijas, D.D.S., C77 and Pamela Remijas, Liandra and Joseph Bozich, Cindy Byron, Melissa Curtis, Anita Remijas and Donald Bertucci, David and Sandy Remijas, Jonathon and Hillary Remijas, and Richard and Sherry Remijas, Jr.

The gifts were funded by naming Benedictine University as the beneficiary of Remijas’ IRA account. There were many tax-related reasons that made this form of gift particularly sensible for the estate.

If you have any questions as to how you might maximize the power of your estate through philanthropy to Benedictine, please call Bradley E. Carlson, chief development officer, at (630) 829-6362.

Benedictine Heritage Wine:
Helping the Scholarship Fund

Limited quantities of Benedictine Heritage Wine are still available. Help to make this scholarship fund-raising event a success. Purchase a case of wine today.

A case of this delicious wine is $350. The wonderful 2003 vintage has a smooth texture and medium spice, raspberry, cherry and anise flavors. All proceeds go to the Benedictine University Scholarship Fund.

Contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu.
What does your company do?
EMMES performs operational, data management and statistical analysis activities to support clinical trials and other epidemiologic/health research projects. I have the opportunity to work on multiple health research projects funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) and other sources. I joined EMMES in 1980 after graduate training and a year on the faculty at the Medical College of Virginia — Virginia Commonwealth University. We have grown from seven employees to 250 over the years and I have been the company president for the last 15 years.

What do you work on in this career?
As a biostatistician, I have the opportunity to design, analyze and report on the health research studies, where I lead the statistical center’s activities. Most of our projects are collaborative and we capture data from patients entered in the collaborating clinics, university research centers and international research sites. Some of our higher profile projects include avian flu vaccine studies where we have safety monitoring and analysis responsibilities. I am currently the lead statistician for the only ongoing HIV efficacy vaccine trial. The study of 16,000 individuals is being performed in Thailand and is sponsored by the NIH, U.S. Army and the Thai Ministry of Public Health. We have recently initiated a project studying food allergies. Our initial trial will follow 400 infants with an egg and/or milk allergy to observe the development of peanut allergy over the first few years of life.

How does your company’s work benefit/help the world/people?
We work on multiple diseases including vision studies, organ, bone marrow and pancreatic islet transplant (for diabetes) studies, all types of infectious disease including many vaccine projects and diseases such as influenza, HIV, malaria, syphilis, tuberculosis, etc. It is rewarding to know that you are working toward improving the public’s health. The papers we publish are evidence of the progress that we make.

Here are some examples:

**NAPRTCS** Since 1987, The EMMES Corporation has served as the Coordinating Center for the North American Pediatric Renal Transplant Cooperative Study (NAPRTCS). This longitudinal study was organized by pediatric nephrologists to examine children with renal transplants, those receiving dialysis and those with pre-end stage renal insufficiency. The study is designed to assess both near-term and long-term outcomes in pediatric patients at 70 transplant centers in the United States and Canada who have received renal allografts. Currently, nearly 10,000 children with renal allografts have been registered. Recent reports have evaluated thrombosis, growth post transplantation and timing issues of initial immunosuppressive regimens.

**IAVI** The mission of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) program is to conduct clinical trials of candidate HIV vaccines, primarily in developing countries. For EMMES, the project entails supporting 16 trials of five candidate HIV vaccines that are being conducted at 19 clinical sites in Africa, Europe, India and the U.S., with several more trials planned for these sites. EMMES acts as the Data Coordinating Center on this project.

**HIV Solid Organ Transplant Study** In 2001, EMMES began its collaboration with investigators and clinicians from 17 large transplant centers to plan and conduct a prospective, multi-center cohort study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of solid organ transplantation (kidney or liver) in HIV-positive patients. Long-range goals are to provide patients and clinicians with information regarding the HIV-specific risks of transplantation, to provide information necessary to manage immunosuppression and Antiretroviral (ARV) medications together, and to maximize patient outcomes through understanding of underlying basic science mechanisms.
What is the greatest satisfaction you get from your career?

In addition to the aforementioned, it is a pleasure to be involved in a daily learning environment. Whether it is acquiring additional knowledge regarding a statistical technique, an analysis of cutting edge research data, or a new medical application area, technology advances to facilitate data capture—there is always something new and more to learn.

Benedictine students should be aware that biostatistics is a great career opportunity for those with a quantitative focus.

Did anything during your time at Benedictine help you in your career?

I came to Benedictine, then IBC, knowing I was going to be a science major. It was wonderful being exposed to so many hours of biology, physics, chemistry and mathematics. When I attended, it was clearly a learning community that helped steer me to where my skills could be best applied. It was useful attending off-campus seminars with faculty members—something that probably doesn’t happen at super-sized schools. It is interesting that all my classroom instruction was by faculty.

Why do you ‘give back’ to Benedictine?

I am a regular contributor. I want to help others to have opportunities in the future.

Anything you would like to mention about your family?

You might be intrigued that all six of my brothers and sisters are Benedictine graduates (and I think five of my in-laws). [Editor’s note: We are intrigued!]

Attention: A Call to Help Students

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As we end this academic year and look at the beginning of 2006-07, we ask that you think about Benedictine University’s students and future alumni. The situation they face today is considerably different than what you and I dealt with some years ago.

No matter what school you examine, the cost of college tuition has risen faster than the rate of inflation. There is a greater need for high-tech equipment and facilities that a school must have if it is to properly educate and prepare its students for the requirements of today and tomorrow.

Benedictine University has seen its costs rise, too. Our new classroom buildings were significant expenses. Furthermore, faculty expense has risen over the years, just as it has elsewhere, but probably even more so at Benedictine University. This is because there are not the number of priests available to teach as there was years ago. Their devoted, generous and caring work helped subsidize the cost of tuition for everyone by lowering faculty expenses.

If you were like me, when you went to college, you had a summer job, and might have worked while earning your degree. Over the summers I did outdoor landscaping, sold vacuum cleaners door-to-door, worked in a hospital kitchen and on an assembly line for non-union wages. During the school year, I sold stereo equipment to make extra money. These jobs didn’t pay all that much. But they paid enough relative to the cost of tuition to make a real difference in helping to pay for the next year. I was very lucky because my parents were able to help me considerably with college expenses so that I was able to graduate from college without debt.

Students today are often not so fortunate. Despite the fact that more than 75 percent of Benedictine University’s undergraduate students receive financial assistance in the form of scholarships, they are still saddled with debt after graduation due to supplemental loans that they needed to cover their tuition. The amount earned from summer employment does not have the same impact relative to college expenses as it once did.

A summer job paying $7 an hour for 40 hours for 10 weeks will provide $2,800. Not including living expenses, annual tuition at Benedictine University is more than $18,000. That leaves more than $15,000 of tuition expense to be covered by loans, scholarships and if possible, financial help from parents. If you have been reading national magazines, you have seen that this situation is common throughout the country.

Today, like years ago, many of Benedictine’s students are the first in their families to obtain a college education. They are trying to improve themselves and accomplish what their parents could only hope for. But when leaving college with a major debt burden, that is especially difficult to do and if the career chosen by a student requires additional education, the road to obtain it becomes that much harder to travel.

So we ask that you help students attend this fine institution, and that you help them to get a good start after they graduate by making a gift to the General Scholarship Fund. It will make an important difference in more students’ lives than you would imagine.

Sincerely,

Bradley F. Carlson
Chief Development Officer
(630) 829-6362
Alberto Azpe, M.B.A. ’03

A Life of Service to Others

Alberto Azpe spends much of his time helping others. Azpe earned a Master of Business Administration, with a concentration in international business, from Benedictine University in 2003. However, his roots are in Mexico. His undergraduate degree in Industrial Engineering (1985) is from Universidad de Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico. He also has a degree in Top Management from Universidad Panamericano (1994) in Mexico City. Now, as the president of Hispanic banking at Harris Bank, where he leads the outreach program for the Hispanic community, Azpe does all he can to give back to people in need, and to help immigrants acclimate to the United States.

During his professional career, Azpe has had the opportunity to develop new financial products for the different institutions in which he is involved. For instance, he was part of the Task Force that introduced the financial leasing industry in Mexico and other countries in Latin America. He also has had the opportunity to work for Canadian, American and Mexican financial institutions in which he was able to learn their professional environment. However, Azpe said “My greatest satisfaction has been to be involved in the acceptance of the Matricula Consular (Mexican ID) which has permitted millions of Mexican immigrants to have access to banking services in the U.S.”

Azpe does all he can in his professional life to make a difference, but he takes it one step further by getting involved outside of the office. He is a board member of the following organizations: Casa Central, the biggest non-for-profit organization in the Midwest that helps transform lives and strengthen communities with a special focus on Hispanics; U.S. Mexico Chamber of Commerce, whose main focus is to increase the business relationship from both countries; and MX Magazine, a non-for-profit Spanish publication that provides information about civil rights for Mexican immigrants in the United States and Mexico.

He is also involved in several civic groups, including: the Hispanic Chicago Civic Committee, an organization that motivates individuals and organizations to progress in the business world; Tax Assistance Program (TAP), a non-for-profit organization that provides free tax services to families with low-income, including many Hispanic communities; and FDIC Task Force, whose main focus is to provide financial education to low-income families.

“Challenges are many for these organizations I work with, but the biggest challenge has to be the time and money that are very limited to us. We therefore need to use it appropriately and distribute it among many other great organizations that need it,” said Azpe.

“In general most companies focus on the economical potential of the growing Hispanic market, but they forget that behind all that there is a large necessity for educational and health care programs. These types of programs would help this community to grow in quality and quantity,” he concluded.

After receiving scholarships from the Rotary Club during his high school and college years, he realized the importance and transcendence of giving and helping others.

“It’s a great satisfaction to give back, but I feel like it’s my obligation to help others in need. It is a way to show my appreciation for what God has given me and my family,” he explained.

In addition to the time and effort he puts into all these various causes, he also makes financial contributions to many different organizations in the United States and Mexico, with an objective of providing scholarships to students of low-income families. He is also currently involved with other Benedictine M.B.A. graduates who have established a scholarship program specifically for M.B.A. students. Recently, Azpe worked with Chrystal Maxwell, Benedictine University development director, in a joint partnership with Harris Bank and the Jesus Guadalupe Foundation to establish the first Latino scholarship program for Benedictine University undergraduate students.

Azpe enjoyed his time at Benedictine. “It is a great school with a very nice environment. As a foreigner, it has helped me appreciate the education that the United States provides. I would, however, like to see more Hispanic students enrolled in all the different programs that Benedictine offers,” Azpe said.
Alumni Sweetheart Club Dinner/Dance

It was a romantic evening for 50 members of Benedictine University’s Alumni Sweetheart Club as they gathered for their annual reunion.

The setting was the second floor of the Krasa Center complete with rose centerpieces on the tables. A wonderful dinner including Benedictine Heritage wine was served by Sodexo Food Services. Dinner was followed by a dessert table complete with a chocolate fountain for all to enjoy.

Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B., offered a marriage blessing to all couples after dinner. Music was provided by Music Mania DJ Services and dancing went on until 11:00 p.m. All the ladies in attendance received a long-stemmed rose courtesy of the Office of Alumni Relations.

Membership in the Alumni Sweetheart Club consists of all Benedictine University alumni who are married to alumni. It doesn’t matter what year you graduated or what degree you earned. The reunion takes place annually the first Saturday of February on campus.

The alumni relations staff would like you to join us next year for this special Saturday night with the one you love. The date and time will be posted on the alumni Web site and you can look for your personal invitation to arrive in the mail in early January.

For more information on the Alumni Sweetheart Club, contact Julie Nelligan, alumni relations director, at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu.

Alumnus Gets Close-up Look at Sox Win

Jack Ruby, D.D.S., C65, dentist for the World Champion Chicago White Sox, celebrates the team’s World Series victory in Texas with his family this past fall.
Come Back Home This Year

Calling all alumni and friends to Homecoming 2006 scheduled for Saturday, September 23, 2006. Tailgating activities will begin in the Krasa Center parking lot at 1:00 p.m. and will conclude at 3:00 p.m. when the football game begins. This year, the Benedictine Eagles will be meeting the Concordia University Cougars for what promises to be an exciting game.

Throughout the afternoon, the alumni tent will be open for lunch, beverages and networking with old friends. There will also be a “kid’s corner” where parents can safely leave their children to enjoy games and activities.

At 6:30 p.m., class reunions for graduating years 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1996 will commence in the Krasa Center lower level.

For more information, watch your mail or visit www.ben.edu/alumni/events/homecoming.asp.

This is a great opportunity to see the new Sports Complex, all the changes and improvements to the campus and remember what the Benedictine experience is all about.

Benedictine welcomes you home.

Original Etching of Benedictine Hall to Benefit Art Department

Be the proud owner of an original etching of Benedictine Hall by Benedictine University artist/professor William Scarlato. Own this wonderful piece of art for only $100. All proceeds benefit the Benedictine University Art Department.

Alumni Commemorative T-Shirt

No matter what the name of the University was when you graduated, we are all one with Benedictine University. Wear your alumni pride with this limited edition T-shirt for only $14.98.

To order, call the Benedictine University Bookstore at (630) 829-6010. Buy yours today, as supplies won’t last long.

Benedictine Wine: Helping the Scholarship Fund

Limited quantities of Benedictine Heritage Wine are available for purchase. A case of this delicious wine is only $350. The wonderful 2003 vintage has a smooth texture and medium spice, raspberry, cherry and anise flavors. All proceeds go to the Benedictine University Scholarship Fund.

For more information on these great items, contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu. Please note: supplies are limited for both.
Shortly before I graduated from Benedictine University in May 2005, one of my instructors told me that he felt I made the most of my years at Benedictine through my participation in student activities and other opportunities. Earlier this year, I thought about some of the ways in which my Benedictine experience shaped where I am today.

**Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program**

In January 2005, I applied to the Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program (ILSIP), a program through which college graduates serve a one-year internship in Illinois state government.

The first major step toward my admission to the program occurred just a few days into the Fall 2004 semester when I attended the American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting with Roger Rose, Ph.D., associate professor of Political Science, and a handful of other Benedictine students. During the conference, I had the chance to meet one of the professors who evaluates applications to the internship program. After I explained my interest in ILSIP, the professor gave me his card and put me in touch with two interns from the program. I would not have had the opportunity to bolster my chances of admission if Dr. Rose had not approached me and recommended that a few members of Benedictine’s Pi Nu Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha — the national political science honor society — make plans to attend the APSA conference. I’m convinced that my ability to demonstrate a strong interest in the program during the APSA conference was a decisive factor in my selection as one of the program’s 25 interns for 2005-06.

**Faculty Mentors**

I feel fortunate to have benefited from faculty members who serve not only as instructors, but also as mentors who make sure that students take advantage of the programs and experiences available to them.

My professors at Benedictine knew who I was and took an active interest in helping me succeed in their classes and in life beyond college. My experiences at the University helped to prepare me for the next stage of academic and work-related experiences in other ways, too.

The late Ken Nordin, Ph.D., encouraged me during my first advising appointment to continue writing for a print medium by joining The Candor, Benedictine’s student newspaper. Only through a careful review of my student file would Dr. Nordin have known that I had written a student council newsletter in high school. After I joined The Candor and enrolled in Dr. Nordin’s Newswriting and Reporting class, I benefited from his advice and reminders about the need for good writing.

As a student in Joel Ostrow’s, Ph.D., International Relations and Model United Nations classes, I often wrote one-page memos — complete with source citations — to answer a specific question based on the week’s assigned readings.

**Putting Skills to Work**

In my current position as an ILSIP research assistant with the Legislative Research Unit, a legislative support agency to the Illinois General Assembly, I consult state laws and administrative rules to answer questions that legislators and legislative staff members submit regarding laws in Illinois and other states. I’ve researched laws about insurance, public transportation, driver’s licenses, elections and vandalism to property, among other topics. After I find what the requester is seeking, I write a memo to report the information to him or her. I use skills from my college extracurricular and academic experiences on a daily basis. Every memo that I draft follows the same principles of source citation and concise writing that I learned in college.

The internship provides hands-on experience with the state-level research that I hope to continue doing in the future, perhaps for a membership organization or advocacy group.

My past experiences continue to build on the present. The instructor from the APSA conference who reviewed my internship application has taught two of my graduate classes at the University of Illinois at Springfield, where I’m pursuing a master’s degree in Political Studies. When I look back on it, I did try to make the most of my time at Benedictine by taking a variety of classes and assuming leadership roles in some of the student organizations. Now, a year after graduation, I recognize that my time at Benedictine is helping me make the most of my future.
Dear Fellow Alumni,

As a fellow member of the Alumni Association, I would like to inform you of some of the benefits available to you at Benedictine, and invite you to experience and share the Benedictine spirit with your fellow alumni and current students.

Did you know that each time you use the Benedictine University MBNA credit card or purchase insurance with Liberty Mutual Insurance program, it provides cash back to the Alumni Association? These cash-back programs have been used to make donations to the University to complete a conference room in the basement of the Krasa Center. In addition, there is an Academic Resource Lounge in the Kindlon Hall of Learning that was funded by this cash-back program. Look in future issues of Voices magazine for other ways that these cash-back programs are used to make donations to the University.

Alumni can help generate money for student scholarships by attending the golf outing. The Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing in July provides you with the opportunity to compete for the Alumni Cup. If you are not a golfer, you can attend the dinner and participate in the raffles, or even donate a gift-in-kind. You or your company can also sponsor a hole at the golf outing and receive name recognition, while benefiting the scholarship fund.

Another major fund-raising event is the Educare Scholarship Ball in November. Come share an evening of elegant dining and dancing with fellow alumni, current student scholarship recipients and friends of the University, while raising money for student scholarships.

These events are so important to help others experience the Benedictine tradition.

Each May at Commencement, we present the annual alumni awards. Do you know someone who you can nominate for the following awards: Distinguished Alumni Award; Alumni Service Award or the Benedictine Spirit Award? We are always looking for outstanding individuals to nominate for these honors. Let the alumni office know if you would like to nominate someone.

Are you looking for a job or thinking of switching careers? The Office of Career Development can help you. They provide seminars that can help your job search or provide networking opportunities. You can even post your resume in their database for employers to search for job candidates. If you are an employer looking for employees, you can access the resume database or attend the job fairs sponsored by the Illinois College Placement Association of which Benedictine is a member. Remember that even though you may have graduated years ago, career services can still be a benefit for you.

Throughout the year, you can attend different events, either on or off campus, sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations. These events provide you with opportunities to meet old friends and new Benedictine alumni. You can catch up with friends, learn about changes on campus, share stories about your Benedictine experience or provide networking opportunities with your fellow alumni.
The Alumni Association is also looking for fellow alumni to volunteer their time to help out in any way possible. For example, at the golf outing we are always looking for volunteers to pass out refreshments at the snack holes. Or if you would like to be a mentor to a current student, we can match your experience with a student who is interested in your career field. One thing that I have learned in my career is that you always need a network of individuals in today’s world because you never know when you will need to utilize it. You can even become a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. We meet once a quarter to learn what is new at the University and determine ways to get the alumni involved.

In closing, I want you to be aware that as an alumnus/a of Benedictine, your time, talents and treasures can be used to give back to the University in so many ways. I invite you to return to campus and get involved in the alumni events to re-experience the Benedictine difference for yourself. I encourage you to watch for announcements of alumni and campus events in the University magazine, Voices, and on the Benedictine Web page at www.ben.edu/alumni. You may also contact the alumni office at (630) 829-6080 with any comments or questions.

Yours truly,
Patrice Kucia, B.A., C91, M.B.A. ’96
President, Benedictine University Alumni Association

Do you recognize the name of an old classmate? Would you like to know more about getting involved in the Alumni Association Board or various events/activities at Benedictine? Contact the alumni office today at (630) 829-6077.
Men’s Alumni Basketball Game

On November 11, 18 men’s basketball alumni gathered to play against the current Eagles basketball team. It was a lot of fun and a great effort, but in the end, the Eagles outshot the alumni by a score of 46-37.

After the game, Coach Keith Bunkenberg welcomed alumni and friends and everyone enjoyed a reception in the Rice Center Trophy Room.

Women’s Alumni Basketball Reunion

Although alumni numbers were light, those in attendance on January 21 had a great time as they watched the Lady Eagles lose a heartbreaker to the Rockford College Regents 68-65 in overtime.

After the game, a short reception was held for alumni, family and the Lady Eagles team along with Coach Paul Nelson. Great stories were shared about the past and present basketball teams.

Men’s Basketball Game and Reception Honoring the 1984-85 Team

It was an exciting afternoon on January 28 in the Rice Center as the Eagles took on the Aurora University Spartans in Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference basketball. The game stayed close with both teams fighting to win. In the end, our Eagles soared with a 70-69 victory.

During half time, the 24 alumni representing the men’s basketball team from 1984-85 were recognized for their 20th anniversary. Post-game activities included a dinner reception in the Trophy Room with alumni, family and the Eagles basketball team. Former coach and athletic director Tony LaScala, welcomed everyone and had many words of encouragement and support for all.

Thank you to all who attended and supported this event. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Alumni After-Hours at Fitz’s Pub

It was a great time on March 7 at Fitz’s Pub as approximately 20 alumni gathered for a pre-St. Patrick’s Day celebration. This alumni-owned Irish Pub is located in downtown Elmhurst and offers great food and drinks at good prices. Alumni came from as far as Frankfort to enjoy the evening’s festivities including a great opportunity to network.

Remember to mark your calendars for March 2007 where we will continue this alumni tradition at Fitz’s to kick off the St. Patrick’s Day celebration. For more information on this or any alumni event, go to www.ben.edu/alumni/events.
Mark your Calendars! Spend a Day With the World Series Champs — Chicago White Sox

Join us Sunday, August 27, to see the World Series Champion Chicago White Sox take on the Minnesota Twins. We have tickets which include all you-can-eat at the Patio in the stadium prior to the game. Cost per person is $58.50. Game time is 1:05 p.m. The Patio will open for food and pre-game activities at 11:30 a.m. and will stay open until 1:30 p.m. Seats are located in section 104, rows 11 though 17.

Tickets are on sale now in the alumni relations office. Contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu. Limit four tickets per alumni. Visa, Master Card, Discover, check or cash accepted.

Hurry, only 100 tickets are available. †

New Benefit for Alumni Seeking Job Opportunities

In partnership with the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, Benedictine University’s Office of Career Development and Office of Alumni Relations are happy to offer a free link to QuietAgent.Com on their home page. This site will allow current students and alumni to seek out internships and job opportunities. Additionally, it offers a privacy-assured, two-way matching system, all free of charge to the job seeker.

Here’s how it works. The job seeker completes the profile and receives a report detailing what jobs his/her interests/skills/experience/education might be best suited for. The profile is then made available to employers. “Employers can create shortlists based on the detailed career information and settings articulated by job seekers, and then invite them to apply to appropriately matched opportunities. Job seekers can choose to accept or decline invitations or block companies from ever contacting them again. A job seeker’s private information is only released to an employer if a job seeker chooses to accept an opportunity invitation.” (QuietAgent.com)

Whether you are employed, unemployed or underemployed, this site is for you. All information remains anonymous until you say otherwise. QuietAgent.com ensures that only mutually interested career seekers and employers are connected. And it’s all free.

“Wicked” Alumni Tickets

Tickets to the critically-acclaimed musical “Wicked” are on sale now for Thursday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Oriental Theatre Chicago. Cost is $16.50 per ticket. Contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or email jnelligan@ben.edu to purchase.

The excitement is already building for this year’s Educare Scholarship Ball to be held on Saturday, November 4, 2006.

The theme is Sweet Home Chicago: The Magnificent Miles from Pilsen to Lisle.

The event will depict our humble beginnings as St. Procopius Academy/College to what we are today, Benedictine University. Plans for decorations are already in the works with many surprises in store for you. Please mark your calendars for this annual black tie event as we gather to raise money for student scholarships so that many of our students can turn their dreams into reality as you did. For more information, call Julie Nelligan. Updated information about the Ball is also available at www.ben.edu/alumni/events/ball.asp.

We look forward to seeing you on November 4.

Educare Scholarship Ball
Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us.” — THOMAS PAINE
Calling Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a “champion of education,” National Education Association (NEA) president Reginald Weaver warned those who would threaten the nation’s public school system with vouchers or privatization during his speech to about 450 people gathered in the Krasa Center on January 16.

“No matter what the day, no matter what the hour, if you stand against public education, we will stand against you,” Weaver said.

Weaver, a native of downstate Danville, Illinois, a former middle school teacher from Harvey and head of the 2.7-million member NEA, was the keynote speaker for the 11th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast sponsored by Benedictine University, the College of DuPage and NICOR.

The breakfast is one of the largest events of its kind in the country celebrating King’s legacy and diversity in general.

Saying that King knew public education was “the great equalizer,” Weaver challenged those who attack public education to join with him in lifting up American public schools and the people who work in them.

“We are under attack,” Weaver said. “They want to dismantle public education and throw out the good with the bad. But as long as public schools educate 90 percent of our children, we have to stand as a bulwark against the ideologues.

“We owe it to our kids to create something lasting and enduring,” Weaver added. “I don’t care what your party affiliation is, don’t tell me, show me whether you are going to support education and children.”

Weaver travels around the country as an ambassador for public education, stressing the NEA’s mission to ensure that every child in America can attend a great public school in his or her own neighborhood.

“If Dr. King was alive today, he would remind us of what should be obvious,” Weaver said. “If minority children, poor children, immigrant children and even middle-class children are going to get a decent education in America, they are only going to get it in public schools.”

The breakfast also featured the presentation of scholarships. Two scholarship recipients were Elizabeth Hall and Antonia Phillips of Benedictine University.

Charles Hammond, Jr. provided a vocal selection, and Inamul Haq, associate professor of Religious Studies at Benedictine, provided reflections on the celebration of diversity based upon his own experiences as an immigrant from Pakistan.

Following breakfast, there were three breakout sessions including “New Challenges of American Immigration” facilitated by faculty from the College of DuPage Public Policy Institute; “Mobilizing a Community – Civic Engagement” facilitated by Darlene Ruscitti, Ph.D., Superintendent, DuPage Regional Office of Education; and “Living Together,” facilitated by William J. Carroll, Ph.D. President, Benedictine University, and Sunil Chand, Ph.D., President, College of DuPage.†
As a kid growing up on the south side of Chicago, Douglas Klauba collected illustrated paperback covers and printed his own comic books.

“I was not a big superhero kid,” Klauba said. “My dad and my uncles passed down a lot of ‘Classics Illustrated’ to me, a lot of stuff from what was considered the ‘Golden Age’ of illustration. I was a huge adventure fan, things like ‘The Three Musketeers’ and ‘The Count of Monte Cristo.’ Later on I did become a big fan of Spiderman.”

Klauba’s enthusiasm for art has not waned over the years, and now he is sharing that exuberance with students at Benedictine University. An award-winning painter and illustrator, Klauba serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Communication Arts. He teaches an independent study course on commercial art subtitled “Adventures in Illustration.”

“We focus on concepting and ideas, and establishing an artist’s thoughtfulness,” he said. “It’s pretty important for an artist to be able to conceptualize and visualize ideas. We concentrate on developing ideas for a story. We explore different concepts, like creating visuals for emotions or for social issues.”

Klauba’s own work shows influences from Art Nouveau, classic movie posters and golden-age illustration. His paintings are recognized for his heroic-deco style with dramatic use of lighting. They have been exhibited at the Society of Illustrators in New York and Los Angeles and the World Fantasy Convention in Madison, Wisconsin.

His work has also been seen on many book covers, magazines, calendars, posters and collectibles for a variety of clients, including IBM, Focus on the Family, The Bradford Exchange, Cross Way Books and many others.

“Obviously, he brings a more pop culture approach to art than what we have done in the past,” said Peter Seely, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Communication Arts at Benedictine. “Most of our art faculty members work in more traditional areas. Doug brings a popular perspective that the art department really needs.”

Klauba graduated from the American Academy of Art in Chicago in 1985 and gained invaluable experience by working at several downtown illustration studios.

He later studied at the Academy of Art College in San Francisco before returning to Chicago. His work has appeared on the cover of Moonstone graphic novels whose titles include “The Phantom” and “Kolchak: the Night Stalker.” His illustration, “DaVinci’s Dream,” was awarded Best in Show at the 2005 World Fantasy Convention.


Seely hopes Benedictine will be able to offer a graphic arts major in the future, which would include courses on commercial art, computer animation, electronic publishing, digital imaging and Web page design. Courses like the one taught by Klauba, which inspire the imagination and spur creativity, will be an integral part of a graphic arts program. }
As a freshman at Harvard University more than 25 years ago, Scott C. Alexander, the spring semester Visiting Scholar at Benedictine University, watched the Islamist revolution unfold in Iran with keen religious insight.

Watching the “experts” on television explain the political events of the day, Alexander was dissatisfied with the disconnect between what he was learning in his classes and what was being perpetrated by the mass media.

The young man who once entertained ideas of joining the priesthood grew into a highly educated Islamic scholar, fluent in Middle Eastern culture and history.

Now the associate professor of Islam at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and director of the Program in Catholic-Muslim Studies at the school’s Bernardin Center for Theology and Ministry, Alexander lectures widely in the United States and abroad.

At his first lecture at Benedictine University titled “New Window on Islam: Finding a Basis for Dialogue in a Time of Conflict” on February 22, Alexander greeted the audience in fluent Arabic.

During his lecture, Alexander delved into the Islamic understanding of prophetology and the view of the inherent religious nature of the human soul.

Segueing into the second topic, the Islamic view of the human soul, Alexander said, “All of the prophets and messengers on this tree are muslims.”

Recognizing the startling effect of this comment, Alexander explained anyone who submits to Allah, or God, is muslim without a capital ‘M,’ according to the Islamic perspective.

From the Islamic theological perspective, “there is a muslim in every human being. We’re hardwired to be worshippers of the one true God,” Alexander said.

Alexander presented the second part of his presentation, “Confrontation and Dialogue: History of Catholic Muslim Relations,” on February 23.

He opened the presentation reviewing the two tracks that Catholic Muslim relations have taken in years past: one of confrontation and the other of dialogue.

Within those two tracks Alexander broadened into topics such as early Muslim expansion, the Christian response to “heresy,” the Crusades and more recent examples of confrontation between Christians and Muslims.

Speaking of dialogue between Catholics and Muslims he said, “Throughout the history of antagonism there have been peaceful times and alternative approaches to conflict.”

Differing from heresy, the language of dialogue provides corrective solutions. “It encourages the deepening of mutual respect through understanding,” Alexander said.

After spending almost three full days at Benedictine, Alexander had many kind words to say about the community.

“This is one of the hidden treasures of the Chicagoland area,” he said. “Benedictine University has a unique opportunity to work with this diversity and use it as a rich educational resource.”

For more information on the Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought series, please contact Fr. Philip Timko, O.S.B., at (630) 829-6266. +
The new Activities of Daily Living Performance Enhancement Center at Villa St. Benedict is providing unique opportunities for both young and old.

Villa St. Benedict is a new retirement community located on the 47-acre Sacred Heart Monastery grounds across the street from Benedictine University. Co-sponsored by the Benedictine Health System and the Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Villa St. Benedict features independent and assisted living for older adults.

The Activities of the Daily Living Performance Enhancement Center (PEC), located in the community’s main building, is designed to promote quality of life among the facility’s senior residents. The PEC is part of a formal partnership between the Master of Science in Clinical Exercise Physiology (M.C.E.P.) program at Benedictine and Villa St. Benedict.

The fitness and geriatric research center also serves as a place where Benedictine’s M.C.E.P. students can apply what they learn in the classroom.

“Our objective is to take healthy seniors and keep them healthy, take unhealthy seniors and make them healthier, and take disabled seniors and reduce the impact of their disabilities,” said Craig E. Broeder, Ph.D., director of Benedictine’s M.C.E.P. program and director of the PEC.

“The center is also an outreach of our academic program,” Broeder said. “Our undergraduate and graduate students will be able to conduct internships at the center. We will also be inviting undergraduate students from other institutions to perform internships. These students will be responsible for organizing fitness programs and collecting data for research.”

As the population of the United States ages, there is a greater demand for services directed to seniors. Addressing quality of life has emerged as an integral part of health promotion practice.

“The center is all about raising the quality of life for the residents,” Broeder said. “In addition to helping improve their aerobic fitness, strength and flexibility, we are also meeting with food services and bringing in people from the nutrition department at the University to help residents improve their diet.”

The center features state-of-the-art exercise equipment, some of which was made possible through the generosity of corporate donors such as Waukesha, Wisconsin-based Wellspring Fitness and OPS Medical of Pasadena, Md.

The PEC will also be the site of intensive research by students enrolled in the M.C.E.P. program at Benedictine University and interns from other institutions. Students will be performing research in the areas of balance, strength and coordination, and metabolic syndrome including diabetes, hypertension and heart disease.

The M.C.E.P. program is a two-year, evening-based program designed in accordance with the American College of Sports Medicine for certification as a Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist. Graduates are qualified to work in the prevention of cardiovascular disease and the rehabilitation of those experiencing cardiovascular problems.

For more information about the program, call (630) 829-6227.
Since 1997, Benedictine University’s Dietetic Internship (DI) program has been providing students with excellent learning experiences through its affiliation with more than 75 sites in the Chicago area. Students enrolled in the DI program pursue either a Master of Science in Nutrition and Wellness or a Master of Public Health degree. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the exam administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration and become a registered dietitian.

The DI program provides interns with the unique opportunity to gain experience in a variety of settings such as hospitals, senior living communities (such as Villa St. Benedict), public health clinics, the Healthy Table outpatient nutrition clinic, schools and many others. The interns learn a variety of skills and competencies from the large pool of highly qualified site preceptors. All site preceptors donate their time and expertise to the DI program. In return, interns provide a variety of services to affiliated sites. Services provided include creating and presenting educational programs, staffing for health fairs, creating educational materials, completion of quality improvement audits or any other project assistance that might help the site.

“I honestly have enjoyed every rotation in my dietetic internship. Every site not only has taught me about the many career avenues that I could take in the field of dietetics, but also revealed aspects of potential previously unrealized in myself,” said Megan Murphy, M.P.H. ’06.

Interns also provide a vast amount of service to the community. Since its creation, the DI program has strived to provide service to underserved populations. Current projects include:

- Weekly provision of individual nutrition counseling to uninsured clients at the DuPage Free Clinic located in Wheaton. The majority of clients assisted at this site have high-risk medical conditions such as diabetes mellitus or cardiovascular disease.
- Nutrition intervention programs in West Chicago School District 33, which is funded through a We Go Together for Kids/Safe Schools program. Interventions are currently being provided at six elementary schools, and seek to educate students, parents and teachers.
- Monthly classes presented to homeless clients who obtain treatment at a diabetes clinic located at Hesed House in Aurora. This project is also in collaboration with Midwestern University.
- More than 20 nutrition presentations provided annually at local community facilities.
- Monthly on-campus education displays for members of the Benedictine community.
- Provision of individual nutrition counseling services for members of the Benedictine community, and any person in DuPage County with a valid Medicare or Medicaid card.

“As an alum of the undergraduate program, I believe it is important to support today’s students in their education. What better way to do this than having their clinical nutrition rotations in a hospital setting. I really enjoy working with the interns and I also learn from them,” said Bridget Stockdale, R.D., L.D., clinical dietitian, Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital.

For more information about the program, call (630) 829-6548. †

Program endorsed by ACSM
The Master of Science in Clinical Exercise Physiology (M.C.E.P.) program is now recognized as being among the very select programs in the nation following its recent endorsement by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM).

The endorsement certifies that Benedictine’s exercise physiology curriculum covers the knowledge, skills and abilities to prepare students for the ACSM Exercise Specialist certification examination and a career in clinical exercise training. The M.C.E.P. program at Benedictine is one of only 10 graduate programs endorsed by the ACSM nationwide.

The endorsement also gives Benedictine students on-demand access to ACSM-written credentialing examinations, feedback from ACSM on student performance, and unique professional development opportunities through ACSM programs.

The American College of Sports Medicine is the largest sports medicine and exercise science organization in the world with more than 20,000 members in the United States and internationally.

efiSports Medicine Grant received
The M.C.E.P. program received a corporate grant from efiSports Medicine Corporation for seven Gravity Fitness Systems to be used in a study looking at the effects of physical activity on daily living in men and women age 60 years or older.

A national television film crew will tape the research in order to promote the results from the fitness program. †
Scholarship Honors Late Special Education Director

Benedictine University has established a scholarship in memory of Paul I. Murphy, former executive director of the School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED). Murphy passed away unexpectedly in November 2005. Despite profound deafness, he was the first person to graduate from Hinsdale South High School’s deaf education program, became a special education teacher and principal, was a guest lecturer and faculty member at several universities, and eventually assumed the executive directorship of SASED.

“Mr. Murphy dedicated his life to helping young people overcome emotional, psychological, behavioral and academic challenges,” said Alandra Weller-Clarke, Ph.D., assistant professor of education at Benedictine. “I cannot think of a better way to reach out to our partners at SASED and the community to honor this wonderful human being.”

SASED serves more than 6,400 students from 18 member school districts with disabilities including hearing impairment, vision disabilities, speech disorders, physical disabilities and severe mental and social disorders.

Every year, 15 to 20 Benedictine students preparing to teach students with disabilities receive hands-on training through Benedictine’s partnership with Southeast Alternative School in Naperville. The school has more than 120 students and provides special education classes for students with moderate to severe behavioral or emotional disorders. The training includes pre-clinical work, functional behavior assessments, data collection and various other projects across the curriculum.

“In addition to providing our students with one-to-one mentoring, this partnership provides pre-service teachers insight into the daily routine of school, experience working with families and specialists, and an opportunity to develop a sense of community with professional teachers and staff,” Weller-Clarke said.

The Paul Murphy Memorial Scholarship will be awarded specifically to graduates of Southeast Alternative School who meet admission requirements to Benedictine University. Scholarship funds would be applied toward tuition or other educational expenses.

“These students must overcome tremendous adversity in order to graduate from this alternative school,” Weller-Clarke said. “They have earned whatever additional help we can provide.”

Donations to the Paul Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund can be sent to Joan Henehan, development director, Benedictine University, 5700 College Road, Lisle, IL 60532. For more information about SASED, visit the Web site at www.sased.org.

The Benedictine Spirit of Giving

“The generous spirit of caring by both faculty and students from Benedictine University has made a major impact on the social service scene in DuPage County this past year. On behalf of the DuPage Continuum of Care — a group of service providers for the homeless in the county — I thank you for the willingness of John Cicero to undertake the project of helping develop, design and implement a Web site. Eileen Clark worked with the Continuum leadership to take a multitude of ideas and opinions and turn them into a communication tool that has helped raise the awareness level about homelessness in DuPage. Eileen spent large amounts of time doing this and always responded to changes with a willing attitude and a smile. I know the time involved because I had a consulting firm do the same for our Food Bank … and the benefit Eileen gave the Continuum may very well be one of the most meaningful gifts in the last 10 years.

Students in your management school did an organizational development study for Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) last spring. That study helped us rationalize the need for a new structure that more closely matched the challenges our organization is facing today. NIFB has tripled in size in the past six years. We are the classic example of an infant trying to become more mature. Since the study we have added a COO and made other structural changes that disperse operating responsibility in a better, more effective model.

After the initial study, the work team focused on helping us with a closer examination of our volunteer program, and the resulting report has caused us to set much higher performance standards in recruiting and retaining volunteers. Our half-year target of having 5,000 different persons participate in a volunteer effort was exceeded by 1,855 people. I am thankful to Kate Hayden and Katie Pecis for leading this project. The Food Bank could not have met the challenges of Katrina without having ramped up our volunteer efforts.

We would not be looking at providing more than 22 million pounds of food assistance in northern Illinois were it not for people like Katie, our great friend Frank Budig with Sodexo and Dr. Carroll. I am not well versed on the mission of the University, but I can tell you this … it is making a major difference in improving life for many folks in this area who will never know how you helped. Benedictine University and its people are representative of this quote from Will Rose, “God loves the world through those who serve.”

Sincerely,

H. Dennis Smith
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Executive Director & CEO
Continuity Amidst Change

On December 25, 1943, Abbot Procopius Neuzil, O.S.B., made a notation in the chronicle of the monastery that he had been keeping for more than 50 years: “Weather on this Christmas day: at quarter to four in the afternoon, Rev. Fr. Leonard Gerl, O.S.B., former prior of the Abbey for 10 years, and priest jubilarian in 1944, was sitting outside on the bench with two clerics, all of them warming themselves in the sun.”

Apart from the outdoor relaxation made possible by the warmth of that Christmas afternoon, this would have been a common sight around the monastery and college during the 1930s and 1940s.

Fr. Leonard, born in Bohemia in 1869, had immigrated to America to become a monk, and was one of the pioneer members of St. Procopius Abbey. In 1913 he came to Lisle to teach in the schools, and six years later Abbot Valentine Kohlbeck appointed him the community’s Prior. He held this office until 1928, when failing eyesight obliged him to relinquish most active work.

Over the next two decades and more, he helped out as best he could. For example, he served as confessor for the Benedictine Sisters who worked in the College’s kitchen and laundry. His eyesight worsened, and younger monks often helped fill the hours by reading to him. A favorite activity remained walking out to the seminary golf course on the other side of College Road. He would make his way up to a fine old oak tree that in its immensity was one of the few objects that he could still see well. He would pat the tree lovingly, reassuring himself that it too was still there, and then set out for the hike back to the monastery.

Fr. Leonard died in 1950, at the age of 81. His favorite oak remains in the back yard of the “new” monastery building completed in 1970. The tree has been braced these last decades by a metal rod that one of the monks inserted to prevent the aging trunks from splitting apart.

In recent years, signs of senescence have become ever more noticeable, and ever fewer new green leaves have been seen each spring. Those that appeared in the spring of 2005 soon vanished amidst last summer’s drought.

One of these years, probably soon, the tree many monks still call “Fr. Leonard’s oak” will fall. Only God endures forever, and the aging of this natural monument serves as a reminder of the transitory nature of even the best things this world can offer.

But the new trees growing at the foot of the old oak tells us also of the goodness by which God allows hope for the future as well as pride in the past. On a campus too, new buildings, new students, will replace those that went before. So long as a clear vision and sense of mission thrive, so will a school, whatever the external changes.†
The Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex played host on Saturday, March 4 to the first ever NCAA Division I men’s lacrosse game in the Chicago area in front of 3,800 Notre Dame and Cornell fans.

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Student offers thanks

A letter to:
William Carroll, president
Charles Gregory, vice president
Daniel Julius, provost
Marco Masini, dean
Donald Taylor, professor

When I found out the “Funding and Grantsmanship” class was available for undergraduates, I signed up. What an exciting experience to be an undergraduate and enroll in an “adult” class. The students I met were older, knowledgeable and pretty cool people. It is unfortunate that more students did not take advantage and enroll because Dr. Morrow and the guest speakers were amazing.

If I had taken this class last year, I may have understood more during meetings, and [Student Government] would have most likely written a better proposal regarding the Add/Drop Policy. I may be just an undergraduate student, but I believe I know quite a bit about my school, its community, its values and its mission. Taking this class, I have a stronger appreciation for all that our University and its faculty/staff continue to provide.

The opportunity to serve as the 2004-2005 Student Government Association (SGA) President last year was both an honor and a privilege. As I reflect back upon the year, I feel that I really made a difference, not just in the lives of my fellow students, but also in my own life. I want to make a difference in the world, and everyday Benedictine continues to offer a path in which I can find a way to become the person I need to be. This institution has provided, and continues to provide, so many wonderful ways to become informed individuals.

I want to thank you for being some of the gatekeepers that continue to bring out the good in those around us and bring those people to our community. Benedictine is a great school, and I attend it with pride. Benedictine fills my closet, my car and my heart. I appreciated the time, patience and understanding you provided last year, and continue to provide to all of our students. I especially thank you for the support you have provided me as I continue on the path towards graduation, and so many doors that will continue to be unlocked. Thank you for believing in the students of the senate and of this campus. Thank you for listening to me, even when I wasn’t talking about the SGA.

Thank you for all that you have done, and continue to do.

Sincerely,

Christina Maria Argianas, C07

Get Your Benedictine Alumni Items Today

Select items are available on the bookstore Web site at benbkstore.com. For a greater selection visit the store in the Krasa Student Center.

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Show Your School Spirit

benbkstore.com

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Attention Alumni:
Refer a Student

If you know someone who would make a good addition to the Benedictine student community, help them complete the alumni-referred prospect student form online at www.ben.edu/referral and their application fee will be waived.

For more information, contact the Enrollment Center at (630) 829-6300 or admissions@ben.edu.

Voluntary Subscriptions Support Magazine

The cost of publishing and mailing Benedictine Voices, the alumni magazine, continues to increase.

Your tax-deductible gift of $15 helps defray these mounting costs during difficult budget times. This is strictly voluntarily. You can enclose your donation in the attached contribution envelope.

Class of ’64
Ted Lownik, Political Science, has been recently appointed by Mayor Patrick Kitching of Alsip to come up with ways to bring art to the streets. He hopes to put Alsip on the map with an innovative public art program.

Class of ’65
James B. “Sean” Kenney, Biology, has been selected as one of the College of Education and Human Development’s 100 Distinguished Alumni for the University of Minnesota. The honor is based on academic and professional achievements as well as impact on society.

Class of ’70
Bob Knelt, Engineering Science, is the program manager, cargo security programs, for the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Gail Baker, reside in Arlington, VA.

Class of ’73
Thomas Condon, History, recently joined the law firm of Judge, James & Kajawa, LLC in Park Ridge. Condon is an associate attorney and concentrates on insurance defense litigation.

Class of ’75
Pete Mastondrea, Physical Education, is teaching math and physical education at St. Francis High School in Wheaton, IL. Mastondrea resides in Downers Grove with his wife, Kristina (Benesh) Mastondrea, and Economics ’79.

Class of ’78
John Knobloch, History, is an attorney in his own practice in Naperville. Knobloch serves as a trustee for the Naperville Public Library, is a member of the St. Raphael School Board and continues to serve on the Benedictine University Alumni Board. He and his wife, Jan, live in Naperville with their two sons, Jimmy and Danny.

Bill Lisowski, English and Literature, recently joined the consulting firm of John G. Mengelson, Inc. The firm specializes in people, process and technology issues for small and medium-sized service business. Lisowski supports the areas of facilities and operations management.

Class of ’84
Paul Sergio, Political Science, is vice president of North Folk Bank in Stamford, CT.

Class of ’86
John Kippes, Computer Science, is an engineering manager at Lucent Technologies. He and his wife, Barbara, reside in Naperville.

Class of ’89
Rich Jagodzinski, Health Science, has worked for Feld Entertainment, Walt Disney World since 2000. He has performed in shows, parades and worked at Tokyo Disney Sea for six months while living in Japan. He is now with Feld Entertainment’s — Disney Live! where he tours the U.S., Mexico, Japan, Taiwan and China. He resides in Palmetto, FL when not touring.

Class of ’93
Isabella (Malby) Cowan Biringer, M.S., is an exercise physiologist and concentrates on insurance defense litigation.

Class of ’94
Paul Mengelson, Management, has relocated to Kentucky to begin a new position as cardiovascular manager for Centro Inc. in North Hickory, NC.

Melvin Mullins, M.B.A., is an insurance agent with Farmer’s Insurance Group in Oakbrook Terrace. Mullins and his wife, Lisa, live in South Holland, IL.

Class of ’04
Sai Hazboun, M.B.A., recently accepted the position of general manager for Centro Inc. in North Carolina. Hazboun will reside in Hickory, NC.

Karen Kerr, Molecular Biology, is a graduate student and research assistant at Iowa State University.

Randy Peltier, Business and Economics, is the senior director of applied business technology at RC2. He lives in Naperville.

Accepting Nominations

The Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Recognition Awards for 2006. The awards are Distinguished Alumni Award, Alumni Service Award and the Benedictine Spirit Award. Submit nominations to the Office of Alumni Relations, Benedictine University, 5700 College Rd., Lisle, IL 60532 or at www.ben.edu/alumni/awards.

“If I’m not mistaken, the three students in the picture (Why so sad?) are, left to right, Joe Jurich, C83, Christine Kwak, C83 and Scott Tompkins, C81.”

Regards,
Tom Dolan, C82
Marriages
Alexandra (Fay) Blomgren, Nutrition ’02, and Joshua Blomgren, Biochemistry ’01, were married in October 2005. Joshua is a medical student at Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. They make their home in Chicago.
Beth (Gura) Dooling, Biology ’01, was married in May 2005 to George Dooling. She graduated in June 2005 from Midwestern University’s Glendale, AZ campus with her doctorate in Pharmacy. She and her husband reside in Tucson while she completes a residency at the V.A. Hospital in Tucson.
Catherine (Beem) Hohol, M.C.P. ’05, was married in May 2005 to David Hohol. The couple resides in Volo, IL.
Harry Lesner, Jr., Finance ’02, was married in October 2005 to Audry (Nowak) Lesner. He is a corporate accountant at Ace Hardware in Oak Brook.
Susan McCarthy, Elementary Education ’85, recently married Rick St. Denis in September 2005. They currently reside in Des Plaines, IL and Glasgow, Scotland.
Ravi Singh, Computer Science ’96, was married to Jaya Singh in November 2004. They reside in Glen Ellyn.

Births
Michelle (Minch) Martinez, Spanish ’95, and her husband, Sergio, welcomed their second child, Gabriela Isabel, in December 2005. Big brother Nicholas welcomed her to their Cicero home. Michelle is currently working on her master’s degree in Elementary Education.
Beth (Hamilton) Martin, Spanish and Elementary Education ’98, and her husband, Tom, welcomed their first child, Maura Elizabeth, in February 2005. The family resides in Bolingbrook.
Susan (Kajtsa) Miller, M.C.P. ’93, and her husband, Russell, welcomed their son, Steven, in October 2005.

in memory
Joseph Liu, SPA ’46 and SPC ’50, passed away recently in Puerto Rico.
Kenneth Martin, Biology ’75, passed away on December 16, 2005.
John Stacy, Biology ’64, passed away on November 11, 2005.
Raymond Stonich, Arts and Sciences ’56, recently passed away.
Andy Zikas, Political Science ’62, passed away on February 14, 2006.

let us know
If you recognize these alumni, contact us at alumni@ben.edu.

What was your favorite Benedictine University activity while on campus?
E-mail lhale@ben.edu.

Your Class Notes Can Win You A Prize
The Office of Alumni Relations and your fellow alumni want to know what is new in your life. Tell us what you have been up to; what you do in your career; interesting travel; a new job, promotion or award; family news; and more.

Please contact:
Debbie Smith/Alumni Association
fax (630) 829-6313 or
e-mail alumni@ben.edu

Remember, even after you graduate, you are still connected here.
Memory Box: David Fischer, C76

“It was in December 1973, the last day of finals before winter vacation. I was to take the final exam for Metaphysics, taught by philosophy professor Dr. Bernard Toussaint, from 2:00–5:00 p.m. Philosophy was not my major, and although I had studied hard and even attended a help session earlier that week, I was still worried about it.

A classmate, Mary Ann Chandler (now Mary Ann Jack, C76), and I had been studying for the Metaphysics exam all morning in the library. Around 12:30 p.m., we decided we were as ready as we could get, and we went for lunch. By the time we got back to school, everything was covered by snow. The lawns and sidewalks were barely visible and big, thick snowflakes were falling harder by the minute. The final was held in the big lecture hall in the Science Learning Center, today the Scholl building. Each new student arriving for the exam was covered with snow. You could tell from the laughter, teasing, and red marks on cheeks that there’d been some pre-exam snowball fighting, too.

Right at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Toussaint arrived with the exams, his hair full of snow. He called for attention and waved the exam papers: “You all know it’s snowing outside. I just heard the forecast on the radio. It calls for up to 10 inches by midnight and the wind is too strong. This is the last exam period of finals week, the school is closing down, and it makes no difference if you are a resident or a commuter; you’re leaving after this exam. I want everyone to get home safely. My home is nearby and I will be fine, but I don’t want any of you getting caught in a blizzard.”

My original instructions called for you to choose and answer any nine of 11 questions in three hours. I am changing this to any seven of the 11, and suggest you finish as quickly as you can and get going before the snow gets really deep.”

He looked up at the clock. “Let’s start the exam . . . now.” Some students exchanged brief looks of amazement. No one had ever heard of any professor making an exam shorter due to bad weather before. When I got my exam from a proctor, I read the 11 questions, evaluating my choices, and found that there were only seven that I could answer properly. Oh, bless that snowstorm! It took about two hours to answer those seven questions. When I left around 4:00 p.m., we had four inches of snow and the low, gray sky held plenty more to come. Some of us were talking in the parking lot while brushing off our cars; it turned out that we had all answered the same seven questions and would have been hard-pressed to answer two more!

Bernard Toussaint, Ph.D., responded, “I can’t add much to the story, but I have always believed that to be a good teacher, you have to remember what it was like to be a student.”

David Fischer, C76

I lived in Westchester at the time and was home to enjoy the start of winter break by 5:30 p.m. The storm did amount to nearly a foot of snow the next morning. I will never forget Professor Toussaint shortening the Metaphysics exam so we could all beat the snowstorm home.”

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Tell my classmates that . . .

Please clip and mail to:
Benedictine University
Debbie Smith/Alumni Association
5700 College Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532
or fax (630) 829-6313
 e-mail alumni@ben.edu

☐ Check here if you are interested in mentoring students or helping fellow alumni through the Alumnet program.

we want your class notes

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!

Tell my classmates that . . .

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

Spring 2006 31
Benedictine Remembers:
Professors Char Ross and Ken Nordin

Remembering Char Ross
by Rita Dougherty

Charlotte P. Ross, Ph.D., taught at Benedictine University for 16 years and was committed to waging an awareness campaign on special disabilities. She passed away this past Fall. Ross had amazing insight, and encouraged students she felt would be good at teaching Special Education. She mentored them over their years at the school, and many are now working/teaching in that field. They credit her with their happiness with their career choice.

President William Carroll often turned to Ross when he had a project that was “out of the box,” for she “jumped right in” and carried it through successfully down to the slightest details. Her understanding of behavior management, intellectual disabilities and social-emotional disorders began early in her studies and she graduated from the University of Wisconsin/Madison in 1989 with a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education.

In 1998, Ross, along with five Benedictine students, went to Holy Ghost School in Marksville, La., to put Benedictine students in an atmosphere of working with faculty and students in a culturally different school. Each student wrote an introductory letter to the Holy Ghost principal to explain why they wanted to take part in this project. While there, they did a kind of “Habitat for Humanity” project wielding paintbrushes to spruce up the place.

She brought them a message from President Carroll, that if the students maintained a “B” average in high school, and if they committed to education, they would receive a four-year scholarship to Benedictine.

Sadly, Holy Ghost was forced to close its doors, but happily, its graduates continue to enroll at Benedictine.

Ross also spearheaded a project at St. Ethelreda School on the south side of Chicago. She initiated “Peer Buddies” to enrich the math and science curricula for kindergarten through eighth grade. Several times a year, eighth grade students come to Benedictine for a day of learning, and several times a year, Benedictine faculty go there for a day to provide in-service teachers with a culturally diverse opportunity to learn and practice skills in teaching math and science. Again, if students maintain a “B” in high school and commit to education, they will receive a

Remembering Ken Nordin
by Deanna Hartley, C06

Kenneth Nordin, Ph.D., professor of communication arts and former advisor to The Candor, died of a heart attack on February 3. He was 68 years old and is survived by his siblings, David and Diane, and his two children, Dayton and Kendra.

A memorial service was held on March 3 on the Benedictine campus, during which family, friends, faculty, staff, current and former students gathered to “celebrate a life fully lived and loved.”

He began his journey at Benedictine in 1991, was tenured in the 1990s and was promoted to full professor in 2004. He had been advisor of The Candor for 14 of his 15 years at Benedictine.

Nordin had returned from sabbatical and was scheduled to teach three courses at Benedictine this spring — Newswriting and Reporting, Media and Government, and History of Film.

He was granted sabbatical last fall to work on a book about editorial cartooning in the American press. In the book, Nordin planned to profile all 60 Pulitzer Prize recipients; the Pulitzer Prize is the highest honor a journalist can receive. He continued his work on the book project into the spring. The completion of the project is currently pending. “If his book were to be published some day,” said Peter Seely, chair of the communication arts department, “I think that would establish his legacy.”

He had published two articles on editorial cartooning in ‘The International Journal of Comic Art.’ He was also chief designer of a book on comic art, Understanding the Funnies.

 “[Nordin] was such a well-rounded guy,” said Seely. “He had such a passion for sports, literature, politics and the opera.”

In addition to being a horse breeder, Nordin was also a voracious swimmer. He regularly competed in marathons and triathlons, while taking piano lessons in his spare time.

Nordin taught a total of 34 different classes at Benedictine including First-Year Seminar, The Baptism of Europe, Newswriting and Reporting, Masters of the American Cinema, Advanced Journalism Writing, The Literature of Journalism, and Layout and Design for Publication. He also served as the architect of the freshman seminar course. He influenced many students’ lives.

Nordin, along with James Iaccino, Ph.D., professor of psychology/sociology, were the architects of the film studies minor at Benedictine. In the mid-1990s, Nordin was the writing director of the rhetoric program at Benedictine. He was also the...
four-year scholarship to Benedictine. Her legacy there continues.

Kind of an “Auntie Mame” personality in the classroom with a wonderful unique sense of humor, Ross was intent that students learn the best way to teach. Special Education was her passion, and it was not unusual for her to burst into song during class to emphasize a point.

She left a legacy for she lived life in color, and added color to the lives of those she touched. She wore colorful clothes and sported her flowered Doc Martens with pride. She was a weaver, knitter, storyteller and always noticed rainbows.

She passed the torch of her enthusiasm to friends and students across the country. That single flame of enthusiasm and care is now burning in the hearts of all who knew her. She is missed. †

faculty athletic representative at Benedictine.

Nordin’s children established the “Dr. Kenneth D. Nordin Candor Memorial Fund.” This fund will be used for equipment and technological resources to better facilitate The Candor’s outreach to the Benedictine community. Additionally, it may be used to allow The Candor editors to attend seminars on higher education newspapers.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, you can send a check made out to “Benedictine University” with a memo designation, “Nordin Candor Memorial Fund.” All gifts are to be sent to Peter Seely at the University, 5700 College Rd., Lisle, IL 60532. Further questions should be directed to Brad Carlson at bcarlson@ben.edu. †

William J. Carroll (University President) participated as a shavee during the St. Baldrick Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research fundraising event. St. Baldrick, the fictional patron saint of bald children, is a shave-your-head fundraiser that has raised more than $12 million during the past six years.

Eileen Clark (Computer Science) was recognized by the DuPage County Board for her work in developing and maintaining a Web site for the DuPage County Homeless Continuum of Care with a resolution at its November 8, 2005 board meeting.

Jane Crabtree (Business) has been teaching the AARP Driver Safety course for about seven years. It is a two, four-hour session course that covers how to compensate for age-related changes that impact safe driving, what to do when you are involved in a crash, driving on expressways and other topics to improve older drivers’ safety. Course participants age 55 years and older can receive a discount on their automobile insurance when they have completed the course. Crabtree attended a two-day training session on the new edition of the course. Crabtree taught the AARP Driver Safety course in March and April at Fairview Village in Downers Grove and at the Lisle Park District.

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Luann DeGreve (Library) is one of 30 Illinois librarians selected to participate in “Synergy 2006: the Illinois Library Leadership Initiative,” a yearlong program designed to develop future leaders in the library profession and Illinois community. The group of 30 librarians attended a three-day seminar in March at Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center in Utica, and will attend seminars in August at the Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton and in November at the Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel in Lisle. The seminars are sponsored by the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Library Association.

Kevin Doyle (Business Administration) presented a paper titled “What Effect Does CSI Have on CS1 Performance and Major Retention?” at the 2006 College Teaching and Learning Conference in January in Orlando, Fla. Doyle’s paper was selected as best in his session by peer evaluation. Doyle was also quoted in an article in the December 19, 2005 issue of Computerworld, the major weekly newspaper for IT professionals, along with professionals from Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. Adjoined Consulting in Miami, Lucent Technologies and another faculty member from Boston University. The article, “How to Write a Progress Report: Everyone does it, but few do it well. Here’s how,” focused on chief information officers and identified best practices for preparing effective project progress reports.

Barbara Dwyer (Community Development) was selected by the College of DuPage as its “2006 Woman of Distinction.” The award recognizes someone who has made contributions to the personal and/or professional advancement of women.

Mardelle Fortier (Literature) had a poem published in the Fall 2005 edition of Bibliophilos, a literary magazine. The poem was titled “Freud and the Cat.” Fortier has had many publications in Bibliophilos including two other poems, eight book reviews and a scholarly article on Joyce Carol Oates. Fortier also had a poem accepted by Benidji State University in Minnesota for inclusion in its literary journal, Dust and Fire 2006. The poem is titled “September Song.” In February 2006, Fortier participated in an international conference on fiction writing at the Windham O’Hare. She was a member of a panel on short story writing and a moderator of a panel on legal aspects of writing.

Chuck Gahala (Undergraduate Business) successfully completed the exam for the Certified International Credit Professional (CICP) designation. The designation is available through the Finance, Credit and International Business Association which is commonly known internationally as the FCIB. Gahala also completed a 12-week, Web-based course through Michigan State University in “International Risk and Credit Management.” The January 2006 edition of Business Credit featured an article written by Gahala titled “An Identification of the Tasks Essential for Job Advancement.”
in Business Credit.” The article was written based upon research that Gahala conducted during his recent sabbatical.

**Sandra Gill** (College of Business) conducted the Physician Executive Boot Camp with Matthew J. Lambert, III, M.D., Senior Vice President for Clinical Operations, Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare, in March at the 2006 Congress on Healthcare Leadership. Gill is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and developed this program with Lambert for new physician executives three years ago. ACHE has more than 30,000 members and the annual Congress draws more than 4,000 health care executives.

Cheryl Heinz (Biology) participated in a Review Panel for the Division of Environmental Biology at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Va. in February. The panel reviewed 135 scientific grant proposals and made recommendations regarding funding to the National Science Foundation.

Manu Kaur (Mathematics) presented two papers at the joint annual meetings of the American Mathematical Society (AMS), the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and the Association of Women in Mathematics. The papers are titled “Motivating Undergraduates with Different Backgrounds to do Mathematics Research” and “Creating and Using Online Quizzes.” The first paper was Kaur’s contribution to the AMS Special Session on Mathematics Education. Kaur also served as a judge in the MAA poster competition for the undergraduates.

Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B. (curator of the Benedictine Art Collection) explored the spiritual meaning of seven well-known paintings at the Art Institute of Chicago in February at the Theosophical Society of America in Wheaton. In his photographic slide presentation, Fr. Michael showed how modern artists develop distinctive ways of spiritual expression. He featured Henri Matisse, Piet Mondrian, Frantsisek Kupka, Ellsworth Kelly, On Kawara, Gerhard Richter and Wassily Kandisky (the author of the 1912 treatise “On the Spiritual in Art”). He also presented slides of world-famous paintings of the Passion of Christ as part of a Lenten meditation in March at St. Mary of Gostyn Church in Downers Grove.

**University Honors Service**

Five employees from Benedictine University and St. Procopius Abbey were honored for their contributions to the University during the annual Employee Recognition Program held March 3 in the Krasa Dining Room.

Jay Stuart (Sodexo Campus Services) and Frank Budig (Sodexo Food Services) shared the Partner Employee of the Year Award, and the members of St. Procopius Abbey received the President’s Award for Partnership. Other award winners included President William Carroll, who was honored for his efforts on behalf of campus beautification; College of Science administrative assistant Krystal Kleinschmidt, winner of the President’s Award for Exemplary Service to the Community; and AssistantProvost David Sonnenberger, recipient of the President’s Award for Leadership.
ISMAA which is to assist in the improvement of education in the mathematical sciences at the collegiate level.

Martin Tracey (Philosophy) delivered a lecture titled “Virtue and Happiness in a pre-1250 Commentary on the Ethica Nova” at Radboud University in Nijmegen, Netherlands in January. He was one of three U.S. scholars invited to speak at the conference “Virtue Ethics in the Middle Ages: Commentaries on Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics (1200-1500).” Tracey’s participation was financed through a grant from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO).

Alandra Weller-Clarke (School of Education) has been selected to present her paper, “A Cognitive Perspective on Adolescent Wellness,” at the Oxford Round Table, Harris Manchester College in the University of Oxford, United Kingdom, in July. This forum, “Psychology of the Child,” includes research and policy advancement in both public and private sectors that address governmental issues of state, national and international levels of discourse. Weller-Clarke will represent one of 35 peer-reviewed international delegates attending this forum. Her paper is expected to be published in The Forum on Public Policy: A Journal of the Oxford Round Table. Weller-Clarke was also invited to participate in two international workshops during the American Educational Research Association International annual meeting in April in San Francisco, Calif. These two sessions included the New Faculty Mentoring Program and the Editor’s Mentoring Roundtable Session. These peer-reviewed participant selections were based on faculty status, research interests and scholarly paper submission. Both programs provide early-career scholars the opportunity to receive both collective and individual mentoring from renowned scholars in their fields.

Therese Yaeger (Organization Development) wrote an article that appeared in a recent issue of the OD Journal titled “Chinese Executives’ Assessment of OD Interventions,” based on ongoing work with Chinese executives. Yaeger and Peter Sorensen have invited an article on the late Peter Drucker, Ph.D. in the Spring 2006 OD Journal. Yaeger has also been elected to the Southwest Academy of Management Executive Board.

Men’s Basketball: Fudge Named All-NIIC and Harrison Receives Honorable Mention

Benedictine University men’s basketball senior Alan Fudge (Park Forest, Ill.) capped his collegiate career by earning first team All-Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference honors as well as the league’s “Newcomer of the Year” award. Fellow senior Matt Harrison (Mahomet, Ill.) was named to the NIIC honorable mention list.

Fudge, a transfer to Benedictine from Cardinal Stritch University, averaged 14.6 points and 4.9 rebounds per game in league play. Among NIIC leaders, the 6-foot-1 guard was ninth in scoring, second in steals (2.6 per game), fifth in free throw percentage (80.4 percent) and third in assists (4.5 assists per game).

“For Alan to get the ‘Newcomer of the Year’ award this season is very meaningful,” said Benedictine head coach Keith Bunkenburg. “This was a very good year for talented new players in the league. There were at least three or four other players who were considered, but Alan rose to the top of the coaches’ lists.”

Harrison — who was named all-NIIC as a sophomore and junior — averaged 19.0 points and 5.9 rebounds per league contest. Among league leaders, he was third in scoring, eighth in rebounds, fifth in steals (1.9 per game), fifth in blocks (1.2 per game) and second in free-throw percentage (86.3 percent).

The Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex has many exciting events on the schedule this year, including collegiate and professional lacrosse games, track and field events, Chicago Bandits softball games and DuPage Dragons baseball games.

This beautiful, multi-faceted facility has brought national attention to the University and the Village of Lisle. Come back to the University and see this new complex, whether it is for Benedictine football at Homecoming or one of the many other events that will be held here this year.

The Complex is one of several venues at the University that is available for private events. If you are interested in renting the Sports Complex, a lecture hall or other conference facilities on campus, contact Dave Kunka, director of Conference Services, at dkunka@ben.edu or (630) 829-6087.

For updates on upcoming events go to www.ben.edu/news/scevents.
Former Eagle Leads Arena Football League Rushing List

Former Benedictine University (then Illinois Benedictine College) football standout Bob McMillen, a fullback for the Arena Football League’s (AFL) Chicago Rush, added another honor to his distinguished 12-year career when he became the AFL’s all-time rushing leader on March 17, 2006.

McMillen, in his fourth season with the Rush, eclipsed the previous mark of 1,378 yards with his two-yard touchdown carry in the second quarter of his team’s 48-47 loss on the road versus the Nashville Kats.

For McMillen, who was an All-America tight end during his playing days at Benedictine, the AFL rushing crown is the jewel in a career with a treasure chest full of accolades. He was recently named as one of the 20 greatest players in the history of the AFL, has been honored on both the All-Arena and All-ironman teams, led the league in rushing and has been a part of two Arena Bowl championship teams. He is also the only player in AFL history to rush for more than 100 yards in seven consecutive seasons.

McMillen credits his experience playing at Benedictine as helping him in Arena Football.

“If it wasn’t for my time at Benedictine, I wouldn’t have been able to do something like break the record,” recounted McMillen. “Being able to play on the offensive side of the ball and to catch and run with the ball prepared me for the game of Arena Football.

“I had a great time at Benedictine. It was close to home and my family and friends were able to come to games.”

Curtis Earns NIIC Women’s Basketball “Player Of The Year” Award; Two Other Eagles Honored As All-NIIC

Benedictine University women’s basketball sophomore standout Tamika Curtis (Bellwood, Ill.) was named the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference’s (NIIC) “Player of the Year” for the 2005-06 season. Curtis’ teammates Jennison Cox (Galena, Ill.) and Amanda Burditt (Kenosha, Wis.) were named to the first team and honorable mention list, respectively.

The women’s 200 and 400 medley relay teams finished seventh and eighth, respectively.

The men were paced by Erik Morales (Evergreen Park, Ill.). The sophomore placed seventh in the 200 butterfly (2:02.80), eighth in the 100 butterfly (55.39) and 15th in the 200 individual medley (2:10.48).

Freshman Jake Austin (Michigan City, Ind.) finished 14th in the 500 freestyle event (5:09.14).

The 200 freestyle relay team placed 11th (1:38.43).
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7:30 a.m. Shotgun Start
11:00 a.m. Registration and Lunch
1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start
6:00 p.m. Cocktails
6:30 p.m. Dinner

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August 27  White Sox Game
September 23  Homecoming
October 12  “Wicked” — Oriental Theatre Chicago
Tickets now available, see page 19.
November 4  Educare Scholarship Ball
See page 14 for more events.

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