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Editor’s Note: We hope you enjoy this redesigned, four-color Voices magazine!
You will see new layouts, changes to content and Web links that direct you to additional photos, articles, details and even contacts.
This is YOUR University magazine and we want to make sure we are meeting your needs and exceeding your expectations. Enjoy!

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What advice do you have for recent graduates?

As you begin your career path, it is important to remember those who so generously helped many of you obtain your Benedictine education. We hope you will return this help to the next generation of students by answering the call from phonathon, attending a fundraising event on campus or contributing to a scholarship or your college of interest. You will be Carrying the Light to the next generation.
Debbie Smith, University Events

Although it may seem like heading into the job market is very difficult right now, you should remember that not only do you have a tremendous education from Benedictine University, but you also have a family of believers here at the University who know what you can do and believe you can achieve all of your hopes and dreams. If you ever need a friend, a resource, a mentorship for you to share your thoughts, I hope I am not asking too much that I want to know what you are doing. I want to help you succeed, and I am proud of you.
Alice Cottrell Tafel, Ph.D., Music

What I tell all our students is, “Never doubt God’s love for you.”
Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B., University Ministry

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On March 2, 1887, when the Benedictine monks of St. Procopius Abbey opened the doors of their school in Chicago they brought with them centuries of a long and rich tradition of learning and values which emphasized personal and spiritual growth. These values were, and still are, at the heart of Benedictine University — that each person in the Benedictine community learns to live a life in balance — no matter what is going on in their world.

In 1896, the monks began the journey leaving Chicago and moving their Abbey and school to Lisle, Illinois. A school building rose out of those fields in 1900 and was dedicated in 1905 with an enrollment of 11 high school students. College classes were added in 1906. The first Bachelor of Arts degrees were awarded in 1910, women were admitted in 1936 and the college expanded over the years, but the dedication and fidelity to the Catholic tradition and Benedictine values remain the same.

Throughout the past century, the institution increased enrollment, programs and degrees. As of fall, 2008, Benedictine’s enrollment totaled 3,282 undergraduate and 1,997 graduate students studying in five colleges within the University — pursuing undergraduate, graduate and doctorate programs. Benedictine University has touched the lives of more than 18,000 alumni.

St. Procopius College grew into Illinois Benedictine College which grew into Benedictine University. Major changes took place each year and because of the variety of programs and degrees offered: the institution redesigned itself five colleges; a first Fr. President degree program for police, fire and Illinois veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan; a partnership with Madison College; a partnership with the Middle East Partnership Initiative, a six-week study with students from the Middle East and Africa; and partnerships in higher education in Denmark, Mexico, Japan, Spain, France and Korea.

Currently, Benedictine offers the Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Management Information Systems programs in three universities in China. The complete degrees are awarded in China. Benedictine is one of 17 American universities granted permission by the Chinese Ministry of Education to offer degrees in China. Two hundred and twenty-two students have graduated from the Benedictine/China programs across the ocean, and another 101 are graduating in May 2009. The University has recently announced partnerships with five additional Chinese universities and two Vietnamese universities. In addition to the complete graduate programs on the ground in China and Vietnam, the University is developing programs with these universities in which the students study two years in China/Vietnam and two in the United States.

Diversity has always been a tenet of Benedictine, but never as much as it is today. The campus resembles a miniature United Nations because of the variety of students who matriculate here. Everyone is welcome, no matter the nationality, culture or belief. Through this environment, students learn to understand those who are different than they are. We welcome and celebrate diversity for a very important reason: hospitality. The Benedictine value of hospitality teaches us that God comes to us in the stranger. Who is the stranger? I define this person as anyone who is other than me in culture, nationality, ethnicity and/or religion. Moreover, the Church has always been inclusive. As a Catholic and Benedictine university, can we be anything other than inclusive?

This issue of Voices highlights our attention to mission and identity. While the University has changed in many ways, in its most fundamental of aspects — its Catholic and Benedictine faith and tradition — it remains steadfast. Catholic and Benedictine values are our compass and guide. Benedictine University is a living institution and the current embodiment of its founders. The University is “informing Today and Transforming Tomorrow.”

”My soul finds rest in God alone: My salvation comes from Him.”
PSALMS 62:1

The Word... We Live By

Mission... Vision... Values

By William J. Carroll, President

Spring 2009
It is impossible to convey in words the human warmth of spirit, love of teaching and dedication to student success that resonates throughout this University, but three words —

**MISSION, VISION, VALUES** — express a great deal about the motivating spirit found in the Benedictine University family.

Without values, our mission and vision would not stand out. A values-based education is an important part of what sets us apart. The essential Benedictine values taught and lived out at this University seek to aid all students and community members in maintaining a life filled with purpose and meaning. 

**The Mission of Benedictine University** has evolved as a result of years of forward-thinking, goal-setting and character-building as an expression of what community members strive to instill in each student. They are in fact “words to live by,” based on a long and rich Benedictine tradition of learning, as well as personal and spiritual growth.

The University is built on vision — from the vision of life-long learning that St. Benedict introduced more than 1,500 years ago, to the vision of Fr. Cosmas Vesely, O.S.B., who helped form this University into a leader in the field of science, to our modern-day leaders who seek to improve and move us forward all while keeping the strength of our Benedictine traditions alive. Our vision statement helps to articulate these many years of enlightenment.

The mission of Benedictine University has a distinctive atmosphere. When people ask what it is, we tend to answer that “It is our hospitality, based on the 1,500 year legacy of St. Benedict.” But with the monastic presence diminishing on campus, it is vital for lay faculty and staff to take the lead in perpetuating this tradition, something we take very seriously. The means by which we build and celebrate our Catholic and Benedictine tradition is the Benedictine Center for Mission and Identity (CMI). CMI began among interested faculty, staff and administrators who participated in reading and discussion groups to explore issues and ideas relevant to Catholics. 

**The Benedictine Center for Mission and Identity (CMI)** began among interested faculty, staff and administrators who participated in reading and discussion groups to explore issues and ideas relevant to Catholics, Ex Corde Ecclesiae, books on the Catholic intellectual tradition and “The Rule” were studied. The challenge was to expand the celebration of identity from the dozen or so initial participants to a more University-wide group. University President William Carroll commissioned a Benedictine Heritage Day to determine what people knew and liked about our Benedictine values and heritage and to stimulate participation. As more people became involved, we developed faculty seminars, a guest speaker series and faculty assembly presentations. Faculty found ways to incorporate the Benedictine values into their classrooms. New activities were developed, the most successful being the Conversatio Round Table discussions, the Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought program, Team Benedictine, Years for the Environment, the Faculty Summer Workshops and the Benedictine Pedagogy Conference.

We identified the need for a new University “Center” in order to coordinate these activities, their goals and assessment and to tie them into the new Academic Quality Improvement Program accreditation process. Thus, CMI was created. It became the home for all Catholic/ Benedictine related activities and the means through which they would be promoted. Initially, CMI was funded through an Abbey Endowment by St. Procopius Abbey.

**The 10 hallmarks which make a Benedictine institution “Benedictine” are: prayer, obedience, stability, discipline, stewardship, humility, community, hospitality, conversation and love.**

**What makes Benedictine University “Benedictine”?**

The 10 hallmarks which make a Benedictine institution “Benedictine” are: prayer, obedience, stability, discipline, stewardship, humility, community, hospitality, conversation, and love. 

- **prayer** is manifested by participation in worship with others through meditation and mindfulness; however, “prayer” is not limited by religious affiliation. Prayer can also include the Jewish use of a formal prayer book and the Islamic practices of “salah” or reading of the Qur’an.
- **obedience** comes from “audire,” which means “to listen.” It is essential that all members of the Benedictine community find time to listen to God, to listen to one another, to listen to others and especially to listen to those in need.
- **obedience** is the commitment to the daily life of the place in which we live. Learning and freedom are not possible without **discipline,** which is respect for others and the structure of community which make learning and freedom possible.
- **stewardship** is the respect for the beauty and goodness of creation. Appreciation of living and working in community stresses the need for accountability for one’s actions. That appreciation and accountability require **humility,** through which honest interaction between people is possible.
- **living in community** includes the search for the common good and respect for the individual.
- **by welcoming the stranger, we open our arms and our hearts to God. Through “hospitality,” we become closer to God and ultimately to truth.**
- **through the process of “conversation,” we are formed and transformed.** Christ said, “Love God above all and love thy neighbor as thyself.” The Catholic tradition emphasizes the worth and dignity of each person. Only by recognizing the solidarity of the human race and the social nature of human existence, the goodness of creation and its potential for explaining the transcendent, and through “love” for oneself and others can we understand the need for a connectedness of faith and reason in the search for truth.
During these trying, stressful and distracting times, our Catholic and Benedictine identity may be needed more than ever. So, it is no longer just noon Mass for students and faculty. It is many religious offerings throughout the week, months and year. It is not only a crucifix ... assignment here many things have changed — they have changed for the common good and for the enrichment of our souls.

In the classroom, I am pleased that theology is now offered as a major, a minor and as a certificate program in our curriculum. Ministry and theology are the cornerstones of every Catholic university. As a Benedictine monk, when we are listening to a student’s concern in the office, or to a student’s struggle with God and spirituality in the classroom, we fulfill our mission as Catholics and Benedictines by being present to people and providing them with an academic outlook to reflect and seek out the presence of God. In the Rule of Benedict, there is only one question asked of a new person in the monastery — “Do you seek God?” I can tell you first-hand that we ask this question all over the University and I cannot wait to teach “Catholic Spirituality” this fall to hear how students are attempting to seek God.

The values of Benedictine University

Benedictine University is grounded in the spirit of the founders who based their lives and work on St. Benedict’s Rule for Monks, written in the early sixth century. Benedictine University continues to build its educational life and efforts on the same values that have aided all Benedictine men and women in living a fulfilled life:

• The worth and dignity of each person
• The solidarity of the human race and the social nature of human existence, which is oriented toward God and not limited to this life
• The goodness of creation and its sacramental potential for disclosing the transcendent; as well as the interconnectedness of truth and the compatibility of faith and reason in the search for the truth

We at Benedictine University firmly believe that success requires a body of knowledge founded in social and humanistic values that are common to all people. Those values are inherent in our Catholic and Benedictine traditions. In accord with these values, we believe that any liberal arts curriculum (of which the sciences is a subset) must be highly interdisciplinary so that students and faculty alike may see the many connections among all branches of knowledge.

Our Catholic and Benedictine Identity

BY FR. T. BECKET A. FRANKS, O.S.B., D.MIN. (PRIN.) PASTORAL ASSOCIATE, UNIVERSITY MINISTRY

"Boy, things have changed!" That is the first thing that came to my mind when I returned to the University campus after a 24-year hiatus, finishing my degrees and working at Benet Academy in adolescent ministry.

I am not speaking about old buildings gone and new ones built or even the diversity of the student body and faculty. I am talking about the abundance of activities and involvement to forward the Benedictine and Catholic mission of the University. You see, I was there in the beginning of University Ministry. In 1978, Br. Bernie Glos, O.S.B., began a new venture called “campus ministry.” This new venture was a move away from a chaplain model to one of a wholistic model that involved sacramental worship, residence halls presence, educational programs for peace and justice and an outreach program to the poor and needy. I had the privilege of ministering with the Illustrious Br. Bernie and Sr. Benita Jasurda, O.S.B., from 1979 to 1984.

Now that I am newly involved with the expanded University Ministry of today, I can affirm that many things have changed since then. Every month I involve myself with a multitude of people, programs and events that enrich our Catholic and Benedictine identity. Four Benedictine monks staff the University Ministry office. Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B., and I work with the faculty directors of the Center for Mission and Identity (CMI) to provide ongoing programs that enrich and further our mission and identity. Each semester the University invites a learned speaker to the Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought program and a theological expert to address issues in the Theology for Life program. In addition, Advent and Lent programs are held at the Abbey to enrich people’s spirituality. University Ministry sponsors Theology on Tap in the Coal Ben where students and faculty come together informally to listen to a speaker and share faith and spirituality. Members of University Ministry attend programs and board meetings at the Joilet Diocesan Office of Young Adult Ministry to stay abreast of issues and topics.

In the classroom, I am pleased that theology is now offered as a major, a minor and as a certificate program in our curriculum. Ministry and theology are the cornerstones of every Catholic university. As a Benedictine monk, when we are listening to a student’s concern in the office, or to a student’s struggle with God and spirituality in the classroom, we fulfill our mission as Catholics and Benedictines by being present to people and providing them with an academic outlook to reflect and seek out the presence of God. In the Rule of Benedict, there is only one question asked of a new person in the monastery — “Do you seek God?” I can tell you first-hand that we ask this question all over the University and I cannot wait to teach “Catholic Spirituality” this fall to hear how students are attempting to seek God.

Our initiative to have “science across the curriculum” should enhance students’ abilities to solve complex problems by allowing them to draw on facts and ideas from different, but related, fields of knowledge. This initiative should also make students alert to the ethical issues embedded in all disciplines and allow them to view science issues and problems from a more global perspective. With our more integrated curriculum, students will be able to leave Benedictine University as powerful figures in society ready to assist in many areas in need of social justice.

Benedictine University has a uniqueness and a strength that allows us to offer our students quality majors anchored in a rich, integrated liberal arts base that is further enhanced by our traditional strengths in the natural and social sciences. As evidenced by our vision, we at Benedictine University are dedicated to providing the necessary tools to help our students succeed in their future professions. During these trying, stressful and distracting times, our Catholic and Benedictine identity may be needed more than ever. So, it is no longer just noon Mass during the week or Sunday Mass that we provide for students and faculty. It is many religious offerings throughout the week, months and year. It is not only a crucifix in every classroom or Benedictine robes blowing in the wind across campus. It is strong programs and spiritual renewal on a regular basis. The monks must rely on a multitude of willing lay people to help bring our message forward, to practice our belief system and to strengthen a new generation of Benedictine graduates. Since my last assignment here many things have changed — they have changed for the common good and for the enrichment of our souls.

But then again, ministry and theology are nothing new — we just do them in new ways at Benedictine. We are always fine-tuning, always leading by example and always making sure that all our students, regardless of their religious affiliations, have a life lived in moderation, harmony and spiritual fortitude.

A Life Lived in Balance

Members of the Benedictine University community are encouraged to achieve a balance in their social and professional lives. They come to understand the self as an integrated physical, intellectual and spiritual being. While the University values the dignity of work, it recognizes that balance with leisure and prayer is equally important. Living a life in balance helps to enrich one’s personal life while fostering friendships and relationships that can span a lifetime. The Rule of St. Benedict reflects that people should strive to be content with living simply and finding balance with work, prayer, study and leisure. All things are to be done with moderation.

• A search for God by oneself and with others
• A tradition of hospitality
• An appreciation for living and working in community
• A concern for the development of each person
• An emphasis on a life lived in balance
• A dedication to responsible stewardship of all things
• A commitment to academic excellence

Our complete “Mission, Vision, Values” brochure is available for downloading at www.ben.edu/mvv.
University Ministry

**Strengthens the Soul**

BY ABBOT HUGH ANDERSON, O.S.B., DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY MINISTRY

University Ministry has many purposes on campus, but ultimately all our efforts contribute to the goal of strengthening the souls of our community members while bringing glory and honor to God. Our wonderful staff consists of Rev. Linda Owens, who primarily oversees our ecumenical and interfaith activities; Br. Richard Poro, O.S.B., who coordinates our peace and justice endeavors; Fr. Becket Franks, O.S.B., who shepherds the work of appropriating the faith; and Fr. Robert Sum, O.S.B., who orchestrates the Koinonia retreats. In addition, the University has applied to receive missionaries from a group called PCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). These are recently graduated young men and women who are trained to work on university campuses as living witnesses to their Catholic faith. My role as director gives me the primary responsibility of forming a faith community and a Christian conscience. As an important part of maintaining our Catholic Identity is to have regular religious services available to our community members, Mass is celebrated on campus at noon daily and at 9:00 p.m. on Sundays. Students serve as lectors, musicians and Eucharistic ministers. Students and staff are invited to join the monastic community for the Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is scheduled before the Sunday evening Mass or whenever there is a request. On Wednesday evenings, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction are held. In addition, Stations of the Cross are prayed in the chapel during Lent.

We respect and honor all religions, as is requested of us as Catholics. But for those interested in learning more about our faith, we have materials available representing Catholic theology and tradition along with a program for those wishing to join the Catholic Church or complete the sacraments of initiation. Fr. Becket has begun the popular series with young adults called Theology on Tap. This series offers insight on theological issues from a variety of speakers. He also overseas a support group for those with ailing parents and serves on the University’s Center for Mission and identity. Each month, Br. Richard sponsors a dinner and vespers with the monks and all new students in Wirt 101 Person in Community are given a tour of the Abbey. He uses this opportunity to connect with students and teach them about monastic life. Marriage preparation is also available for students or alumni who find it difficult because of distance to complete the program at home.

Our diversity strengthens our message of acceptance and love. Rev. Owens works with students of various faiths and offers them support, advice and service opportunities. Regardless of a person’s religious beliefs, all are welcome in University Ministry. All are called to a greater understanding of each other’s differences and similarities. Our programs are grounded in a fidelity to the Christian message as it comes to us through the Roman Catholic tradition.

Many different retreats and giving opportunities are also made available to all students. Each semester, the off-campus Koinonia Retreat is offered for college students and centers on the Paschal Mystery of death, resurrection and mission. The Busy Person Retreat is a four-day retreat on campus where a regular routine is maintained. Each participant is asked to commit to 30 minutes of prayer with the Bible daily and 30 minutes of meeting with a spiritual guide. Opportunities for Christian service are offered at the local food pantries and other areas in need. During Spring Break, trips are planned in areas such as New Orleans, Louisiana and Kankakee, Illinois, to help communities in need. Throughout the year pastoral counseling is available to all community members, as are organizations such as Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Isabella and Right to Life.

We make every effort to be present to the students as they participate in athletic, academic and cultural events and we prayer that our efforts bring greater glory and honor to God.

Benedictine a Leader Among Catholic Institutions

**BY FR. DAVID TURNER, O.S.B., PH.D., ASSISTANT TO THE PROVOST FOR INSTITUTIONAL MISSION**

Pope John Paul II promulgated his Apostolic Constitution “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” (From the Heart of the Church) on August 15, 1990. The primary aim of this document was to define and refine the Catholicism of Catholic institutions of higher education as of the first day of the academic year 1991. The document specified that after that date institutions claiming to be Catholic needed an affirmation from an ecclesiastical authority including the Holy See itself, an Episcopal Conference or by a diocesan bishop.

To give our own local history relative to this document, we look also to the fact that our American Bishops issued their own document focusing on the application of the Apostolic Constitution to the United States. Fundamentally, they repeated the four distinctive characteristics listed in Ex Corde Ecclesiae that are essential for Catholic identity:

- **Christian inspiration in individuals and the university community;**
- **Reflection and research on human knowledge in the light of the Catholic faith;**
- **Fidelity to the Christian message in conformity with the magisterium of the Church;**
- **Institutional Commitment to the service of others.**

The Bishops noted that “In order to maintain and safeguard their freely-chosen Catholic identity, it is important for Catholic universities to set out clearly in their official documents their Catholic character and to implement in practical terms their commitment to the essential elements of Catholic identity. Including the following:

- **Commitment to be faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church;**
- **Commitment to Catholic ideals, principles and attitudes in carrying out research, teaching and all other university activities, including officially-recognized students and faculty organizations and associations, and with due regard for the academic freedom and conscience of every individual;**
- **Commitment to serve others, primarily the poor, underprivileged and vulnerable members of society;**
- **Commitment of witness of the Catholic faith by Catholic administrators and teachers, especially those teaching the theological disciplines, and acknowledgment and respect on the part of non-Catholic teachers and administrators of the University’s Catholic identity and mission;**
- **Commitment to provide courses for students on Catholic moral and religious principles and their application to critical areas such as human life and other issues of social justice;**
- **Commitment to care pastorally for Catholic identity: students on Catholic moral and religious principles and their application to critical areas such as human life and other issues of social justice;**
- **Commitment to provide personal services (health care, counseling and guidance) to students as well as administration and faculty, in conformity with the Church’s ethical and religious teaching and directives.”

Benedictine University upholds all levels of Ex Corde, including the formal reviews of the expected elements. Benedictine faculty members and administrators have participated in a number of national gatherings intended to help articulate the principles enumerated both in the Apostolic Constitution and in “The Application to the United States.” Benedictine established a committee consisting of Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B., Kevin Doyle, Ph.D., Ralph Meeker, Ph.D., Martin Tracey, Ph.D., and myself, along with other members of the University community. This committee worked for three years to establish whatever facts were needed relative to the demands of the two documents.

To assure our Catholic identity, University President William Carroll meets three times a year with Cardinal Francis E. George and Bishop J. Peter Sartain, along with the presidents of other Catholic colleges and universities in the Chicago area. When the time came for the expected “audit,” Benedictine University came out on top, and as one of the prelates exclaimed, “Rumbling rings around the other institutions.” The University will continue to do everything possible to remain a leader among Catholic institutions.

The support of the Benedictine monastic community along with the efforts made by all dedicated to the University’s mission, continue that basic commitment and orientation established 122 years ago when on March 2, 1887, Fr. Procopius Neussl, O.S.B., established the first classroom of St. Procopius College. We truly move with strength into the future in providing the programs of a Catholic university for all those who entrust themselves to our care.
This effort will allow us to spread excitement and give recognition to Benedictine alumni.

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Class Notes Winners
Edward Merhel, Ph.D., C68
J. Michael Turner, C87
Sherry Hana, C97

Please contact JulieNeilligan, at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu, by June 15 to collect your prize.

Recent Events

Kansas City Area Alumni Gathering

The inaugural meeting of alumni from the Kansas City area took place on March 7 and offered a great opportunity for those in attendance to get to know one another better. The group decided to continue their efforts in getting more people involved. Everyone volunteered for roles in contacting other alumni in the area and planning future meetings and events. This group hopes to build a social and professional network of SPC/IBC/BU graduates who can share experiences and common threads to further their interests and enjoyment of life.

If you live in the Kansas City area and would like to be a member of this group, please contact Dan Tira at TiraD@umkc.edu or call (913) 451-2341.

Career Development/Alumni Relations Workshops

On January 21, more than 400 people attended the first in a series of workshops offered in partnership by the Offices of Career Development and Alumni Relations for people in job transition. Motivational speaker, career coach and corporate trainer Rob Sullivan (pictured left with JulieNeilligan and Julie Cosimo), was the facilitator for the presentation, “Packaging Your Potential: Lessons from a Job Hunter Who Learned the Hard Way.”

One attendee stated, “I wish there was some way I could pay you for tonight, but for now, thank you for caring about me.”

Other comments included, “This event energized me so much that I’m going home and rewriting my resume and remarketing myself,” and “as a person in transition, this event was greatly appreciated.”

On March 4, the Krasa Center was the site for the second career workshop. Board of Trustee member Bill Bartlett, president and founder of Corporate Strategies and Solutions, a Sander Training Center in Naperville, facilitated the workshop, “Presenting Yourself with Impact: Phone, Letters or Face to Face,” to an audience of approximately 200. His main message was that you are the product that you are selling. This resonated throughout the evening as he shared how to write a resume, how to conduct yourself in both phone and face-to-face interviews, and follow up contact through letters. Participants also focused on how they need to sound different than other people interviewing for the same job. It is essential to make an immediate impact with the organization and the person interviewing you.

Comments from alumni, students and community members included, “I learned so much tonight and they are all things I can change right now,” “Thank you so much for hosting this series,” “Bill Bartlett was inspirational.”

These events compliment the University’s recent economic initiatives, including the tuition freeze and the Displaced Earner Program, designed to help students continue their education despite financial difficulties at home and help parents and alumni who maybe have suffered a job loss because of the ongoing economic crisis. As a result of the amount of people looking for help, Julie Cosimo, career development director, said “More workshops will be scheduled along with other networking events and career fairs. We will do what we can to assist our students and alumni in their job search now and in the future.”

For more information, go to www.ben.edu/resources/careerdevelopment or www.ben.edu/alumni.
An Evening for Sweethearts

It was a magical night in the Krasa Center on February 7 for the Red & White Gala (formerly the Sweetheart Club). Of the more than 50 attendees, many couples were "sweethearts" (alumni married to alumni), and others were couples with one alumnus. The evening consisted of cocktails, a wonderful formal dinner and a chocolate fountain provided by Sodexo Dining Services. Dancing and entertainment was provided by MusicMania, and this year a silent auction was added with items such as dinners, overnights at local hotels, an autographed book by professional golf coach Hank Haney and a spa package. The auction raised more than $800 for student scholarships. Thanks to all who participated. All attendees received a commemorative martini glass with a Red & White Gala insignia which was used throughout the evening for complimentary martinis.

Couples recognized during the event were: Joe, Ph.D., C61, and Carol Dalpiaz: met on campus

While at the University, Richardson was a member of the African American Student Union, treasurer/president of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., played football and was a member of the swimming team.

What career path did you take after graduation? Over the past 10 years, I spent two years as an investment analyst for Northern Trust Company and eight years in educational sales and management with Pearson Education. My mentor, Dr. Charles Gahala, laid a solid foundation for me to enter the workforce and contribute in a positive way. As an undergraduate, the faith he had in me surpassed my own. His fortitude has helped me tremendously over the years.

How do you stay connected to Benedictine? Benedictine is a part of me, so I live the connection every day. I give financially to the University, and I always come to campus when I’m in Illinois to interact with Dr. William Carroll, President; and Dr. Ted himself. It was a very fitting tribute to a wonderful man. For many in attendance, the theme that resonated throughout the room was “without Fr. Ted, I would not be where I am today.”

All are encouraged to visit the museum. The exhibits have been expanded and offer great educational opportunities for everyone. Fr. Ted and Mary Mickus have spent many hours with students from the Chicago area teaching them about the various displays. Together, they have created a museum that will be enjoyed for years to come. Stop by anytime during the week, or call the museum directly to set up a time to visit at (630) 829-6546.

Annual Alumni Picnic

It’s almost time again for the Annual Alumni Picnic. The event is scheduled for Sunday, June 28, 2009. Please mark your calendar for an afternoon on campus of fun, family-friendly activities.

This event offers many opportunities:
- Visit the University and see what’s new
- Show your children or grandchildren where you went to college
- Enjoy fun family activities
- Participate in an Alumni Mass at the Abbey
- Gather your classmates for a reunion
- Catch up with old friends, classmates and teachers
- Plan an activity in the Rice Center

Schedule of Events

11:00 a.m. Mass at the Abbey
Noon Food and refreshments available for purchase or bring your own food/grills (Cost is $10 per person).

The Class of 1969 will celebrate its 40th reunion. Please contact Jim Brusek, C69, for more details at jbrusek@bgsu.edu.

If you would like to get your class year involved, please contact us today so we can help you plan your activities. For more information, go to www.ben.edu/alumni or contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu. We look forward to welcoming you back home!

Alumni Day at Wrigley Field

We have secured 100 tickets to the Chicago Cubs vs. Cleveland Indians game at 1:20 p.m. on Sunday, June 21. Transportation will be provided by a luxury bus leaving the Krasa Center parking lot at 11:00 a.m. Cost is $35 per ticket including transportation, or $20 per ticket if you drive on your own.

Please contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu to reserve your tickets. (Please note: limit two tickets per person.)

Values / alumni news

Torian Richardson believes his “alma matters.” In his latest effort to stay connected to the University, Richardson has become the new Florida Chapter president of the Benedictine Alumni Association.

He realizes the importance of staying in touch with fellow alumni who shared the Benedictine experience and the benefit it can provide.

What career path did you take after graduation? Over the past 10 years, I spent two years as an investment analyst for Northern Trust Company and eight years in educational sales and management with Pearson Education. My mentor, Dr. Charles Gahala, laid a solid foundation for me to enter the workforce and contribute in a positive way. As an undergraduate, the faith he had in me surpassed my own. His fortitude has helped me tremendously over the years.

How do you stay connected to Benedictine? Benedictine is a part of me, so I live the connection every day. I give financially to the University, and I always come to campus when I’m in Illinois to interact with Dr. William Carroll, Charles Gregory, Linda Owens and Dr. Galveta. More importantly, I express my love for Benedictine with the rest of the world. Since I work with all the universities in Florida, the conversation comes up often. Being the proud Eagle that I am, I hope the outstanding education and experience I bring with me, resonates with everything I do from community service and corporate success to overall strategic thinking and leadership.

Why did you decide to lead the Florida chapter of the Alumni Association? Any great organization is measured by who they can recruit, but more importantly who they retain. I feel that the international brand of Benedictine needs to be embraced by the world. We also need to increase networking and recruit diverse academic and athletic students from Florida. Overall, I want to help build our brand.

Why do you feel it’s important to stay connected to Benedictine? It is important that as graduates of Benedictine we continue to challenge ourselves to stay connected and share our stories as we adapt to a diverse and changing world. The foundational principles of Benedictine will never be obsolete. Having a relationship with the school is mutual. However, just like anything else in life you get out of it what you put into it. We have so much potential, but to even use that word means that we are not living up to it. Dr. Carroll has done a great job, but as high-achieving people we should continue to push ourselves to be known as THE Benedictine University throughout the world.

What helps build your bond with the school? It is all about a student’s on-campus experience. I was able to take advantage of Chicago, the third largest city in the United States, while living in a safe environment. I received an intimate world-class education while having the opportunity to excel at a sport I love. Most importantly, I was able to build relationships with my instructors — all within a God-centered environment that embraced all religions. I am proud to have the Benedictine experience, as there are only a handful of universities that can boast that while simultaneously demanding the high academic standards and student accountability of Benedictine.

How can others stay connected? First, be receptive to others who made the same smart decision that you did — reach out to fellow alumni as it is Benedictine way. There is a common bond — the heart of it is Benedictine. Second “give” in whatever fashion you feel will help. I often think money should be secondary to giving. It is a common bond — the heart of it is Benedictine. Second “give” in whatever fashion you feel will help. I often think money should be secondary to giving. It is all about a student’s on-campus experience. I was able to take advantage of Chicago, the third largest city in the United States, while living in a safe environment. I received an intimate world-class education while having the opportunity to excel at a sport I love. Most importantly, I was able to build relationships with my alumni briefs

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Amy Boruta is an alumna who gives back. She has come back to the University to help use her Benedictine experience to recruit new students to the school. She works as a freshman admissions counselor in the Office of Admissions and is concurrently pursuing a Master in Public Health degree to further her career goal of helping people to receive proper health care.

She believes that helping those in need is essential to a more fulfilling life. She recently spent time over winter break to be a part of a University mission trip to the Philippines. Here she talks about her experience on this trip, why she gives back and other ways she hopes to help those in need.

Daniel Simpson, Accounting, C99, and Rebecca (Gilchek) Simpson, Clinical Laboratory Science, C99

Daniel and Rebecca Simpson met in high school and attended Benedictine together. They married in 1997.

Daniel works in the finance department at Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network in Elmhurst, which facilitates organ and tissue donations for Northern Illinois and Northwest Indiana. Rebecca works for the microbiology department in the laboratory at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park.

After graduation, Daniel earned his Certified Public Accountant license in the State of Illinois and Rebecca achieved the Medical Technologist certification by the American Society of Clinical Pathology. Daniel volunteers his time as the treasurer of their Homeowners Association and they are both active with school activities, Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) events and their children’s activities.

While at Benedictine, Rebecca was a member of the math club and Kappa Mu Epsilon honor society.

Alumni focus

Benedictine Spouses

We caught up with two alumni couples to learn what they have been up to in their lives and why Benedictine had an impact on them.

Daniel and Rebecca Simpson

“We hold so many great memories of our time at Benedictine,” said the Simpsons. “For instance, the old game room in the Krasa basement and all the history of Benedictine Hall were just wonderful. We think the values that we hold today were from our parents and reinforced at Benedictine. We learned to work hard and strive to be our best. We recommend Benedictine to others as we both received a great education to help us enter the career world. Now that our children are a little older, we will be able to give more time to the University.

“We have been attending the Red & White Gala (Sweetheart Club) since its inception as a way to stay connected to the school and fellow alumni, but hope to further connect in the future. We want to show our daughters the importance of a good education and being able to network with former alumni and potentially help future students.”

The Simpsons’ two daughters, Shannon, 6, and Natalie, 4. The family resides in Woodridge.

Jim “Coke” Kocal, Physical Education, C80, and Julia Lynn (Chisholm) Kocal, Psychology, C80

Jim and Julie Kocal were introduced by Joey Zielinski, C79, in the Neuzil parking lot in 1979. They have now been married for more than 28 years and raised three children together. Jim is a sales representative with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, and prior to that he was a high school science teacher and coach. Julia is a clinical psychologist in behavioral medicine with a medical group.

While students at Benedictine, Jim played four years of football and was captain his senior year. He was also a member of the College Judicial Board, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the intramural program staff. Julia was active in University Ministry, a member of Psi Chi, on the Cheerleading Squad (captain her senior year) and Guitar Mass.

After college, and between raising children, the Kocals have enjoyed traveling around the country and the world. They are now avid gardeners. Jim still plays basketball for fun, and until recently, Julia participated in a women’s soccer league. They also volunteer their time by leading bible study at their church and coaching various sports.

“We have so many good memories of our time at Benedictine,” said Jim. “Some of mine would include: the Pub; eating freshly popped popcorn with Ft. Ted and all the other guys on the floor at Kohbesch; our infamous Whatcha’watch parties in Neuzli; spring concerts; Guitar Mass; Halloween party at the OIS Gym; Art Appreciation class; Music Appreciation class; the ‘ghost’ in Ben Hall…I can go on forever.”

“My memories include my husband pretending to study in the library, Jim Quaid, C80, really studying in the library, bonfires, cheersleading at football games and dating my husband,” added Julia.

They also have a strong connection to the University. “I have learned that people at Benedictine really care about you and your success academically, as well as personally. Their commitment and dedication were a great foundation to be exposed to at an impressionable age and one that I try to emulate in my life. I would recommend Benedictine to anyone looking for a quality education where they will receive specialized attention and will not get lost in the crowd. The dedication and commitment of the faculty ensure you are successful academically and in life,” stated Jim.

Julia added, “The Christian/Catholic community of the school was so important to me, as well as the intimate, meaningful and genuine relationships that developed between teacher and students and life-long friendships between students. Ft. Philip Timico was not only my professor, but he also married us. The relationships that we developed at Benedictine are still the central part of our family and our lives. I treasure our friendships from Benedictine even more now than I did 28 years ago. I find these life-long friendships very precious,” said Julia.

All three of the Kocal children have college degrees and their daughter is now married. The couple resides in Valparaiso, Indiana, and would love to hear from their IBC/Benedictine friends at juliakocal@verizon.net.
Values / philanthropy

To be eligible for the Legacy Scholarship, students must complete all appropriate financial aid forms, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and be continuously enrolled to graduation. Any federal and state aid awarded must be applied to tuition only. Should a student withdraw from the program and have multiple siblings at the University, the family benefit would be reduced by one. As a result, three students would be reduced to two and the above categories would then apply.

With the economic crisis swirling around us, we have become much attuned to the Benedictine value of stewardship,” said William Carroll, president of Benedictine. “Stewardship is about more than a concern for the environment. It is about our responsibility to our students, our faculty, our staff and the Benedictine community."

For more information about the Legacy Scholarship, contact Julie Nelligan, alumni relations director, at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu.

A Message from the Alumni Board President

Spring is in the air and with that comes a renewed sense of vigor, growth and change. Much has taken place right here at Benedictine as well. We have established new ways to communicate with our alumni, planned more and better alumni events, and are continuing to make improvements on all levels. In part, these changes are due to the feedback and communication we’ve had with fellow alumni. I encourage you to continue to share your ideas and thoughts with us.

In case you haven’t heard, alumni can now connect instantly with the new Alumni Online Directory that went live in April. If you haven’t signed up yet — do so today! The Directory gives you the ability to network with fellow classmates, upload your resume, utilize Facebook, find old friends and even donate easily online. You should also be receiving the monthly e-newsletter, “CU at BU,” with current events and updates, as well as regular e-mail blasts and invitations to alumni events. We have also made The Canord student newspaper available online with a link from the alumni relations Web page.

Our Alumni chapters are off to a good start. Our chapter presidents are doing an outstanding job of meeting with alumni in their areas one-on-one in order to get to know them and get their ideas and suggestions on how we can continue to improve our services to all alumni. I encourage you to contact me. I am proud to represent our alumni to the University Board of Trustees. It is important for me to know what we can do for you whether it is additional benefits, increased communication or just finding a classmate. Please contact me at the e-mail address below and I will do my best to answer you within 24 hours.

Thank you and please stay connected.

John Parker, C91
Alumni Board President
john_parker05@yahoo.com

Benedictine Voices

Legacy Scholarship Program Helps Children of Attend Benedictine

Benedictine University has already taken steps to help students deal with the economic crisis by freezing tuition for two years and by instituting the Displaced Earner Program for students whose parents may have lost their jobs. The University is now reaching out to alumni in a special way by establishing the Legacy Scholarship Program.

Many Benedictine alumni have expressed a desire for their children to receive the benefits of a Benedictine education. Many alumni have several children and so the cost of a Benedictine education may be prohibitive. The Legacy Scholarship Program is designed to help alumni with more than one child of college age.

Alumni with multiple children attending the University over a consecutive six-year period will pay only half their regular tuition rate for a second child, and if a third child enrols, he or she will receive a full tuition scholarship to Benedictine. All children will be eligible for appropriate alumni and other financial aid.

To be eligible for the Legacy Scholarship, students must complete all appropriate financial aid forms, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and be continuously enrolled to graduation. Any federal and state aid awarded must be applied to tuition only.

Should a student withdraw from the program and have multiple siblings at the University, the family benefit would be reduced by one. As a result, three students would be reduced to two and the above categories would then apply.

H

have you ever envisioned yourself at the PGA Tour being helped into the green Master’s jacket at Augusta? At the President’s Invitational Golf Outing we believe that Khaki is the new green — the khaki wind shirt that is awarded to the Alumni Cup winners. It not only symbolizes your great win, but also your dedication to raising funds for student scholarships. When you join the prestigious list of winners, your team will be added to the plaque accompanying the Waterford Kings Bowl — the Alumni Cup Trophy.

For more information about the Legacy Scholarship, contact Julie Nelligan, alumni relations director, at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu.

The 15th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing

Homecoming 2009
September 18-20

You don’t want to miss this opportunity to see old friends, reconnect with your favorite professors and network with the Benedictine community. Bring the whole family because there will be activities for everyone.

Returning this year will be the successful petting zoo, alumni food tent and great music after the football game. Events are also scheduled for Friday evening and Sunday morning.

New this year will be the Benedictine University Homecoming Parade. It will start at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, September 18, followed by the Spread the Red lunch. The parade route will begin at the Rice Center and go up the Memorial Walkway, concluding in the quad. All are invited to come and vote for their favorite float. The top floats will stay in the quad through Saturday.

Make sure you join us at the football game between the Benedictine University Eagles and the North Park Vikings on Saturday, September 19 at 1:00 p.m.

Please go to the Homecoming Web page, www.ben.edu/homecoming, for more information on events taking place on all three days of this event. We hope that many of you can spend some time with us during this “welcome home” weekend.

For more information, contact Deb Smith, director of University events, at (630) 829-6080 or deb_smith@ben.edu.

Great Opportunity

Win a free morning tee time!

This is a great opportunity to be a part of this fundraising event for student scholarships. If you haven’t already signed up for the golf event, then R.S.V.P. online today at www.ben.edu/golfsvp.

Fill out the form and you will be entered to win a free morning tee time. Sign up today for your chance to win! (One entry per person. All entries must be received by June 1, 2009.)
Because of the importance of this generation, supports this renovation project. "In its time the Rice Center was great, but that time is long gone. It needs to be upgraded to better serve the wide variety of needs for the entire University. It’s thrilling when I picture how it could be, and the impact it would have on so many levels for the entire Benedictine community," said Swanson.

This project has become the main priority in campus improvement. Executive Vice President Charlie Gregory has committed staff efforts to this project as well as the full support of the administration and the University community. "Students, coaches, faculty and staff are all very excited about moving forward with this necessary work. The bottom line is that this project is long overdue and we need the support of our alumni and friends to help make this happen," said Gregory.

The Model UN program has received financial support from Greene over the past three years but this year he wanted to help the students experience the New York trip. "The program and New York trip have had a great impact on me, as well as having the absolutely brilliant Joel Ostrow as my teacher. His teaching style taught students to think outside the box and to have critical analytical skills. In addition, it was a great opportunity to learn how the UN works and how the nations of the world work with, and against, one another. The trip itself is educational and also a lot of fun. Staying in New York City with your classmates, and having the opportunity to go inside the walls of the UN and sit in chairs previously occupied by people like Nelson Mandela, is an experience of a lifetime," said Greene.

John Greene Realtor believes in giving back to the communities that it serves. Greene himself understands the importance of giving back to the University as well. "While everyone is experiencing new economic pressures, we realize how fortunate we are to live and work in a very prosperous community. We believe it is important to assist others in their pursuit of a more prosperous life. We encourage others to give back to the Benedictine provides students with a great skill set that will help them navigate the challenges they face in their careers," added Greene.

Model UN is truly a unique educational experience. Students do in-depth research on a country with which they are largely unfamiliar, on pressing global problems and on issues of great importance, and of knowing that your research and command of the material is as good as or better than the vast majority of students from the very best schools at the conference, is the core benefit of the Model UN program. The University generously funds the major cost of the program, but airfare and a week’s worth of incidental expenses are left to the students.

For more information about the Model UN, contact the student leaders at ModelUN@ben.edu. For questions about the award program, contact Joel Ostrow at jostrow@ben.edu (630) 829-6470.
Scholarships are the life-blood of a college education for many students. At Benedictine, almost 90 percent of students have financial need in order to attend school. New in many families are losing their jobs and finding less money in their savings, even more students need help to get a college education without a lifetime debt to repay.

Many Benedictine alumni have stepped up to this challenge and have started scholarships to aid a new generation of students. Two great examples are the David Dibblee Scholarship started by Patrice Kucia and the Joel Setzen Memorial Endowed Scholarship started by Brian Walker, Christopher Mickus and Tod Rottman.

Thee, and others like them, need help in being funded so that they can offer the greatest amount of help to students. Donations to these scholarships are directly paid for the education of students. It is truly a rewarding experience to know that you have helped another person’s life with such positive affirmation.

Here’s a look at these two scholarships and the individuals involved in them.

**DAVID DIBLEE SCHOLARSHIP**

Scholarship Qualifications
- Full-time student
- Undergraduate accounting major
- GPA of 3.5/4.0

Founder: Patrice Kucia

Accounting, CS1; M.B.A. ’96
Auditor, United States Department of Treasury
Member of Alumni Association Board for eight years (served as president and treasurer/secretary); assists at University fundraising events such as golf outing and Educare Ball; volunteers to speak with prospective students and mentor current students.

“David Dibblee retired from the University in May 2007 after teaching business accounting classes since 1980. This scholarship is a way to honor his legacy and dedication to the accounting program at Benedictine. It is important because it will provide an undergraduate accounting major with an opportunity to help finance their education. The scholarship is not fully operational at this point. We need contributions to assist with the funding so we can begin to award this scholarship to students with financial need.

I get personal satisfaction that this scholarship will help an accounting student finance his/her education. When I was an undergraduate student, I received a monetary award to finance my education, and I feel that I can now assist a student in the same way someone helped me. While I was taking courses as an undergraduate and graduate student, Mr. Dibblee was one of my business professors. He taught me the accounting principles that I now use in my career on a daily basis. This scholarship will provide other accounting students the same opportunity to learn the necessary skills to be successful in their chosen careers.

I would recommend others start scholarships in the name of their favorite professor to honor that person who gave so much to their students. You will also be giving a current student the opportunity to get the same great educational background that you received from Benedictine.”

**THE JOEL SETZEN MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Scholarship Qualifications
- Political Science and/or pre-law student
- Financial need for tuition assistance
- Good academic record

Co-founders: Bill Walker
Political Science, ’96
Senior vice president at a national advertising agency, lecturer/columnist on industry trends; faculty member at American College of Healthcare Executives; longtime supporter of Children’s Memorial Hospital and pediatric research.

Christopher D. Mickus
Political Science, ’96
Partner, Neal, Geiser & Eisenberg, LLP
Specializes in commercial litigation and dispute resolution matters; participates in pro bono efforts, including representation of Birth Family Services in New York and One Heartland in Minneapolis and Milwaukee.

Tod Rottman
Political Science, ’96
In-house counsel, West Bend Mutual Insurance. Represents insureds in personal injury, construction accident and premises liability matters.

This scholarship is in honor of a professor who gave a lot to the University and his students. Individuals and families struggle to meet the economic barriers to higher education, and the Setzen Scholarship can make it a little easier for students by reducing the cost of tuition or providing books. We started this scholarship to say “thank-you” to a great professor and friend, while providing an educational opportunity for the next generation of Benedictine students.

This scholarship requires additional funding from alumni, faculty and friends who want to honor Setzen and provide an opportunity for future pre-law/political science majors to achieve their career goals.


Walker: “Dr. Setzen was the kind of professor who always had an open door to further debate or talk about the current political or legal climate, or to discuss how the classroom is great training for the real world. His commitment and leadership with mock trial and other programs paved the way for many students to pursue a legal career. I understand that not everyone is in a position to provide financial support to the University, but I would encourage alumni to think in other ways they can provide support because it is less about the school and more about the individual students who will be future leaders and how we position ourselves to help them succeed. Perhaps if someone cannot donate a scholarship, they can tutor or mentor or they can set up an internship program or offer career advice. We all need to do our part.”

Mickus: “Dr. Setzen’s Constitutional Law class triggered my interest in the law. It is important to ensure that other students have the opportunity to find a professor who spurs his or her interest beyond the classroom. Hopefully, this (and other) scholarships will facilitate that goal. Creating or helping to fund a scholarship is a terrific way for an alumus of Benedictine to stay involved and make a difference.”

Rottman: “Dr. Setzen had an ability to take abstract theoretical principles and apply them to everyday issues. He was a great teacher and I’m glad he is being honored with this scholarship. As a recipient of a scholarship myself, I know how much they matter to a student, I would not have been able to put myself through school without some financial assistance.”

For full details about the two scholarships listed here, visit www.ben.edu/scholarships.
Many people across the University are making progress toward a “greener” Benedictine in order to cut costs and aid environmental efforts. Here are a few great examples:

Enthusiastically embraced recycling

Jay Stuart, Campus Services, invited several experts to campus this spring in order to perform a full-blown audit of our various uses and to find more efficiencies.

John Mickus, Biology, organized an Electronics Recycling day on March 28 in the Rice Center parking lot. In partnership with the Village of Lisle, the DuPage County Board and Sims Recycling International, many items were collected, including: electronics; eyeglasses and hearing aids; sealed, lead-based, non-household batteries; flags; working bikes; keys; cell phones and even inkjet printer cartridges. (If you would like to volunteer at an event such as this, contact Mickus at jmickus@ben.edu.)

Adell Sauper, Chemistry, reported that her department has sent old pH meters and the old Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) instrument to recycling facilities. The NMR will be refurbished or scavenged for parts. The pH meters’ electronic parts will be recycled.

The quality, not the longevity, of one’s life is what is important.

Krystal Kleinschmidt, College of Science, has cancelled 146.4 pounds of junk mail from her area since August 19, including 173 catalogs and 126 mailers. Several other people on campus are following suit. (If you would like to follow Kleinschmidt’s lead and minimize your personal junk mail, visit Catalog Choice at www.catalogchoice.org/. More than 1 million people have signed on to save money and resources while eliminating the unwelcome onslaught of catalogs.)

In addition, there are many people around campus who have participated in Years for the Environment activities or who are changing personal habits at home as well. We invite you to join us!

The University recently undertook a $2.57 million renovation project which added 10,644 square feet of space. Five new classrooms for 34 students each, a 52-student lecture hall, a seminar room that accommodates 18 students, a computer science teaching laboratory, two smaller laboratories for chemistry and physics, three collaborative student study spaces and offices for fulltime and adjunct faculty are now bustling with activity.

Every classroom table includes a pop-up port that can deliver electricity to a laptop. Also included are single or dual projection screens and a central computer terminal for faculty. Wells go all the way up to the ceiling and reduce sound. "The students were so happy when the lower level became available," said Don Taylor, Ph.D., provost and vice president of academic affairs. Taylor was the dean of the College of Science while plans for the lower level were taking shape.

The latest initiative to fulfill the University’s three-year, campus-wide effort to “green” Benedictine is signing the Illinois Sustainable University Compact in order to further ensure environmental efforts. In conjunction with Sodexo, Benedictine President William Carroll has pledged to fulfill the following six goals on campus by December 31, 2010:  

- Acquire at least 3 percent of the University’s energy from renewable sources.  
- Join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR Challenge to increase energy efficiency.  
- Reduce carbon emissions and look into joining a greenhouse gas emission reduction and trading system.  
- Increase the amount of overall waste recycled by at least 15 percent.  
- Purchase non-toxic cleaning products whenever practical.  
- Reduce pesticide use by establishing Integrated Pest Management practices at all facilities.

The students were so happy when the lower level became available," said Don Taylor, Ph.D., provost and vice president of academic affairs. Taylor was the dean of the College of Science while plans for the lower level were taking shape.

Some of these goals are already met by existing practices, while others represent new initiatives. Benedictine’s electric generation mix, as identified by Exelon Energy/ComEd, already contains 4 percent of renewable resources made up of Hydroelectric/Solar/Wind and Landfill Gas. Joining the U.S. Environment Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR Challenge to increase energy efficiency on campus shows Benedictine’s commitment to reducing usage, which will be followed up by an energy audit in 2009. Based on the results of that analysis, an action plan will be implemented.

Campus Services and Dining Services will combine their efforts to decrease the amount of overall waste generated. For example, Dining Services is already experimenting with “trayless” days in the cafeterias. Campus Services is increasing education on the recycling of office paper, corrugated cardboard and light bulbs. The recycling of cell phones and toner cartridges is also being researched, and several student groups have enthusiastically embraced recycling projects, including reusing or recycling shoes of various types.

The custodial department of Campus Services is currently using all non-toxic cleaning products as well as backpack vacuums with the HEPA filtration system. This system is cleaner for the environment and healthier for all community members on campus. The grounds department of Campus Services has incorporated aspects of Integrated Pest Management like aerating, weeding, watering and dethatching, and is committed to exploring increased native and perennial plantings and alternative ways of creating a beautiful campus.

For more information on the agreement, please visit www.ben.edu/ftf/ or www.standingfurillinois.org/green/compact_cs.php. 1
Building Ethical and Socially Sustainable Companies and Leaders

Center for Values-Driven Leadership

BY ALEXIS BEGGS OLSEN & JIM LUDEMI, PH.D.

The Center currently offers M.B.A. concentrations and is developing executive education programs and a Ph.D. program focusing on values-driven leadership. It will also research leading companies on the forefront of sustainability and responsible business practice. The result will be a dynamic “learning alliance” — a collaborative network of top universities, corporations, executives, thought leaders and other partners — whose mission is to advance the understanding and practice of values-driven leadership for the benefit of business and society worldwide.

FEELING JOB “IN” SECURITY?

Now is the Time for a Benedictine Graduate Degree

BY HEIDI ROBBE, CO4, GRADUATE ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR

Employers are looking for certain skill sets, including good communication skills and leadership ability. Candidates who are well-versed in technology are also very marketable.

Benedictine’s graduate programs offer students the opportunity to work with highly-qualified faculty, experience through relevant internships and learn in an environment conducive to working professionals.

The University is always looking for ways to meet the ever-changing needs of its students. By offering unique programs, Benedictine hopes to allow more students the opportunity to complete graduate degrees. One such program is the 4+1, allowing current Benedictine undergraduate students the opportunity to complete both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in five years. The participating master’s programs include the Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior, Master of Science in Management, Accounting and Finance, Master of Science in Accountancy, Master of Science in Management Information Systems and Master of Science in Clinical Exercise Physiology.

In addition, the University recognizes the hardships that alumni may be under at this time, so Benedictine has tried to help. The Displaced Earner Program (DEP) was started last fall. The program offered Benedictine graduates who were unemployed the opportunity to enroll in one graduate level course at no tuition cost when enrolled in a second course during the same term for spring and winter quarters. In addition, the University is now offering the Education Assistance Program. (See details on page 22.)

A graduate degree from Benedictine can make a difference in your job search and job retention. Thanks to dedicated faculty, small class sizes and a tradition of excellence, students leave academically prepared and ready to carry the light. For information about any of the graduate degrees at the University, contact the Enrollment Center at (630) 829-6300.

Benedictine’s certificate and graduate programs can help professionals enhance their marketability in an uncertain job market. Certificate programs are designed to provide a concentrated focus for those professionals looking to expand their knowledge in a specific area. Benedictine’s graduate programs can add another level of expertise to one’s resume.

Education Assistance Program Helps Adults Seeking to Enhance Marketability

To make these programs more affordable, the University has introduced its “Education Assistance Program.” The program offers substantial discounts for first-time incoming adult undergraduate and graduate certificate students and first-time incoming graduate degree-seeking students.

First-time incoming adult undergraduate and graduate certificate students who enroll in classes on the Lisle campus will receive an interest-free deferred payment plan with first payment of full certificate program tuition due not until six months from first class meeting, or they can receive a $1,500 tuition discount on full certificate tuition balance due upon the first certificate class meeting.

Tuition for certificate programs is $470 per credit hour for adult undergraduate programs and $490 per quarter credit hour or $720 per semester credit hour for graduate programs. Certificate programs typically require 16 credits for completion.

Eligible adult undergraduate certificate programs include Forensic Accounting and Theology. Eligible graduate certificate programs include Accounting, Advanced Accounting, Business Administration, Entrepreneurship and Managing Innovation, Financial Management, Marketing, Operations Management and Logistics and Project Management.

Tuition for graduate programs is $490 per quarter credit hour or $720 per semester credit hour.

Eligible graduate programs include the Master of Business Administration, Master of Education, Master of Public Health, Master of Science in Clinical Exercise Physiology, Master of Science in Clinical Psychology, Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior, Master of Science in Nutrition and Wellness and Master of Science in Science Content and Process.

For more information, contact the Enrollment Center at (630) 829-6300.

Mystery photos

Can you guess where these images can be found on campus? Give it a try.

The mysteries are revealed on page 27.

Vitality/ university news
Miller has been a dynamic force in the Chicago and suburban Christian community for several years. He guided the growth of DuPage AME from a small congregation of 150 members to more than 2,200 members today. The program was developed as an example of what people working together can do. "Where else on a Catholic campus could an African Methodist preacher celebrate a Baptist minister who appropriated the non-violent strategy of a Hindu activist?" he asked.

The King Breakfast is one of the largest events of its kind in DuPage County. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund at both Benedictine and COD. The scholarships are awarded based on a number of criteria including community service.

The three Benedictine students honored as recipients of the King scholarships were Ayat Abuakar, Special Education; Earl Gerald Carlos, Health Science; and Marcus Eugene Pass, Communication Arts.

Prestigious Fulbright Program Opens Door to Chinese and Arabic Language and Culture

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of "The Origin of Species." Scientists all over the world will celebrate the Darwin bicentennial throughout the year. The Department of Biology at Benedictine celebrated "Darwin Day" on February 13 with a number of events, including a symposium in two sessions, student posters displayed in the Birck Hall of Science and exhibits in the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum. The museum receives numerous items chronicling evolution, including specimens and fossils, an engraving made by Darwin and numerous pictures of Darwin throughout his life. The symposium featured presentations by faculty members, including: Al Martin, Ph.D., "Darwin, His Life and Work;" Robin Rylaarsdam, Ph.D., "Evolutionary Insights into Medical Problems;" Preston Alrich, Ph.D., "Why Evolution Is Not a Religion;" and Cheryl Heinz, Ph.D., "Plant Animal Co-Evolution." The session also included a quiz show conducted by members of the Phi Beta National Honor Society.

John Wagner, Ph.D., a biologist at The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, assumed the role of Charles Darwin, fielding questions and leading a discussion during the second session of the symposium. The daylong celebration concluded with a discussion of issues related to why Darwin’s view on evolution and Catholic theology coexist.

Left to right: keynote speaker Rev. James F. Miller; scholarship recipient Marcus Eugene Pass, Ayat Abuakar and Earl Gerald Carlos; and Everett Mannings, Oak Park Fire Department.
The Curtain Goes Up for New Theater Club

Junior Nicolette Pollack, president and founder of the new Theatre Club on campus, has brought together a diverse and energetic group of students to continue the work of building relationships and opening dialogue. Along with Vice President Lisa Rybak, a junior, Pollack organized a variety of events this year, with different members clustered around their various interests in theater. The first event of the year was a Murder Mystery involving the Italian mob, Al Capone and an investigator with his own mysterious connections. Participants ate a delicious Italian meal as they acted out their parts in the casual atmosphere of the Coal Ben. Though murder ensued, no students were harmed in the making of this play.

Close to the hearts of the group’s first public performance, the forum provided students the opportunity to learn, comment and ask questions of peers in regard to Benedictine Voices. The first forum at the beginning of the year was attended by 150 students. "The event was a huge success, students were very happy that they were able to learn more about Benedictine," said Pollack.

The spirit and enthusiasm of the group is enhanced by the fact that the show Burlington has provided the group with its own theatre space. The Unity Foundation was created by President William Carroll three years ago as a cultural climate taskforce. Carroll identified that the diverse Benedictine community ought to grow in its respect and understanding of differences as well as embrace similarities. Shortly after, the initiative was adopted by students with the mission of increasing cultural awareness. The goal of the organization is to encourage the Benedictine community to participate in enhancing the campus by submitting proposals for activities/events that facilitate cross-cultural interaction and inclusiveness. The organization has since grown into an independent entity that develops and executes events focused on building relationships and opening dialogue.

Respect and Community Service

The Unity Foundation is a student group that is a conglomerate of other student organizations that work in conjunction with one another to help educate their peers. Every member of the student body, faculty and staff plays a key role in defining B.U.U.F. The Unity Foundation was created by President William Carroll three years ago as a cultural climate taskforce.

Softball Coach Kate Keller’s innovative ideas touch all of the bases with the “Kid’s Nite Out” program. These are a series of evenings (usually five to six per year) when parents can drop off their children and Keller’s softball team members provide various activities for them at the Rice Center. The nominal fees help fund team trip expenses, while the 50-plus participants each night have the equivalent of a great night out with other children.

It is imperative to the University that our Catholic/Benedictine heritage shines through in all departments on campus. Athletics has found many ways to use camps and activities as “giving back” opportunities and to instill the idea of Carrying the Light to student-athletes as well as helping local community members.

Student Group Offers Cultural Respect and Community Service

N a world that at times seems filled with dislike and misunderstanding, students at Benedictine have recognized that the only way to guarantee that we stand united is through educating ourselves about our differences. The Benedictine University Unity Foundation (B.U.U.F.) is a student group that is a conglomerate of other student organizations that work in conjunction with one another to help educate their peers.

Voluntary Subscriptions to Voices

You can help supplement the cost of publishing and mailing Benedictine Voices, the annual magazine. The tax-deductible gift of $20 helps defray the mounting costs of production. This is strictly voluntary. You can enclose your donation in the attached contribution envelope.

If the members of the Benedictine community can recognize the importance of our understanding and appreciation of one another, wouldn’t it be wonderful if Americans all around the country could do the same? If you would like to support the mission of B.U.U.F., you can do so by donating through our website. The organization has since grown into an independent entity that develops and executes events focused on building relationships and opening dialogue.

Dedication plaque in the Krasa Center. Historic photo wall in the Coal Ben.
Pete Seely believes he is lucky to be teaching what he loves. He is currently the chairman of the Department of Communication Arts, a title he has held several times through the years. He also oversees the areas of Music and Fine Arts. His work fits quite neatly into the Benedictine theory of a life lived in balance. “Everything I teach,” he said, “has to do with the human expression of thought.” According to the Benedictine belief, when you have clear expression of thought, you are on your way to a balanced life.

In teaching Communication Arts at Benedictine for the past 25 years, Seely has taught a wide range of courses, including: Television Production; Advanced Television Production; Writing for the Electronic Media; Television and Society; Broadcast Management and Programming; Advertising Design; Advanced Media Writing; Speech; Mass Media Law; and Ethics.

FR. KEVIN SHEERAN, O.S.B. 1938-2009

Class Notes

According to the Benedictine belief, when you have clear expression of thought, you are on your way to a balanced life. The Benedictine community lost a great priest and mentor on March 28 when Fr. Kevin Sheeran, O.S.B., died of cancer at age 70. Fr. Kevin held many positions in the Benedictine community, including being a member of the University Board of Trustees; chief financial officer of St. Procopius Abbey and the University; vice president of finance at Benedictine; residence hall counselor and director of University Ministry.

After graduating from Benedictine with a degree in philosophy in 1960, Fr. Kevin took his monastic vows in 1961. He spent his early years teaching Latin and English at St. Francis High School and was ordained a priest in 1965. He received his Master of Business Administration degree from the University in 1978.

“Fr. Kevin’s catalyst was to serve and mentor on March 28 when Fr. Kevin Sheeran, O.S.B., died of cancer at age 70. Fr. Kevin held many positions in the Benedictine community, including being a member of the University Board of Trustees; chief financial officer of St. Procopius Abbey and the University; vice president of finance at Benedictine; residence hall counselor and director of University Ministry.

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Linda Schindelbeck, Special Education, had a baby boy, Harrison, on March 20, 2008. The family resides in San Diego.

William Gill, Athletics, International Business and Economics, M.B.A. ’07, is glad he completed his Ph.D. degree at Benedictine and is moving back to the U.S. with his family from Germany. He recently left Ernst & Young to join the University of Toledo’s Reading Program.

Michael P. O’Leary, Economics, has recently contributed to the magazine discussing his work as general counsel of the NCAA and the CMA Ensemble, among other things. He presented a session for the 2008 Mar-Maine Rome Prize in Music, and will also give a songwriting and Performance Honorarium Mention in the 2008 MontBlanc Competition and a 2007 Composer Assistance Grant from the American Composers Forum. His works and texts are available in Hanoi, CO where he teaches music theory at the University of Hanoi and Rock and Society at the University of Connecticut.

Dennis J. Cybulski, Writing and Publishing, will be getting married and moving to Chicago in October. They plan to have a small reception in Naperville and Matt Herbert, met and became engaged at Benedictine.

Edel Clark, M.E.D., began working at Glenbrook North High School as a math teacher in 2006 and was named math department chair in 2007. As department chair, Clark specializes in the critical evaluation of data in order to properly instructional practices to increase student achievement. Before joining Glenbrook North, Clark spent two years teaching math at Naperville North High School.

Brett J. Natelson, Political Science, has been the advocate for the Chicago office of Dynaflow, a leading national law firm. He focuses his practice on litigation particularly consumer finance matters. Prior to this, he was a summer law clerk for the civil division in the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Illinois. Natelson was recognized as an “Outstanding Attorney” by the American Bar Association in both regional and national competition.

Melissa Kosar, Communication Arts, a student at Chapman University, recently was voted to receive two of her short films, “My Honey” and “DLinear” at the 2008 National Short Film Festival. She also wrote and directed a short film, “Out for a Day,” a short film about a young woman coming to grips with her great-great-grandfather’s death. The film took second place in the Lifetime Movie Network’s “Every Woman’s Filmmaker Competition” and was voted “Fan Favorite” on the Lifetime Web site. She also wrote for another film she directed, “Girls Night Out” for Harley Davidson’s “Bikes, Cameras, Action” contest. Currently, Kosar lives in Queens, New York, with her husband, David Anderson, welcomed their second child, Asher, on March 16, 2008. Kosar is currently in her fourth year teaching media arts at Benedictine University.

David Mecklin, M.B.A., has been certified as a Nutrient Heart Trainer working for Providence Counseling Associates in Naperville. He trained in 2007 at Molenaer Mortgage, a mortgage company, where he was an account executive responsible for building a geographic territory of Fortune 500 companies and banks, as well as continuing education and independent studies for his own plan that generated a $3 million pipeline. Klein was looking for a new career and engaged to Mark Tightly. The couple married on December 20, 2009. She plans to earn her master’s in Communication Sciences and Disorders in May 2010.

Dave Robertson, Information Systems, will earn his M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University in May 2009.

Tim Smith, Accounting, and Ann Marie Moshack, Elementary Education, were married at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Naperville on December 27, 2008. Tim is an accountant at Sara Lee, Doncaster Grove and Ann Marie is a teacher at All Saints Academy. The couple resides in Naperville.

Alicia Ruiz, A.A.A.B., is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Benedictine where she has been an associate professor of humanities and coordinator of the American studies program at Clurman University. Ruiz has been a resident at the Biola University, an affiliate at Chapman University and a position at Benedictine.

Rock C. Tankley, M.S.B.M., has been designated certified public accountant by the National Association of Chief of Police, an honor that signifies that he has met the highest standards of competency and conduct.

St. Procopius

In Memory


R. Frederick Loe, C.S.B., Biology, passed away on July 26, 2008.

Illinois Benedictine College

Francis L. CRI, C.S.B, and Dining Director, passed away on February, 2008.

Susan Rae Queret, Ph.D., 70, of Palos Heights, IL passed away on November 18, 2008.
The 2008-09 edition of the Benedictine University men’s basketball team helped ignite a spirit of athletics enthusiasm on campus, winning its first Northern Athletics Conference (NAC) South Division championship in the three years since the league’s inception. The Eagles finished the year with a 19-8 record overall and also advanced to the semifinals of the NAC’s postseason tournament.

The league title for Benedictine was its first in men’s basketball since the 2000-01 team won the now-defunct Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference crown. The Eagles also had a 10-game win streak late in the season that helped to churn up a healthy dose of “Eagle-mania!”

The combination of excitement produced on the floor by Head Coach Keith Bunkenburg’s young charges, as well as some boisterous fan support, made Benedictine basketball the place to be. While seniors Jared Bailey, Travis Wilson and Kas Weiklinski pushed the team’s efforts at the Rice Center, it was the campus community — students and staff alike — who were the backbone of making sure that opponents knew they were in “Eagle Country.”

On the court, Bailey led the team by averaging 17.5 points, 5.2 rebounds and 4.0 assists per game to wrap up his four seasons as an Eagle. With 1,166 total points, Bailey finishes as No. 17 in career scoring in the 87-year history of Benedictine men’s basketball. He also had the third-best career free-throw percentage (.813).

Sophomore Cameron Snelling averaged 11.1 points and 7.6 rebounds per game, while junior Dan Klecan chipped in 10.7 points per contest. Meanwhile, everything from fashion to fun was a part of each game in the stands. The “SuperFans” student booster organization was the cornerstone in helping get their peers to the games and attend in either red, white or black shirts. Game promotions such as the “Passero’s Pizza-Palooza” half-court shooting contest gave fans at all home games a chance to win a free pizza courtesy of the local Lisle business. Several middle schools attended games as the guests of the Eagles’ team, and the NCAA’s official basketball mascot — J.J. Jumper — even made an appearance in February.

“Our fans were so great this season,” said Bunkenburg. “They really did a wonderful job of generating an atmosphere of electricity at our games. It’s not always easy to have a packed gym because of class schedules, but our supporters made sure that the Rice Center looked — and sounded — like it was brimming with fans.

“I knew the team was thankful to all the students, faculty and staff who went out of their way to encourage and enhance their basketball experience at Benedictine. We hope that this carries over for years to come.”

Go online and see how your favorite team is doing!

Now you can find all the latest sports stories and up-to-date news from Benedictine Athletics online at:

www.ben.edu/athletics

Have you signed up to be a sponsor yet? Add your name to the list of sponsors for this year’s event.

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If you haven’t already signed up for the golf outing, R.S.V.P. online today at www.ben.edu/golfrsvp.

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Register online at www.ben.edu/golfrsvp

“Make a difference. Be a part of something great.”

Monday June 29, 2009
Cress Creek Country Club
Naperville, Illinois

Naperville, Illinois

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JUNE 21
Alumni Day with the Chicago Cubs

JUNE 28
Alumni Picnic (Class of 1969 Reunion)

JUNE 29
15th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing
Go to www.ben.edu/golfresvp by June 1 for a chance to win a free morning tee time!

AUGUST 22
Soccer Alumni Game and Reunion

SEPTEMBER 5
Alumni Football Reunion (honoring Coaches Bill Barz and Dave Egofske)

SEPTEMBER 16
Welcome Wednesday (ask about this new event!)

SEPTEMBER 18-20
“Get Wild with Pride” Homecoming Weekend

SEPTEMBER 19
Annual Meeting of Alumni Board

OCTOBER 21
Welcome Wednesday

NOVEMBER 14
Alumni Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 17
Under the Tuscan Stars Dinner and Wine Tasting

NOVEMBER 18
Welcome Wednesday

JANUARY 18
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

FEBRUARY 6
Red & White Gala

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