MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT — MICHAEL S. BROPHY, PH.D.

DANIEL L. GOODWIN HALL OF BUSINESS OPENING SOON

BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY

FALL 2015

Voices

Lisle Campus
There is an old folk song sung by Roger Whittaker that says, “As soon as you say hello, you begin to say goodbye.”

It has been 20-plus years since I said hello to Benedictine University, and now I say goodbye. I never intended to stay longer than 10 years, but this place grows on you. Even today, I feel as if there is so much more to learn about St. Procopius College—Illinois Benedictine College—Benedictine University.

Since my first day on campus, individuals have retired and moved on to the next phase of their lives. Very quickly, I noticed that we celebrated this transition with a carrot cake with the person’s name on it. I often commented that each of us has a carrot cake in the freezer with our names on it. It is there; we know not the time. As I assembled faculty and staff to let them know of my decision to step down, I simply said that I had been in the freezer and noticed a carrot cake on top with my name on it. Everyone knew what that meant.

The carrot cake in the freezer tradition speaks to each of us and our time here at Benedictine. We did not come with the place; we are only watchmen for a short time. My watch is over, and I pass the mantle of leadership off to an exciting new leader, Dr. Michael Brophy.

But the title “watchman (or watchwoman)” carries with it a fundamental charge to build and grow this fine institution into a finer institution. I have often used the analogy of modern day founders. We know of the original founders, but Benedictine would not be here today if it was not for the modern founders. The “founding” never ceases. It has often been said that we stand on the shoulders of giants. A future generation will be speaking of you as giants—the modern day founders.

In reflecting on my 20-plus years at Benedictine, there are certainly things I would have done differently. But that is water under the bridge. We have grown this institution into “the fastest-growing university in the country since 2000” (according to The Chronicle of Higher Education). That also means that we are the fastest-growing Catholic university in the country.

Catholic we are! On a recent trip to Rome as part of a “Rome Seminar” for presidents sponsored by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, I had the opportunity to tell the Benedictine University story. Church leaders were impressed by our wonderful diversity and outreach to China. We are seen as being on the cutting edge of the Church’s call for interreligious and intercultural dialogue. I pray that we continue to push that envelope.

So I take leave of you now and begin a journey apart from this great University. I wish you the best and ask that you support Dr. Brophy in his journey as president. There is much for Benedictine University to do and much to be achieved. Know that I always have and always will want nothing but the best for this very special University and community.

When I made my announcement to faculty and staff that my carrot cake was on top and that I was leaving or for a job well done. I’ll let you decide. God Bless!

— William J. Carroll, Ph.D., President Emeritus
Michael S. Brophy, Ph.D., began his tenure as Benedictine University’s 11th president in August, pledging to continue to build on the visionary leadership of President Emeritus William J. Carroll, Ph.D., which has made Benedictine a premier Catholic and private liberal arts University.

“Dr. Carroll has done an amazing job, and I am certainly looking forward to whatever transfer of wisdom there is from him to myself in this next year,” Brophy said in June at a ceremony marking his official announcement as the next president. “There is a lot of great stuff happening here in terms of programs, practices and services, and I really want to take time to understand them.

“My hope is that we will be in a place where we can continue to be a leading voice in higher education, that we are as confident with our technological abilities as we are with our counseling abilities as we are with our improvement abilities, and that we continue to be a very high-functioning Catholic university with a national profile and certainly one that is very committed to sustaining our Catholic faith.”

Brophy had served as president of Marymount California University in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., since 2006. He comes to Benedictine with a more than 30-year career serving in multiple roles within higher education.

He was named the next president by the Benedictine University Board of Trustees in June after Carroll announced at the beginning of the year he planned to step down from a post he held for more than two decades.

Benedictine experienced tremendous growth during Carroll’s tenure, including the construction of the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex, the new Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business, the addition of several other buildings, a branch campus in Springfield, expansion into southwest Arizona with a branch campus in Mesa, and developing partnership universities in China and Vietnam.

The search for his replacement included a diligent vetting process by a committee of administrators, faculty, staff, three members of the Order of St. Benedict and board members, and face-to-face question-and-answer sessions with faculty, staff and students. Brophy was among three finalists brought to campus for interviews with the presidential search committee, and met with faculty, staff and students.

“We believe he is the right fit for Benedictine and will embrace the Benedictine values while leading our institution toward even greater achievements,” said James L. Melsa, Ph.D., chair of the Benedictine University Board of Trustees.
At Marymount, Brophy transformed the school from a private two-year college into a multisite university with undergraduate and graduate degree offerings. He also spearheaded improvement projects that upgraded aging facilities, and built new living and learning environments and campuses in Los Angeles and Lake County, Calif.

A Fulbright exchange scholarship recipient who has taught internationally, Brophy served as the campus executive officer and dean of the University of Wisconsin’s (UW) Baraboo campus and associate provost at Long Island University in New York.

“The Catholic mission and community tradition attracted me to Benedictine, and I am very excited about the future,” Brophy said. “The University community has been incredibly welcoming. My wife and I are extremely grateful for the opportunity to become part of this great institution.

“Higher education faces some difficult challenges in the years ahead—increasing government regulation and mandates, a decreasing pool of students, rising costs, competition from community colleges—but I believe that Benedictine is positioned to meet those challenges,” he added. Brophy earned a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin. He has an accomplished career, earning educator and citizen of the year awards among many other recognitions. Brophy has written, directed and edited three films which have screened around the world at film festivals and universities. In addition, he has accompanied gospel choirs at the State University of New York as a musician and performed with students and faculty in recitals at Marymount California University, UW-Baraboo/Sauk County and The College of Saint Rose.

He and his wife, Tara, have three children: Sullivan, a student at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa.; Myles, a senior at Naperville Central High School; and Elia, a sixth-grade student at All Saints Academy.

Brophy said he will draw from his more than 10 years of experience in Catholic higher education as president at Benedictine and follow in Carroll’s footsteps by seeking continued opportunities for growth and innovation.

“I served as a Catholic university president for the last decade, so I am very familiar with the many opportunities that present themselves to the Catholic higher education sector,” Brophy said. “I am very inspired by the Benedictine charism and the ways in which the University sustains it in 2015. The work that Dr. Carroll has done to provide access for a global audience to Benedictine is exemplary, and I am honored to continue that work during a time of growth and change.”

Welcome to BenU President Brophy!
2015 Presidential Search Timeline

January 12
• William J. Carroll, Ph.D., 10th president of Benedictine University, announced he was stepping down after 20 years.

February 3
• After careful consideration of all the nominations for membership in the Presidential Search Committee, the committee co-chairs announced the final selection of candidates who accepted the invitation to serve as representatives of the different University constituencies.

Mid-February
• Hyatt-Fennell search firm conducted meetings on campus with the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students to outline the different aspects of the search and seek input. Feedback included the:
  • professional qualities or characteristics the new president should possess
  • personal qualities or characteristics preferable in a new president
  • major challenges or issues the new president will confront
  • numerous opportunities at Benedictine
  • first priorities for the new president

Early March
• A search website was created, and an advertisement was placed in The Chronicle of Higher Education.
  • The extensive search included a diligent vetting process by the Presidential Search Committee comprised of administrators, faculty, staff and board of trustee members.
  • The Presidential Search Committee received a significant number of applications for the position.

April 16
• The Presidential Search Committee met to discuss candidate applications and select those who would participate in semifinal interviews.
  • The committee selected 10 applicants to interview in early May.

May 2 and 3
• The Presidential Search Committee conducted interviews with 10 semifinal candidates.
  • The committee selected four finalists to visit the Lisle campus in mid-May however, one withdrew from the search.
  • The three finalists met with all campus constituencies and their names and curriculum vitae were distributed on the morning of their visit.
  • In addition to the in-person forums with the candidates that included question-and-answer sessions with faculty, staff, students and the Board of Trustees, those who attended had the opportunity to provide their feedback via an online survey. The results were compiled by Hyatt-Fennell and shared with the Board of Trustees to assist in their deliberations.
  • The number of participants in the forums was excellent, and the candidates were very pleased with the number and substance of the questions posed to them.

May 28
• The Board of Trustees met to elect the 11th president of Benedictine University.

June 5
• The Benedictine community was notified of the election of the 11th president of Benedictine.

June 9
• James L. Melsa, Ph.D., chair of the Benedictine University Board of Trustees, introduced Michael S. Brophy, Ph.D., as the 11th president of Benedictine.
  • The announcement event was held in the Tellabs Lecture Hall in the Birck Hall of Science and streamed live online. A meet-and-greet reception for faculty and staff was held that afternoon.

August 15
• Brophy assumed presidency.

An inauguration for Brophy will be held in spring 2016.
Alumni Scrimmage The Women’s volleyball program welcomed back more than 20 alumni on April 24 for the annual Spring Alumni Scrimmage. After a round-robin competition, everyone welcomed the opportunity to get reacquainted.

New Alumni Online Opportunities

Benedictine’s Office of Alumni Development is pleased to announce the launch of the new Alumni Online Community. Alumni can connect with each other, post and search for jobs, sign up for events and much more. Visit alumnicommunity.ben.edu today to get started.

We also offer monthly Virtual Networking sessions and the Alumni Career Speaker Series. Learn more at ben.edu/alumni.

Alumni Wine and Cheese Reception

The Office of Alumni Development welcomed the Class of 2015 into the Alumni Association with a well-attended Wine and Cheese Reception on May 7 (above, left). The event gave graduates the opportunity to learn more about all the Alumni Association has to offer, sign up for the Alumni Online Community and, most importantly, celebrate their achievements with fellow classmates.

Happy Hour at Lagunitas Brewing Co.

Benedictine alumni (above, right) from a wide range of class years kicked off the summer with a happy hour at Lagunitas Brewing Co. on June 9. Lagunitas generously donated proceeds from the evening to the University, helping to raise more than $450 for the Benedictine University Fund. These events are a great way to meet up with friends old and new and to stay connected with people who share the Benedictine experience. Annette Dzielski, C15, was glad she attended, noting “It was a great and fun event.”
Food Truck Festival
Alumni and friends attended Arlington International Racecourse’s third annual Food Truck Festival on July 11. Attendees enjoyed this unique event, which included the Chicago area’s best food trucks and live entertainment. Paul Borgione, C07, and Robin (Schmidt) Borgione, C07, (pictured right), along with some friends, pose for a picture outside the event.

Adler After Dark
Alumni had an out-of-this-world experience during an annual trip to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago on August 20. Guests explored the entire museum with full access to stellar exhibits and galleries, unlimited sky show viewings, special hands-on educational programs and live entertainment.

Thursday, October 15
- 12:30 p.m. Homecoming Parade and lunch in the Krasa Quad

Friday, October 16
- 4:00 p.m. Golden Eagles Class of 1965 campus tour
- 6:00 p.m. Golden Eagles induction ceremony and dinner
- 6:00 p.m. College of Science dinner

Saturday, October 17
- 9:45 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business blessing, ribbon-cutting and building tours
- 10:15 a.m. Neff Alumni Plaza: Blessing of new donor bricks
- 10:30 a.m. Tailgating and children’s fun area (featuring Moon Jump, games and crafts, petting zoo, caricature artist and more!)
- 12:30 p.m. Women’s Volleyball vs. Edgewood College
- 1:00 p.m. Football Game: Benedictine vs. Concordia University Wisconsin Halftime: Recognition of Alumni Award winners, College of Science Distinguished Alumni and Golden Eagles
- 7:30 p.m. BenBash at Homecoming featuring Easton Corbin and Jerrod Niemann (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

To register for events or for more information, visit ben.edu/homecoming. For information and tickets to BenBash, visit ben.edu/benbash.
Mary (Thomas) Nicholas has done a lot in a short amount of time to advance the future of health care and medical research around the nation and the world since her humble beginnings as an undergraduate majoring in Biochemistry at Benedictine 20 years ago.

After graduating from Benedictine and earning a Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the University of Illinois, Nicholas went on to work at a number of positions helping institutions develop strategies to engage diverse populations in research that can reduce health disparities; advance policy to maximize the use of scientific resources and communicate their value; and build a community of researchers and other participants working to solve complex global health challenges.

In 2006, she became a Howard Hughes Postdoctoral Fellow at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital where she investigated the molecular basis of disease. In addition to research, she had the opportunity to participate in the Radio Cares for St. Jude Kids fundraising program, an activity that enlightened her to the importance of public engagement in health research.

Three years later, she informed the nation on various matters, including the development of policies and programs impacting scientific investigators and post-doctoral and doctoral students, as a Christine Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Graduate Fellow for The National Academies in Washington, D.C.

In 2010, she developed the framework and methodology for supporting the analysis of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Research Portfolio as a science policy analyst for the National Institute of Mental Health. The portfolio, which encompassed 985 federally funded projects worth $316 million, and her analysis was included in a report issued by a federal advisory committee and read by members of Congress, federal agencies and national autism advocacy organizations.

Later that same year, Nicholas helped develop the Cancer Human Biobank, advancing programs to provide health researchers with access to high-quality biospecimens (tissue, blood, plasma and other human materials) for cancer diagnosis and analysis under a fellowship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the National Cancer Institute.

“I reported on trends and analysis of several cross-cutting issues including how to strengthen biorepositories (libraries where biospecimens are stored and made available for scientists to study for clinical or research purposes) worldwide, human subject rights protection in the era of genomic medicine, bioeconomic considerations, biomarker discovery and educational outreach programs,” Nicholas said. “I also initiated and drafted a strategic plan for engaging biorepositories in developed and developing countries.”

In 2012, she served as a program officer for the Grand Challenges team in the Global Health Division of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. While in this position, she helped implement activities as part of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Gates Foundation and the Government of India. This involved the awarding of up to $25 million each over five years to Indian researchers and scientists seeking innovative discoveries in vaccine, drug and agriculture product development, and other interventions related to malnutrition, family and child health.

In other projects, she worked closely with grantees to make sure they were meeting objectives and helped them communicate updates of their work.

“Every problem-solver needs support and through my position with the Gates Foundation, I strove to direct resources to grantees to help accelerate their ideas into solutions that could change the world,” Nicholas said.

Today, she is the director of Genomic Resources for the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research. This nonprofit integrated health organization focuses on the health and well-being of more than 9.3 million members, many of whom participate in research studies that can help improve health outcomes. Together with an interdisciplinary team from across the United States, Nicholas is working to build a research bank that can be used by scientists who need access to high-quality biospecimens and associated data.

“What I enjoy most about this role is that there’s an opportunity to explore innovative ways to engage populations who have traditionally been underrepresented in science, to include communities as partners in the research we do and listen to their input on the kinds of health solutions their respective communities seek and value,” Nicholas said.
In 2015, Nicholas was named a Rising Star among Benedictine University alumni for her leadership and innovation in her career, as well as personal dedication to philanthropic endeavors in her community.

Nicholas has some advice for students who are thinking of pursuing a career in science or medical research—mainly, to be competitive, students should combine their expertise in science with marketing, public health, communications or art and seek out mentors wherever they can.

“It’s no longer enough for one to specialize in a single field,” Nicholas said. “If you want to get more career mileage, you must be able to work with experts in other fields and be able to articulate the innovativeness and impact of research to a variety of stakeholders.

“I’m a big fan of science and technology policy fellowships,” she added. “I believe these fellowships are catalytic to one’s career in science and a great way to be surrounded by brilliant and passionate scientists. I also highly recommend spending some time in Washington to better understand how science and federal policy intersect and to meet other leaders of diverse backgrounds. There are plenty of mentors and role models to meet from around the world.”

Benedictine students have a unique advantage in this area.

“Unlike larger universities, my science professors were available and made it a priority to ensure my questions were answered,” Nicholas recalled. “This level of attention also gave my professors a better chance to get to know me and my abilities so that they could eventually write strong letters of recommendation which helped me in my academic and career endeavors after Benedictine.”

Do you know an alumnus whose life and/or career would make a good feature in an upcoming issue of Voices? Email lhale@ben.edu.
Joshua Blomgren is following his favorite sport of soccer a little closer these days. In February, the sports medicine physician at the top-rated Midwest Orthopedics at Rush University Medical Center and former Benedictine men’s soccer player was named as a team physician for the Chicago Fire soccer team.

Now, when he’s not treating injured athletes, he has one of Toyota Park’s best views of the game.

“Getting to be on the sidelines at professional events is definitely exciting,” Blomgren said. “Growing up in a small town, there were not a lot of opportunities to attend sports events of the professional magnitude. Now I am up close to the action on a regular basis.”

Blomgren sees many athletes for overuse injuries (subtle injuries to muscles and joints which occur over a longer period of time). Some of the more common overuse injuries include tennis elbow, swimmer’s shoulder, little league elbow, runner’s knee and other muscle/tendon strains and stress fractures, which are among the most challenging injuries to treat, according to sportsmed.org.

In addition to his appointment with the Chicago Fire, he has been a team physician for the Chicago White Sox for five years. He has also served as a volunteer physician for the Chicago Marathon, during which he helped resuscitate a 47-year-old man who had collapsed from a heart attack. He has also teamed up with former Chicago Bear Hunter Hillenmeyer on ABC 7 Chicago News to discuss the signs and symptoms of concussions and the importance of reporting their occurrence in youth sports.

“It is a little bit surreal to be so involved with such high-profile athletes,” Blomgren said. “But they, like anybody else, are just interested in feeling better so they can participate in their chosen activity.”

Blomgren chose to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry at Benedictine after making a visit to campus and learning more about its successful track record in preparing future physicians.

“I loved the campus and was extremely excited about the pre-medical aspect of the curriculum,” Blomgren said. “The strengths of the school center around the Benedictine community. My professors had a vested interest in my success and were willing to help out in any way to promote that success.”

Blomgren played four years on the soccer team, was involved in the American Medical Student Association and the American Chemical Society, participated in the faculty-led Summer Research Program through the College of Science, and volunteered to help researchers at Argonne National Laboratory. He met his wife, Alexandra (Fay), C01 (Nutrition), during his junior year while in a writing class. Today, they have three children, Adeline, Ella and Beckett.

He remembers facing some challenges at Benedictine which he worked hard to overcome. He says he wouldn’t be the person he is today without the support from faculty and staff who encouraged him to rise above some of those experiences.

At one point, he almost considered resigning from his position on the soccer team to get through a difficult course.
“I went from being on the soccer field one day to having a season-ending surgery the next,” Blomgren said. “It was a somewhat lengthy recovery and during a time when my team was at the state championship. I obviously would have preferred to be on the field playing, but I feel that this experience has helped me relate to my patients because I understand the angst and heartbreak that athletes feel when they are limited in their sport for any amount of time.”

One emerging trend in sports medicine Blomgren has witnessed includes the use of biological products, such as blood and tissue, and living entities such as cells, to treat certain conditions.

“Even though this class was vital to my success in pre-med, one of my professors pointed out to me that I would never have the opportunity to play college soccer again if I quit,” Blomgren said. “I took his advice and continued to thoroughly enjoy my time as a college athlete while still successfully pursuing my academic ambitions.

“Finding balance and time management were things I struggled with when I started at Benedictine,” he acknowledged. “Being an athlete who was also involved in other extracurricular activities means that you have to manage your time wisely to be successful. I was able to learn time management skills at Benedictine and have found them to be helpful in my career.”

Ultimately, his continued involvement in sports inspired him to expand from family medicine to his current passion for sports medicine.

“I find sports medicine to fit my strengths and find it to be somewhat intuitive,” Blomgren said. “It just makes sense. Athletes are an interesting group of patients because they are motivated to get better. I enjoy all aspects of sports medicine and enjoy taking care of active individuals of all ages.”

His background as an athlete helps him connect with his patients on a more personal level. In high school, Blomgren was once sidelined after having to undergo extensive surgery for a slipped growth plate.

Students who are interested in the field of sports medicine should connect with a physician or athletic trainer to learn about working in sports medicine as early as possible, he said.

“Caring for athletes occurs across all spectrums of medicine and there are ways to involve yourself early if you are interested,” Blomgren said. “My advice to anyone interested in medicine is to pursue your interests even if they are not directly related to medicine and to be involved in a wide variety of activities to make yourself a well-rounded person. This will help you to be successful not only in applying to medical school, but in life as well.”
Couple’s multiple experiences at Benedictine inspire new College of Business building donation

If you are looking for a thorough appraisal of the Benedictine experience or the value of a degree post-graduation, Matt and Sarah (Talbot) Peacey can certainly provide more than enough reasons why enrolling at the University is one of the smartest decisions you could make.

The couple, who met on the BenU campus in 1997, has collectively earned four degrees at Benedictine. They also share a great deal of success in their professional lives, memories as undergraduate students working at The Candor student newspaper, and experiences as graduate students in the Master of Science (M.S.) in Management and Organizational Behavior program.

So when they heard about an opportunity to give back to the University by supporting the new Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business, which will house the University’s M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior and Ph.D. in Organization Development (OD) programs, they both quickly agreed to help.

This past spring, the couple made a generous contribution to name a room in the new building.

“We saw this as a way to give back and pay it forward,” Sarah said.

“We have so many fond memories and experiences from our time at Benedictine. I feel like we’ve been given a precious opportunity. The gift of knowledge is priceless, but universities rely on alumni donations to provide the infrastructure which enables the creation and dissemination of knowledge.”

Sarah came to Benedictine after graduating from Benet Academy in 1994.

“I was familiar with Benedictine,” Sarah said. “I swam for Benet and we used the pool in the Rice Center (at the time) so I was familiar with campus. I also liked the idea of being close to home while still being able to have the full college experience.”

A Sociology major who was active on the swim and soccer teams and a member of the cheerleading squad, Sarah was introduced to her husband Matt by a friend while working as news editor for The Candor during her junior year.

“We needed a marketing manager,” Sarah recalled. “We knew that Matt was majoring in Marketing at the time, so we recruited him to join the newspaper staff. We married two years later.”

During her senior year, she took an Organizational Behavior course with professors Peter Sorensen, Ph.D., and Therese Yaeger, Ph.D., that changed everything for her and Matt as well.

“When I decided to go back for my master’s degree, I remembered how much I liked the class and the content,” Sarah said.

“The program had a strong reputation and I learned a lot from my graduate courses. As I approached graduation, I didn’t want the learning experience to end. I knew that the Ph.D. in OD program had a global reputation, plus I was working full time, so the three-year program with a scholar-practitioner focus and weekend classes worked out perfectly with my schedule.”

Today, Sarah leads large-scale change management, talent management and organization design projects for Fortune 500 clients as a manager at KPMG.
“I use what I learned at Benedictine every day at work,” Sarah said. “While I wasn’t a communications major, the writing skills I learned while working for The Candor have been invaluable to my career. Perhaps the most important lesson I learned was from observing Dr. Sorensen and Dr. Yaeger. Their humility, passion and love for the OD field is contagious. I learned that if you love what you do, and are passionate about the work, you will have a rich career and will be respected by your peers.”

After observing Sarah progress through the University’s OD programs, Matt decided to add to his Bachelor of Business Administration in Organizational Leadership by enrolling in the M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior program.

“After seeing what Sarah learned in her master’s classes and seeing the positive experience the Ph.D. would have on her career, I decided to work toward my master’s degree,” Matt said. “After considering several universities across the nation and their programs, I was impressed with Benedictine’s program and decided it would be a good fit for me.”

Today Matt is responsible for procuring software services and technologies applications as a category manager for Walgreens.

“I believe the skills I learned at Benedictine will help me throughout my career,” Matt said. “The knowledge and skills I learned have prepared me to maneuver through a corporate environment by expanding my perspective and have given me a different lens to analyze and diagnose issues that arise. I enjoy negotiations and seeing how products and services can contribute to a better consumer experience and help the company.”

Aside from giving back financially to the institution, Sarah and Matt feel strongly about the importance of staying connected with Benedictine and engaging with the University as active alumni by attending lecture series and networking events or simply keeping updated through its social media pages.

“These are valuable personal and professional connections, and it’s important to have a large toolkit to keep your mind sharp, your network fresh and your opportunities open,” Sarah said. “You never know what’s going to happen and you’ll never know who you will meet, who you can help or who may help you one day.”

Do you know an alumnus who is giving back in the Benedictine tradition? Email lhale@ben.edu.

Helping Students in Need

Class of 2015 Starts New Fundraiser

This year’s Class Gift Committee decided to take on a new fundraising challenge to support a program which helps students in immediate personal need, while still collecting funds for the traditional class legacy gift awarded to the University at the Commencement Convocation. This past spring, students supported the Campus Ministry Student Emergency Fund with proceeds from the sale of more than 100 “Class of 2015” T-shirts.
Inaugural Chairman’s Ball

A gathering of about 300 Benedictine University trustees, alumni, faculty and staff attended the inaugural Chairman’s Ball on March 28 at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville.

This annual gala was established to raise awareness and support for the University’s area of greatest need. This year, the event kicked-off fundraising efforts for the new Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business.

Guests enjoyed dinner, dancing and a performance by Frank Sinatra Jr., and several generous donors came forward to secure naming rights for classrooms and other areas within Goodwin Hall.

Goodwin, vice chair of Benedictine’s Board of Trustees and the project’s lead donor, supported the creation of the building to help prepare the next generation of students to advance in the competitive world of global business.

Mark your calendars for the next Chairman’s Ball, which will feature The Temptations, on March 12, 2016, at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center.

Donor Support Appreciated

Donor Awareness Week was held April 20-26 to acknowledge those who have supported students and the University with funding for scholarships, new classrooms and facilities, technology and other necessities to provide generations of students with an exceptional Benedictine experience.

Tuition Freedom Day on April 22 marked the point in the semester when students’ tuition dollars stopped covering the cost of their education and funding from donors picked up the rest (or one-third of the cost of each student’s education). Students then were able to say “Thank you” by writing a note to a donor on the Tuition Freedom Canvas, which is displayed at the annual Scholars Society Breakfast. This year, more than 600 students signed the canvas thanking donors for their support.
Keenan Fund Helps Students Continue Education

This past academic year, 85 students in need of financial assistance received additional funds through the Keenan Fund, which was established through the estate of the late Raymond Keenan, a former Benedictine University Trustee, and his late wife, Connie.

Recipients of the Keenan Fund were asked to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and a resume, and visit the Career Development Center to meet with an advisor and work on developing additional career preparatory skills. They were also encouraged to continue applying for additional scholarships through ben.edu/stars.

Every year, the need grows among students who sometimes do not receive enough aid from other scholarships and financial aid sources. Without additional support, they are left with few choices—take on more student loan debt, find an outside job to supplement college expenses, or worse, put their college career on hold altogether.

While the University makes every effort to support these students with as many endowed scholarships as possible, many awards for financial need, such as the Keenan Fund, are temporary and may not be available for future classes of students.

You can will funds from your estate to BenU in order to help students earn their college degrees and change their lives for the better. Call (630) 829-6003 for more information.

The following are excerpts from letters written by students to the Keenan family thanking them for their generosity:

Kelsie Winger
Senior, Health Science

“As a student who struggles financially to pay bills, achieve good grades and balance a hefty work schedule, any amount of financial assistance reduces the amount of stress that comes with college. It is thoroughly appreciated and will be remembered during my years of pursuing a career in medicine.”

Antoinette Williams
Senior, Management and Organizational Behavior

“I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and am deeply appreciative of your support. I (have) hopes of becoming a human resource manager and trainer. Thanks to your support, I am one step closer to that goal. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying for my educational expenses and it will allow me to excel as a productive student.”

Yazmeen Ramirez
Junior, Psychology

“Being a recipient of the Keenan Fund is truly an amazing gift. Within my family, my mom is the only one who works besides myself and provides for me and my three other siblings. I had no idea how much work and dedication it would be, but with the help of God, I am truly blessed to be in such a prestigious school. I am truly thankful and will continue to strive toward my goals.”

Niji Lomax
Junior, Undecided

By awarding me the Keenan Fund, I can continue my educational career and still have the opportunity to be the first member of my family to earn a college degree. Your generosity is a huge help leading to a better life for me and my family. Receiving this scholarship inspires hope that one day I’ll be able to give back and help other students achieve their goals.”

The Scholars Society Breakfast introduced students to scholarship donors and gave them an opportunity to personally express appreciation for their benefactors’ generous gifts. This year, more than 60 donors and students attended the breakfast on April 26.

Sydney Van Alstyne, C15, a Health Science major, described how two scholarships she received positively affected her studies and overall Benedictine experience.

“Because of the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation and James and Katherine Melsa Endowment, I am able to live on campus in Founders’ Woods,” Van Alstyne said. “This has provided a quieter, more secluded place to study and my grades have improved overall. Another benefit is that I am able to be more involved on campus.”

Mehdi Hedroug, a junior Biology major, expressed his gratitude to Lisle Savings Bank for providing an award which will help ease his college expenses and help him reach his goals of working in the health care field.

“Seeing my family undergo difficult financial times was hard on me not only as a son, but student as well,” Hedroug said. “It gave me a strong passion and desire to succeed in whatever I did, and the first step was through the Lisle Savings Bank award. This award allowed me to not worry about financial burdens which often daunt college students. It has also helped me to improve my grades and gave me a desire to give back further to extraordinary organizations like this.”

Hedroug also presented James Renn, president of Lisle Savings Bank, with the 2015 Impact Award, which honors scholarship founders who have made the most impact on its student recipients.
BenU news

ORGANIZATIONS NEED TO PREPARE FOR CHANGE, GROWTH AND PROFITABILITY

BenU’s Ph.D. in Organization Development leads the way

Increased government regulation. Taxes and competition.
A never-ending quest to find the best talent. The need to implement change in corporate thinking to boost creativity and positively affect the bottom line.

High-level managers, consultants, human resources executives and leaders in general need to effectively address these challenges and more to succeed in a rapidly changing business climate where technological advances, fluctuating economies and globalization influence the rise and fall of businesses more quickly than ever. Even more importantly, they need to understand and implement organizational change successfully.

“The business climate is constantly changing and the companies that survive are the ones that can change with it,” said Peter Sorensen, Ph.D., a leader and founder of the internationally respected and award-winning Ph.D. in Organization Development (OD) program at Benedictine University. “These companies are guided by professionals who can effectively lead, manage and organize.”

Sorensen and Therese Yaeger, Ph.D., (left) an acknowledged leader in corporate organization dynamics, are internationally known scholars in the field and have prepared executives and senior leaders to identify and apply OD strategies to solve organizational problems in a way that simply isn’t taught in other disciplines.

“We provide leaders in every field and from across the globe with the knowledge, incentive and tools for making things better in the workplace and in their organizations,” Yaeger said. “They learn how to manage and implement change, increase productivity and create an environment where people work together toward better solutions.”

Graduates of the program have become successful leaders and change agents at global organizations such as CNN Worldwide, Turner Broadcasting System Inc., Abbott Laboratories, Kraft Food Groups Inc., Motorola, McDonald’s Corp., and other Fortune 500 organizations such as Boeing Co., General Electric Co., and General Motors Co.

Mike Mantel (right), president and CEO of Living Water International based in Houston, Texas, came to Benedictine in 1998 in search of new strategies and techniques for achieving sustained positive change while at the large Christian humanitarian agency World Vision.

Today, he continues to put the leadership skills he learned at Benedictine to work by providing concrete solutions to a monumental social problem—the absence of safe drinking water for nearly 750 million people around the world.

“The Ph.D. in Organization Development program continues to underpin our efforts,” Mantel said, “I love being able to work with highly engaged change agents who are saving and changing the lives of millions of thirsty people—those who lack water in the Americas, Africa and India— and those who invest their minds, networks and resources to make a difference here in the United States and around the world.”

Dalitso Sulamoyo already had the credentials to lead the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies, but understood he needed to stay ahead of the curve by acquiring more tactical leadership skills to prepare for a multitude of unforeseen systemic challenges.

One of those challenges came in the form of millions of dollars in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds which were directed through the 40-member group of nonprofit organizations he oversees.

“The Ph.D. in OD could not have come to me at a more perfect time,” Sulamoyo said. “Illinois became one of the leading states in the nation in weatherizing homes during the economic recovery. This outcome resulted from the collected efficacy that only OD techniques could have facilitated. OD strategies allowed us to respond strategically and systematically by creating green jobs in a troubled economy while assisting thousands of families to save on their utility costs.”

Other program alumni, like Sarah Malone and Kathy Schroeder, enrolled in the Ph.D. program to pursue new opportunities as consultants and academic scholars.

Today Malone is the president of The AldonMalone Group, at which she helps guide mid- and senior-level executives who are seeking to lead and empower change capacity throughout their organizations.
“The Ph.D. credential has opened so many doors,” Malone said. “As a consultant, I work with leaders and organizations in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, and much of my work is directly connected to the relationship and affiliations I have made through my connection with Benedictine.

“One of the most impactful ways the program improved my career prospects is through building my confidence and being comfortable with presenting complex information to peers both as a scholar and a professional,” she added. “I learned to hold my own.”

Schroeder (left) is the senior director of Organization Development for the global pharmaceuticals company Astellas. Like many alumni, she credits the program for introducing her to an extensive network of OD professionals, some of whom she still occasionally reaches out to for their expertise, support and advice.

“The program is very well connected to other OD academics around the country and is able to leverage these experts as visiting scholars to the program,” Schroeder said. “Not only does this make for exposure to a diverse range of perspectives, but it also builds your network as you embark on your next career steps after graduation.

“It has added breadth and depth to my practical field experience, and has given me the tools and the vision to contribute as a scholar-practitioner while working full time in the corporate world and part time as an adjunct faculty member,” she added. “I firmly believe that the Benedictine Ph.D. in OD program is the best in the country for executives who are seeking to add the Ph.D. experience to their portfolio.”

Scholars’ Service Work Brightens Homes of Disadvantaged

Students in the Scholars Program visited Baldwin, Mich., this past spring to assist residents in making home repairs they could not afford as part of the St. Ann’s-St. Ignatius Parish Lake County Houses to Homes initiative. Lake County is one of the poorest counties in Michigan with more than 24 percent of its residents living in poverty. Many of them are older than 65 and require more services than their younger, more able-bodied neighbors.

The experience helped the group of students better understand the challenges of low-income and elderly residents, gave them confidence in their ability to use hand tools, and reaffirmed Benedictine values such as hospitality and working in community.

“On our second day in Baldwin, we were invited to St. Ann’s Parish. There we observed Mass and toward the end of it, we were called up to the front and introduced. It was heartwarming to see how open and friendly this small community was to me, a Muslim wearing a headscarf. This was important to me because just as some tend to stereotype Muslims, I stereotyped rural Americans and assumed they would be rude toward me because of my religion. We met so many loving people. One of them even told us that he had been prejudiced against Islam, but meeting us had really changed his perspective.”

Maham Ahmed, Senior, Health Science

“I had never had an experience constructing houses or anything similar to it, and I thought this would be a great way to learn some new things while helping others in need. After this trip, I felt comfortable holding a hammer in my hand, which is something that I had relatively little experience in beforehand. I was also able to see how even a small number of people can make a difference. After we replaced the windows on a woman’s house, she was incredibly thankful. I felt as though I was living the Benedictine value of service, and it reminded me how truly important service is.”

Sarah Hussey, Senior, Nutrition

“I learned quite a bit about working on houses, such as installing windows, siding and roofing. I also learned much about the town of Baldwin and many of the struggles that the community faces on a daily basis. But one thing that stood out most to me was despite all of the adversity and poverty Baldwin faces, the residents show a positive outlook every single day. They do not always have much, but no matter what challenges they have to endure, they show a great level of optimism about life every day.”

Ryan Sample, Sophomore, Management and Organizational Behavior
The College of Business recently added three new degree programs to provide students with more career-track options and expertise to market themselves as professionals prepared to meet the rising demands of the competitive business world.

The new Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) in Entrepreneurship is designed to provide students with the essential theories, critical-thinking skills and real-world knowledge necessary to support their launch into careers as entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs (agents for change within established organizations).

“The program will give students the knowledge and skills necessary to allow them to develop, market and manage their own business,” said Deborah Cernauskas, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Undergraduate Business. “They will develop skills in market research and business plan development, and in evaluating business opportunities.”

The University is also offering a B.B.A. in Human Resource Management and a Master of Science (M.S.) in Finance.

Human resources managers plan, direct and coordinate the administrative functions of an organization. They oversee the recruiting, interviewing and hiring of new staff; consult with top executives on strategic planning; and serve as a link between an organization’s management and its employees.

Employment of human resources managers is projected to grow 13 percent through 2022, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. As new companies form and organizations expand their operations, they will need more human resources staff to oversee and administer their programs. The median annual wage for human resources managers is about $99,000.

“Human capital management is one of the most important functions of an organization seeking to achieve a long-term competitive advantage in the marketplace,” Cernauskas said. “Human resource managers need exceptional business, professional and technical know-how to attract and retain high-quality employees.”

The M.S. in Finance is a part-time, 24-month program requiring 16 courses of 4 quarter credit hours each. Twelve courses are required and four are electives. The program is geared toward recent graduates of degree programs in Finance and career advancers with sufficient work experience and a degree in business.

“In the wake of the Great Recession, better financial training ranks high on the agendas of banks and other financial institutions,” said Ricky Holman, J.D., chair of the Department of Graduate Business Administration. “In addition, the program will give young professionals the financial qualifications to gain an edge in the job market.”

The job outlook continues to look good for students who earn a master’s degree in Finance, with 78 percent of employers who responded to a survey by the Graduate Management Admission Council indicating that in 2015 they plan to match or increase the number of recent finance graduates they hired in 2014.

“Graduates of this program will be able to make informed financial decisions in an increasingly complex global environment,” Holman said. •
National Moser Center Launches Redesigned
MASTER OF EDUCATION IN READING AND LITERACY
in Central Illinois

Taking into consideration the most current best practices and research in literacy instruction, Benedictine’s National Moser Center for Adult Learning recently launched an updated Master of Education in Reading and Literacy program for licensed teachers in central Illinois.

The redesigned program is now offered in a blended format, which means it combines classroom sessions with highly interactive online learning. Students can complete the degree in 15 instructional months and for $10,000—part of the National Moser Center’s strategy to meet adult higher education needs with degree programs that are affordable and attainable.

“Teachers who complete this degree program will not only bring to the classroom a deep knowledge of literacy development and instructional strategies to support today’s readers, but they will also be well-equipped to lead and develop the skills of other teachers,” said Cynthia Sedam, Ph.D., director of Education at Benedictine University at Springfield.

While reading skills have either remained stable or risen in recent decades, there is a greater demand for advanced literacy in today’s society. Individuals need to be able to do more than read text—they need to have greater levels of comprehension, the ability to synthesize information from different sources and evaluate arguments. In addition to updating the curriculum to reflect current literacy research, the program has evolved from a primary focus on reading to include all of the language arts—reading, writing, speaking, listening, visualizing and viewing. It addresses literacy development from pre-kindergarten through high school.

Every course includes a technology component to increase teachers’ ability to incorporate technology into literacy instruction and prepare them to harness the capabilities of the modern classroom. The updated program, which was developed by three faculty members with doctoral degrees in literacy education, is aligned with professional standards in literacy as established by the International Literacy Association, Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, Special Education Standards and English Language Learner Standards.

In addition, the National Moser Center now offers nine-month English as a Second Language (ESL) and Bilingual endorsement programs, which meet the growing need for Illinois teachers who can address the cultural, linguistic and developmental needs of a diverse body of students. The first group of students to participate in the ESL/Bilingual endorsement programs began classes in Peoria in April.

For more information, please visit ben.edu/moser/central-illinois or contact Janet Richter, associate director of Adult Accelerated Enrollment, at (217) 718-5276 or jrichter@ben.edu.

For more information about the National Moser Center, its additional locations in Northern Illinois and the Mesa, Ariz., area, as well as a full listing of its programs, please visit ben.edu/moser.
BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY’S MAIN CAMPUS IN LISLE celebrated the achievements of 622 graduates who earned their degrees at the 124th Commencement held in the Rice Center on May 9. The graduates included four who earned associate degrees, 330 who earned bachelor’s degrees, 274 who earned master’s degrees and 14 who earned doctoral degrees.

University faculty, staff and families came together to recognize student achievement and watched as students turned their tassels before embarking on the next stage of life.

Benedictine students are called upon to make an impact on the world after they graduate, applying a unique values-based education that prepares them to confront and find solutions to the variety of challenges that await them.

President Emeritus William J. Carroll, Ph.D., gave the Commencement address. He acknowledged the great strides and achievements that have made Benedictine the fastest-growing university in the country and reflected on some of the lessons he learned along the way.

“I speak today of lessons learned from living the Benedictine journey. These are lessons certainly applicable to business, but perhaps more importantly to life itself—to the workplace, marriage, raising children, and simply living in society. Ultimately, these are lessons about living with one another.

“Remember—each of us has different talents,” he added. “These talents are not the same. But when our talents are combined as instruments in an orchestra, they produce harmony—in the home, in our lives, in our workplace and in the world.”

THE SHOES OF COMMENCEMENT

Our graduates set out on the right foot in style. Picking the ultimate shoe to wear at Commencement has become an unofficial Benedictine tradition.

To view more photos, visit ben.edu/commencementshoes.

AWARDS

PROCOPIAN AWARD
Julie Carroll, B.S. in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology

THOMAS J. DYBA LEADERSHIP AWARD
Sreevidya Bodepudi, B.S. in Biology

BENEDICTINE SERVICE AWARD
Therese Porod, B.A. in Communication Arts

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Kelly Strumillo, B.A. in Social Science

Lisle | GRADUATES HONORED AT 124TH
COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

Lisle | AWARDS

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View more photos of Commencement ceremonies at ben.edu/graduation.
INAUGURAL COMMENCEMENT: THE CULMINATION OF A VISION

BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY AT MESA’S Commencement on May 16 was a significant milestone for the branch campus, which only two years ago opened as the first Catholic university in Arizona.

Twelve graduates took center stage in Gillett Hall and were celebrated by proud parents, faculty, staff and friends of Benedictine University at Mesa.

President Emeritus William J. Carroll, Ph.D., provided the Commencement address, telling students to listen and engage in conversation to better comprehend what’s going on in the world, seek harmony with others and avoid complacency.

“Every day we find ourselves in new and often challenging situations,” Carroll said. “For most of us, our tendency is to jump immediately into the conversation. I encourage you to subscribe to the words of St. Benedict—listen. By listening, you let others play their hands, and you get a fuller sense of the situation.”

Public officials in attendance included City of Mesa Mayor John Giles; Councilmember Chris Glover; Jaye O’Donnell, deputy director for the Office of Economic Development; and Sally Harrison, president and CEO of the Mesa Chamber of Commerce.

“This is truly an historic event for the Mesa campus and the entire University,” said Kevin Broeckling, associate vice president for University Services and Student Life. “We are defined by the success of our students, and when we see them walk across the stage after earning a values-based education which has prepared them to be future leaders and community servants in Mesa and their hometowns, we know that the University will continue to be successful. This was the first of many graduating classes to come and we couldn’t be more proud.”

“This Commencement is the culmination of a vision by former Mesa Mayor Scott Smith—a vision Benedictine University embraced to become Arizona’s first Catholic university and bring our strong, values-based liberal arts education to the people of southwest Arizona,” said Charlie Gregory, executive vice president of Benedictine University.

“Our new graduates have been prepared not only to enter the workplace or begin graduate study, but to also become leaders in their communities,” he added. “We are as proud of them as their parents surely are for this accomplishment, which is the start of many career and life successes.”

Students, faculty, staff and city officials predict the number of Mesa branch campus graduates will continue to swell as southwest Arizona becomes more familiar with the University’s values-based Catholic education and ability to provide practical experiences for its graduates—some of whom have already obtained jobs.
BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY AT SPRINGFIELD honored 102 graduates at the University’s 85th Commencement held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center on May 16. The graduates included one who earned an associate degree, 90 who earned bachelor’s degrees, nine who earned master’s degrees and two who earned doctoral degrees.

Sharon Durbin, president and CEO of Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries and a 2006 graduate of Benedictine University’s Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior program, delivered the Commencement address in a speech titled “Never Give Up.”

This year’s Commencement served as a special celebration to mark the more than 10-year anniversary of Benedictine University’s academic programs in Asia. After gaining approval from China’s Ministry of Education, the University launched the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program to 34 students at Shenyang University in 2004 and the Master of Science (M.S.) in Management Information Systems program to 33 students at Shenyang Jianzhu University in 2005. Since then, Benedictine’s Asia Institute (part of the Office of International Programs and Services) was established to continue to grow programs and build relationships with foreign universities. In 2008, it helped launch two M.B.A. programs in Vietnam and added the Master of Public Health program at Dalian Medical University in 2012, as well as several other partnerships throughout Asia. Today, more than 1,800 students have participated in one of Benedictine’s graduate programs in Asia, and hundreds of Asian students have studied at Benedictine’s home campuses. This past summer, more than 160 graduates from Asia and their family members visited the Lisle campus to attend the University’s 124th Commencement Convocation. In keeping with tradition, graduation ceremonies were also held at partnership institutions throughout Asia to recognize the 275 students who earned Benedictine degrees this year.

These partnerships have allowed the University to extend its most basic values—an appreciation for living and working in community, hospitality and commitment to academic excellence—to professionals working in a country with the world’s largest economy. Meanwhile, Asian students studying on the Benedictine campus interact with U.S. students, giving both groups the chance to form a more complete view of the world and its people.

The many relationships the Asia Institute has established have also offered more opportunities for Benedictine students to study abroad at a growing number of Chinese universities.
“Our Asia programs have blossomed in so many ways. The idea we had 10 years ago not only built close partnerships and cultivated friendships among faculty, staff and students, but also allowed us to share Benedictine values and traditions with others. We have gained much from our experience in China, and we trust the Chinese have gained much from us. As we celebrate the success of our programs this last decade, we look forward to success in the next decade. The foundation for a rich relationship with China has been laid and we shall continue to build on that foundation.”

Elsie Yuan, associate vice president, International Programs and Services at Benedictine

“There are very few joint education programs that last for more than 10 years in China, but Benedictine’s programs have set a good example for international higher education collaboration. China is a huge market, and I firmly believe that the partnership between Benedictine and Liaoning’s higher education institutions will last. Benedictine education has influenced many governmental officials and younger generations in China, and it will continue to take the lead with Sino-foreign joint-venture universities in China for the next decade.”

Zhang Fuchang, director and chairman of the Liaoning Education Department

“The M.S. in Management and Information Systems program has provided great training for our students. We established this program with the vision of offering advanced management skills and knowledge. The courses Benedictine offers like Organizational Behavior and Organization Development have been attractive and informative.”

Shi Tiemao, Ph.D., President of Shenyang Jianzhu University

“I congratulate the University because it has once again produced so many talented students with the famous brand of Benedictine who are not only academically excellent, but also faithful carriers of the values and tradition of this University. I am very delighted that the number of Chinese students has been growing at this University, and fruitful exchanges and cooperation have been going on between this University and the universities in China.”

Zhao Weiping, Chinese consul general to Chicago

“The inspiring ideas I learned from Benedictine faculty have had a great influence on my career and the governor of Liaoning is impressed by my innovative proposals. I think the education I received from Benedictine has been a great influence on the promotions in my career.”

Yi Huanxin, M.S.’07 (Management and Information Systems)

“Benedictine and Dalian Medical University’s joint Master of Public Health program is the first Sino-foreign joint education program of its kind approved by China’s Ministry of Education and demonstrates our commitment to promote international education, advanced teaching resources and concepts, and to improving education and services to communities.”

Zhou Wanchun, party secretary general of Dalian Nationalities Medical University Training Center, Organization Department of the Communist Party of China in Liaoning Province

“There is no other program like Benedictine’s M.S. in Management and Information Systems that has been developed so well in China. This program offers great opportunity for governmental officials in Liaoning Province. Most importantly, Benedictine offers opportunity for those who thirst for knowledge.”

Wu Yuhou, party secretary general of Shenyang Jianzhu University

“The knowledge I’ve learned and the social connections I have with my classmates provided me with vast opportunities for my future career.”

Na Qi, M.B.A.’06
The Human family has received from the creator a common gift: nature. — World Day of Peace, 2014

The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. — Laudato Si’ (84)

Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others...the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us. — Laudato Si’ (159)
A blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business will be held at 9:45 a.m., followed by tours of the four-story, 125,000-square-foot building until 12:30 p.m. Goodwin Hall houses the University’s undergraduate and graduate business programs, and internationally-recognized doctoral programs in Organization Development and Values-Driven Leadership.

The innovative building also features modern-use classrooms, study areas, seminar rooms, offices, a 600-seat auditorium to facilitate lectures by leading business thinkers, a 40-seat real-time trading lab which provides hands-on investing experience, a 7,500-square-foot main hall featuring an interactive world globe, and a Starbucks café.

Upcoming university events

OCTOBER 17
BenBash
(Easton Corbin and Jerrod Niemann)

OCTOBER 17
Goodwin Hall Grand Opening

DECEMBER 19
Commencement

JANUARY 18, 2016
21st Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

FEBRUARY 5, 2016
Festival of Asia

Find the most up-to-date event information at ben.edu.
New Office of Mission and Ministry brings together CMI and Campus Ministry for all campuses

The Office of Mission and Ministry brings together the Center for Mission and Identity and Campus Ministry under one roof to foster programming that educates and develops our community, while enriching the presence and understanding of the Catholic intellectual, social teaching and Benedictine wisdom traditions on all BenU campuses.

The Office of Mission and Ministry provides the administrative framework for mission integration, leadership development, communication and assessment in order to engage the University community in the meaning and worth of studying and working at a Catholic University in the Benedictine tradition, and to help foster and maintain a vibrant, intellectually-based, values-driven community within the institution that reflects the teachings of the Catholic Church and its openness to all people of faith or none.

Center for MISSION AND IDENTITY
Benedictine University

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
7:00-9:00 p.m. — Krasa Presentation Room
Symposium on Pope Francis’s Laudato Si’
“Everything Connected: Perspectives on Laudato Si’”

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
7:00-8:30 p.m. — St. Benedict Chapel
Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought
Robert Wilken, Ph.D.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5
12:20-1:20 p.m. — Birck Hall, Room 112
Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought
Robert Wilken, Ph.D.

For more information about CMI or Campus Ministry events, please visit ben.edu/cmi and ben.edu/ministry or call (630) 829-1310.

Speaker Series
2015-16

• Paul Clement, U.S. solicitor general under George W. Bush
  Tuesday, November 17 • 7:00 p.m. • Location TBD

• Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County board president
  Tuesday, March 1, 2016 • 2:15 p.m. • Location TBD

• James Hansen, Ph.D., former director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and current climate change researcher
  Thursday, April 21, 2016 • 7:00 p.m. • Goodwin Hall Auditorium

More speakers throughout the year.
All events are held on the main campus in Lisle and are free and open to the public, but seating is limited. For more information, visit ben.edu/ccl.
Rotaract Student Club Receives Charter From National Organization

A group of 23 students at BenU at Mesa was recently awarded a national charter from Rotaract, a service club for young men and women ages 18-30 that provides service to the community, networking and social activities for its members, professional development opportunities and an international network of young leaders.

The club is sponsored by a local chapter of Rotary International, a global community of committed professionals with more than 1.2 million members and 34,000 clubs worldwide working together to serve others and advance peace.

“The philosophy behind the Rotary family is very complimentary to the University’s values and Catholic identity,” said Kevin Broeckling, associate vice president for University Services and Student Life. “Rotary encourages members to consider truth, fairness, community and goodwill, and focuses on the greater good…all ideals we commit to at Benedictine.”

One of the club’s first efforts involved taking over a local laundromat to ensure children entering the foster care system had clean clothes after washing machines at Helen’s Hope Chest in Mesa broke down. Other projects included packing lunches for local families, writing letters to people living in hospice care and participating in a Relay for Life event to help fight cancer.

Rotaract members also assist members of the Mesa Rotary Club with their projects and attend some of their weekly meetings.

Student Art Installations Take Center Stage

The Mesa campus became an art gallery in May, displaying the interpretive work of Fine Arts and Communication Arts students on a variety of topics under the direction of assistant professors Dan Fine and Michael Tole. The professors dubbed their program “Manifest 225,” which refers to the address of the University’s Gillett Hall.

“The event was intended to showcase the excellent work of current BenU students to the Arizona community,” Tole said. “While showing off the talent and ability of our students, it also provided them with the practical experience of planning, curating, installing, advertising and hosting a public art exhibition.

“This is an experience most art students do not have until graduate school, and is an example of what sets Benedictine apart,” he added. “We intend for the exhibit to be a regular feature each academic year. The event teaches our students that art is a form of communication, and as such, no artwork is complete until it has been seen publicly.”

Among the benefits of such events are that they allow students to develop knowledge, insights, problem-solving skills, self-confidence and a passion for learning.

“Students were able to gain feedback on their work from peers, staff, faculty and the public, learning insightful practical lessons which extend beyond the classroom,” Tole said.”
Members of the BenU at Mesa community attended “The 24/7 Christian: The Secular Vocation of the Laity” in March. The lecture examined the call of the Second Vatican Council for the laity to witness the faith in daily life and engage in temporal affairs according to the plan of God.

The lecture explored the Vatican II documents “Lumen Gentium,” “Gaudium et Spes” and “Apostolicam Actuositatem,” which outline the laity’s responsibilities within the “New Evangelization.”

“The New Evangelization is the mission all of us have to give witness to our faith, especially to fellow Catholics who have drifted away from the Church,” said event speaker Christine Fletcher, Ph.D., associate professor of Theology at the main campus in Lisle. “The council called on laity to do what priests and religion cannot do — work in the secular realm, in politics, business, health care, journalism and entertainment to end injustice and reorder things to the way God would have them be.”

Benedictine’s Center for Mission and Identity supports the ongoing development of Catholic social teaching and the Catholic intellectual tradition at all the University’s locations.
Men’s Volleyball Places Fifth at National Collegiate Volleyball Federation Tournament

The Benedictine University at Mesa men’s volleyball team wrapped up its season in April with a fifth-place finish at the National Collegiate Volleyball Federation Men’s Division II National Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. Benedictine was the No. 2 seed in the tournament, which featured 48 of the top teams from universities with fewer than 15,000 students from throughout the United States.

Benedictine went 3-0 in the opening round of pool play, defeating Rice University (25-17, 25-13), Williams College (25-8, 25-11) and Washington University in St. Louis (25-14, 25-21).

On the second day of competition, BenU defeated Baldwin-Wallace University (25-23, 25-14) and University of Maryland, Baltimore County (25-20, 25-16) to advance to the gold bracket.

The team reached the quarterfinals by defeating Creighton University (25-19, 25-16), but dropped a heartbreaking three-setter to Claremont College (12-25, 25-10, 15-10) to end the tournament with a 6-1 record.

BenU finished the season with a 27-10 record, which included two tournament wins against Arizona Region of USA Volleyball men’s adult teams. Next spring, the Redhawks will compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) as a member of the California Pacific Conference (CAL PAC).

Steve Schafer Tapped to Lead Men’s Basketball Program

Steve Schafer, athletic director at BenU at Mesa, has been named to fill another major role at the school—men’s basketball head coach.

No stranger to basketball or Benedictine, Schafer has 14 years of coaching experience including three as assistant men’s basketball coach and athletic recruiting coordinator at Benedictine University’s main campus. He has coached or recruited at least 15 players who have received all-conference recognition.

From 2011-2014, Schafer helped to turn around a struggling program as head coach at Fontbonne University in St. Louis, Mo. He recruited two St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year performers and three all-conference selections while the team’s record improved each year.

His Fontbonne teams also performed well off the court, achieving an overall team GPA of 3.0 or above in five of the six semesters there.

While at Benedictine from 2009-11, Schafer helped the Eagles win a Northern Athletics Conference championship title and advance to the NCAA Division III National Tournament. The Eagles finished the 2010-2011 season with a 21-8 overall record and 13-3 mark in conference play.

Prior to arriving at Benedictine’s main campus, Schafer served for five seasons as the top assistant at North Park University in Chicago and coached for three seasons at Wayne State College in Wayne, Neb.

Seven More Players Join Inaugural Men’s Basketball Team

Seven players signed letters of intent to play basketball at Benedictine University at Mesa as part of a special signing day ceremony held in July in the Community Room of Gillett Hall.

They join 14 other players who already signed letters to play for the program’s inaugural season in 2015-16.

The seven standout players include:
- Troy Conley, a junior guard from Phoenix Community College (Ariz.).
- Kyle Tomlinson, a senior forward from University of Alaska Fairbanks.
- Monnard Brown, a junior from South Mountain Community College (Ariz.).
- Nathan Worley, a sophomore guard from South Mountain Community College (Ariz.).
- Melvin Orji, a junior from Chandler-Gilbert Community College (Ariz.).
- Jalen Jenkins, a freshman guard from Red Mountain High School (Mesa, Ariz.).
- Jashawn Brown, a freshman guard from Tempe High School (Tempe, Ariz.).

Go Redhawks!

Keep up with Redhawks athletics at BenUMesaSports.com.
**TRACK AND FIELD STANDOUTS**

Junior Megan Malone and senior Billy Sipek represented Benedictine University at the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships in May.

Malone, who set a school record in the hammer throw this spring, finished 18th at her first national meet with a distance of 48.97 meters.

Sipek, Benedictine’s record holder in the high jump, cleared 1.95 meters. He tied two other participants and narrowly missed earning a share of 10th place. It was Sipek’s fourth trip to a national meet.

The 2015 track and field season produced three national indoor qualifiers (Sipek, Eric Kenebrew and Marcus Griffith); two All-Americans (Kenebrew and Griffith); and two national outdoor qualifiers (Sipek and Malone).

**OSTROWSKI, ONE OF NCAA DIII BASEBALL’S WINNINGEST COACHES, ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

Nine hundred ninety wins.
Sixteen conference titles.
Twenty or more wins 18 consecutive seasons.
Thirty or more wins three times.

John Ostrowski had a career equaled by few.

Ostrowski, one of the winningest coaches in NCAA Division III baseball, announced his retirement recently after 43 years as head coach at Benedictine University.

“I have been very blessed to be at a great school like Benedictine,” said Ostrowski, a protege of the legendary Gordie Gillespie. “I have had outstanding support from administrators, faculty and staff, and was fortunate to coach many outstanding players. All of that made this a dream job that I wouldn’t have traded for any other.”

Ostrowski became just the 10th coach in NCAA Division III history to win 900 or more games and only the sixth to do so at the same school. He led the Eagles to the NCAA regional tournament eight times, reaching the regional semifinals on three occasions.

“John’s service and dedication to his students and the University serve as a model for all,” said Benedictine University President Emeritus William J. Carroll, Ph.D.

Ostrowski, the father of five children who lives in Palos Park with his wife, Mary, was inducted into the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association (IHSBCA) Hall of Fame in 2003.

**TWO STUDENT ATHLETES RECEIVE TOM WIRTZ AWARD**

Benedictine Athletics and the Wirtz family honored women’s basketball guard Vincenza Ranallo, senior, Nutrition, and men’s baseball pitcher Mike Irgang, C15, Social Science, as recipients of the 2015 Tom Wirtz Award for Courage and Integrity.

The pair were honored at the 2015 Benny Awards banquet hosted by Benedictine Athletics in May.

This is the second year the award has been presented to Benedictine student-athletes. It is named in honor of the late alumnus Tom Wirtz, C73.

Throughout his courageous battle with the disease that ultimately took his life, Wirtz lost his strength and his kidneys, but the disease never took away his smile, laugh or love for his friends, his family and his faith. He was captain of the football team during his senior year and met his wife at Benedictine.

Recipients of the award must be seniors in good standing with the University, have attended Benedictine for at least two years, exhibit a high level of integrity, lead by example and demonstrate an ability to overcome obstacles during their time at the University.
Kadiric, C15, Playing Pro in Sweden

Anes Kadiric, C15, Management and Organizational Behavior, (above, center) signed with the Myresjö/Vetlanda F soccer club in Vetlanda, Sweden in April and played in his first game as a midfielder/forward in May. He said his experiences on the men’s soccer team more than prepared him to take on the professional sports world after graduating from Benedictine.

“Being on the Benedictine team taught me the importance of staying focused for everything I do on and off the field in order to maximize my playing level,” Kadiric said. “The team was such a family to me and so supportive. I had to be a leader and someone whom others could look up to, which I still try to do in Europe.

“Benedictine provided me with everything I needed to be able to excel in what I wanted to do in life, and I came to Sweden to fulfill those dreams.”

Kadiric’s next goal is to help his team win the league, get promoted to a higher division and have a solid performance in the Swedish Cup.

St. Procopius

Academy/College

‘61 Joseph Dalpiaz, Ed.D., Chemistry, was elected to serve a four-year term on the board of education for Fairmont School District 89 in Lockport, IL.

‘62 Albert Mysliwiece, Economics, retired from teaching 10 years ago. He and his wife, Carolyn, enjoy entertaining at nursing homes, participating in music circles, attending open mic nights and caring for their horses. They have four children, 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

‘68 James Gort, Physics, and his wife, Gloria, recently celebrated the day when they first met 49 years ago at Benedictine. He met Gloria while on a blind date arranged by Robert Eggart, Biology, C68, on April 29, 1966.

‘69 Brian Mulligan, M.D., (1965-88), (below) retired after practicing medicine for 42 years in the Chicago area. During his last 20 years in radiology and mammography, he also served as a faculty member at the University of Illinois, University of Chicago and University of Missouri, and on staff at Cook County Hospital. He was the first radiologist to perform several interventional procedures including stereotactic biopsy of the breast at Cook County Hospital, an MR-guided biopsy at the University of Illinois Hospital and arterial balloon angioplasty at the Westside Veterans Administration Hospital.

‘71 Martin Wiora, History, completed 42 years of teaching at Benet Academy. He was a full-time teacher for 25 years and has served as the dean of students for 17 years.

Illinois Benedictine

College

‘75 Stephen Centinario, Business and Economics, retired after 35 years as a prosecuting attorney at the Waukesha County District Attorney’s Office in Waukesha, WI. He is currently a part-time professor of trial advocacy at Marquette University Law School. This position enables him to spend more time with his family, sing with his church choir and assist a food pantry in Milwaukee, WI.

Michael La Giglia, Clinical Laboratory Science, previously served as a Chicago police officer and was deployed multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan with the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. La Giglia retired from the military on his 60th birthday in 2010 and recently accepted a laboratory manager position with the Utah County Division of Substance Abuse drug testing laboratory in Provo, Utah. La Giglia and his wife, Punki, have been married for 21 years. Together they have seven children and 18 grandchildren.

Judy (Westerfield) Van Dusen, Literature and Communication, received a Special Recognition Award from the Illinois State Genealogical Society in 2014.

‘76 Edward Kloosowski, Business and Economics, retired from Allstate Insurance Company after 38 years of rewarding experiences and service as a director.

‘78 Dave Borosak, Business and Economics, is a director of underwriting for REPAY, an Atlanta-based credit card processing company in Downers Grove. He has been married for 20 years to his wife, Janet. They have four children.

William Callahan, Physical Education, was recently named offensive line coach for the Washington Redskins for the 2015-16 NFL season. He and his wife, Valerie (Lindvig) Callahan, C81, have four children, Cathryn, Jaclyn, Brian and Daniel.

Jim Kleinwachter, Business and Economics, lives in Warrenville, IL, and is a land protection specialist for The Conservation Foundation, a nonprofit land and watershed conservation organization promoting stewardship of the environment in northeastern Illinois. He runs the Conservation@Home, Conservation@Work and Rain Barrel programs to help people do things more eco-friendly, like using native plants in landscaping design to feed birds and butterflies, and aid the absorption of storm water runoff.

‘81 Stephen DeFilippis, Business and Economics, received a President’s Council Award at the Cetera Financial Specialists LLC annual conference in San Antonio, TX, for his commitment to helping clients achieve their financial goals and his dedication to service excellence in the financial services industry.

Michelle O’Grady, Biology, is teaching midwifery and other graduate nursing programs as a lecturer at the University of Michigan. She was expected to complete requirements for earning a Ph.D. in Nursing in August. Her concentration in this program includes stress management strategies for nurses.

Joseph Unger, Biology, served as the president of the Illinois State Dental Society from 2008 to 2009. He is the current chair of the American Dental Association’s Council on Dental Practice.

ARE YOU THE NEXT CLASS NOTES PRIZE WINNER?

One winner is chosen from previous Class Notes to win a BenU prize.

Latest Class Notes Winner: Thomas Begg Jr., C68.

Please contact Trente Arens at (630) 829-6077 or tarens@ben.edu by October 30 to collect your prize.
ALUMNI: REFER A STUDENT
If you know someone who would make a good addition to the Benedictine student community, help them complete the alumni-referred prospect student form online at ben.edu/referral and their application fee will be waived. For more information, contact Admissions at (630) 829-6300 or admissions@ben.edu.

SEND IN YOUR CLASS NOTES
Submit your class notes online at ben.edu/classnotes.
Or email, mail or fax us your news.
Email: tarens@ben.edu
Mail: Trente Arens
Alumni Development, Benedictine University
5700 College Rd., Lisle, IL 60532
Fax: (630) 829-6313
(Include your name, address, email, phone number, class year and degree, along with your news.)

’84
Steven Becker, Computer Science, a math teacher and director of the IT Academy at Immokalee High School in Immokalee, FL, competed in the 39th Annual Florida Keys Community College Swim Around Key West, which is a 12.5-mile, open-water swim race, on June 13. Becker swam in support of The Immokalee Foundation, and it was his fifth time participating in the event.

Olga (Gamica) Bond, Psychology, and her husband, James Bond, Literature and Communication, C83, have been married for 27 years and have two children. Olga celebrated her 25th anniversary with JPMorgan Chase & Co. in September 2014 and James had a successful kidney transplant operation earlier this year. His sister, Linda, donated her kidney in a six-way kidney paired donation.

’88
Chris (Kavcar) Melsa, Psychology, is a vice president of compensation at The Walsh Group.

John Puetz, Philosophy, is the senior vice president at Willis and was named a 2015 Power Broker by Risk & Insurance Magazine. He has been recognized as an individual who stands out among his peers for exceptional client work delivered during the previous year.

’91
Cher (Kodl) Erickson, M.B.A., wrote a children’s book titled, “What Is a Family?” Her book addresses contemporary families from a children’s perspective. The book promotes confidence and assures children that they can be proud of themselves regardless of their family structure.

’92
Susanne (Hopf) Rericha, Elementary Education, earned an M.S. in Education with a concentration in Reading.

’93
Dawn (Vrchota) Benatis, Elementary Education, earned a Ph.D. in Educational Administration this past spring.

’94
Carrie Johnson, Literature and Communication, received a 2015 Robert F. Kennedy Center Award for Justice and Human Rights for her national public radio series, “Boxed In: When the Punishment No Longer Fits the Crime.”

Benedictine University

’96
Rosanne (Costello) Androwich, Literature and Communication, (right) is an artist and a mother of five children. She participated in the Avon 39 Walk to End Breast Cancer in Chicago earlier this year.

Alfred Diggs, Health Science, celebrated his third year as a biology instructor at Loyola University.

Padraic Gallagher, History, was recently deployed with the Hawaii State Chapter of the American Red Cross to provide food and building materials to citizens affected by Typhoon Dolphin in Guam and the small remote island of Rota in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

’00
Bryan Knutson, M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior, was married in 2007 and has three children. The oldest child, Aubry, is 6 years old and twins, Morgan and Grady, are 3 years old. He has been a project manager at Meade Electric Company Inc., since December 2000.

’02
Kari Richter, Psychology, and his wife, Carrie (Bullen-Townsend) Richter, C02, have two children. Their oldest child, Brycen, is 3 years old and their youngest child, Brynie, is 2 years old.

’03
Kate (McDonough) Martinez, Business Administration, and her husband, Dan Martinez, Business Administration, C06 and M.B.A.’10, welcomed their second child, Benjamin McDonough, in November 2014. The couple also has a 3-year-old daughter, Lucy Michelle. Kate works for Miner Enterprises in Geneva, IL, and Dan works for Centene Corporation as a director of regulatory operations in Chicago.

’05
Valerie Humphrey, M.Ed., received the 2015 Public Citizen of the Year Award for the Three Rivers District from the Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She is the assistant principal for Still Middle School in Aurora.

Dave Robertson, Management Information Systems, earned an M.B.A. in 2009. He is a certified maintenance and reliability professional and is an IBM-certified associate. Robertson and his wife, Nancy, have five grandchildren in Warrenville, IL.

’06

Juliana Nelligan, M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior, works for Roosevelt University’s Office of Institutional Advancement as the director of development fundraising for the Heller College of Business and the College of Pharmacy. She previously worked as the senior associate director for advancement at the YMCA of Metro Chicago.

’08
Matthew Cattoni, Finance and M.S.’05, and wife, Sarah (Staninger) Cattoni, Biology, C11, welcomed their first child, Vincent Raymond, in October 2014.

Kimberly Grady, Business Administration, works as a quality manager for Physicians Automated Laboratory in Bakersfield, CA.

’09
William Mannenberg, M.B.A., and wife, Dina, welcomed their daughter, Averie Elizabeth, in June.

’10
Sarah (Dillmuth) Marjane, M.P.H., works for FIBUSPAM as an executive director. FIBUSPAM is a nonprofit organization that serves marginalized communities in Ecuador by providing free health care and hope to those in poverty through a clinic in Riobamba, Ecuador. The group also serves local communities through its mobile medical clinics, which provide health care to remote villages in the Amazon and Andes regions.

’11
Amanda Grady, Marketing, is a sales merchandiser at Vintage Wines, a Winebow Group company, in Chicago.

Gwen Pearson-Ginski, M.Ed., is a school social worker serving kindergarten through eighth grade students in Rockdale. Earlier this year, she received the 2015 Social Worker of the Year Award for the Calumet District from the Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

’13
Shawn Bozarth, M.B.A., is a product manager with Kohler Engines in Kohler, WI. He is responsible for all marketing aspects for the company’s family of consumer walk and ride engines. He has also begun teaching as an adjunct faculty member in the distance learning program at Trine University in Angola, IN.
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William Jones, M.B.A., was promoted to an assistant manager of general equipment position with TTX Company, a provider of railcars and related freight care and freight management services.

'T15
Thomas James Mitchell, Social Science, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army on May 10. As a field artillery officer, he will attend an basic officer leaders course this October at Fort Sill in Lawton, OK.

Joseph Ward, Communication Arts, is working as a recreation management intern for The Walt Disney Company through January 2016 at Disney’s All-Star Resort, which is a division of the Walt Disney World Resort.

Springfield Junior College

'44
Gwen (Steinkuehler) Bramlet, A.A., celebrated her 90th birthday in June.

'56
Frances (Hussey) Stasukinas, A.A., and her husband, Jerry, celebrated 58 years of marriage in May.

Springfield College in Illinois

'98
Heather (Stahlberg) Smith, A.A., and Nathaniel Gutmann were married in April.

Benedictine University at Springfield

'06
Sharon Durbin, M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior, was the keynote speaker for Benedictine University at Springfield’s May Commencement Convocation.

'08
Ashley (Hermann) Warren, Elementary Education, and her husband, Peter, welcomed a daughter, Tinsley Skye, in March.

'09
Jordan Law, (SCI, A.A.) and Laurel Marques were married in May.

'10
Julie Hamilton, (SCI, A.A.) and Adam Lucchesi were married in June.

Jaimie (Wolshlag) Mullen, (SCI, A.A.) and Trae Mullen welcomed twins, daughter Kennedy Elizabeth and son Tanner Gene, in February.

'C12
Catherine Moscardelli, Elementary Education, and Kyle Alewelt were married May 30.

Adam Pemberton, Communication Arts, and Carolyn A. Johnson were married June 27.

'C13
Casey Blakeley, Management and Organizational Behavior, and Erika Lannon were married May 30.

Mary Pecoraro, M.A.Ed., and Lindsay See were married May 30.

Ross Winning, Marketing, and Brandi Jones were married October 18.

'C14
George Judson Jr., Communication Arts, and Whitney Teer were married May 30.

Angela Manuele, Finance, and Scott Kirchgesner, Management and Organizational Behavior, were married April 25. ●

in memory

St. Procopius Academy/College

Dennis Dobija, C67, passed away May 30.

Gregory Loshkajian, C70, passed away February 22.

Raymond Matyassee, C57, passed away December 27, 2014.

Andrew Petruska, C52, passed away February 17.

Joseph Richard Sottelmaier, M.D., C51, passed away May 22.

Joseph Young, M.D., C56, passed away May 2.

Illinois Benedictine College

William Eckles, C81, passed away on March 8.

Rosalie Lowe Lodging, former faculty member, passed away May 7.

Douglas Schipitsch, M.D., C72, passed away April 12.

Ralph Stablein, C75, passed away January 1.

Brian Zentz, C76, passed away March 15.

Benedictine University

Jan Mabry, C09, passed away May 6.

Springfield Junior College

Catherine (Jones) Bernet, C61, passed away May 14.

Erma (Lantermian) Conant, C64, passed away May 13.

Kenneth H. Davenport, C63, passed away May 31.

Wilma (Harms) Davidson, C46, passed away April 15.

Gershom Keyes Greening, M.D., C39, passed away February 13.

J. Stephen Hall, C49, passed away June 14.


Robert Korb, C63, passed away March 10.

Sybil (Janes) Noll-Gray, C45, passed away April 19.

John M. Picco, C41, passed away March 14.

Fr. Eugene Weitzel, C.S.V., C47, Roman Catholic Priest of the Viatorian Community and former Springfield College in Illinois Trustee, passed away April 30.

Springfield College in Illinois

Chris Anderson, C85, passed away April 3.

LuAnn (O’Brien) Johnson, C67, passed away April 28.

Trisha Renee Ratliff, C85, passed away April 3.

Benedictine University at Springfield

Sarah Ely, C12, passed away May 10. ●
St. Benedict’s Rule for Monks begins with a powerful imperative: Listen. And at Benedictine University, we believe in the importance of listening to one another. We therefore have named our magazine Benedictine Voices. We pledge that within these pages, members of the Benedictine Community will speak with candor about issues facing our University and our world. We cordially invite you to enter into dialogue with us.

Thank you Dr. Carroll
for 20 years of leadership, growth and opportunities!

IN THIS ISSUE:
- Center for Values-Driven Leadership: Making an Impact on Students and Businesses
- The Shoes of Commencement
- Faculty/Staff Notes
If you’re like us, you believe that the efforts of one person can make a **huge difference**.

Benedictine University provides an education with heart. We encourage our students to go beyond themselves and give back to the world through service work and through their career. It doesn’t just build a resume—it builds **FAMILY, COMMUNITY, HOPE AND CHARACTER**.

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The world’s most successful companies don’t just hire workers with desired skill sets—they recruit those who have a desire to change the world for the better.

This concept represents a paradigm shift among businesses and employees who now make decisions that take into account the well-being of others and the world, which in turn can lead to sustainable profits.

The executive doctoral degrees offered through the University’s Center for Values-Driven Leadership (CVDL) are designed to advance this area of knowledge for managers, consultants and others so they can make changes that lead to improved performance and accountability while benefiting people and society.

LEE DEREMER, a retired Air Force colonel who worked as a high-level consultant while earning his Ph.D. in Values-Driven Leadership, said his Benedictine education inspired a new career.

An avid cyclist, DeRemer founded Lifecycles, a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit organization which helps teenage boys from challenging backgrounds develop educational, physical and personal skills through cycling.

The faith-based program provides at-risk youths with structure and positive influences to help improve their futures.

“Right now, we are focused on boys,” DeRemer said. “But a year from now, we hope to have a girls chapter in place. What we are doing with the teens is trying to use a model with three main points: help them with their spiritual growth and values formation; practical life skills through mentoring; and a physical outlet through bicycling.”

The teens ride together for a few nights per week while being mentored by community leaders and volunteers. A longer, cross-state ride is planned during the summer months, when the training and bonds built earlier will be cemented.

“We don’t just invite them to dream—we dare them to dream,” DeRemer said. “Our bumper sticker is ‘We change futures one ride at a time.’
They are going to see different opportunities and see there is a better situation. We want them to change their future to become thriving, flourishing adults.

“We are challenging the second or third generation of fatherlessness for these kids,” he added. “The boys I am dealing with are almost entirely from single-parent homes where the single parent is a mom living at or just above the poverty line. They have no consistent positive male influence and only have experienced broken promises, abandonment and neglect.”

Through partnerships with community missions and churches, DeRemer’s organization is able to identify and encourage at-risk youth to take positive steps toward becoming successful citizens who are able to survive their tough circumstances and eventually contribute to the greater good. All expenses and equipment costs are paid.

“This is not a drill sergeant program,” DeRemer said. “We offer them a commitment until they are either employed or complete college or trade school, and one year after that moving forward. We spend time listening and building relationships, and give them a chance to trust us and trust themselves.”

Another graduate who felt compelled to do something more with her education is Denise Lackey, founder of Step of Faith Comprehensive Health and Wellness. Step of Faith is a nonprofit, faith-based organization that provides health and wellness programs regardless of an individual’s ability to pay.

Lackey, who earned a Ph.D. in Values-Driven Leadership in 2014, has put many principles of the Ph.D. program to work in founding her business.

“Many of our clients are plagued with stress and fear, rejection and hopelessness,” Lackey said. “These emotions breed physical sickness and disease. Therefore, a huge part of our interventions provide programs to promote emotional resilience, reduce stress and build a repertoire designed to equip them to handle stressful events.

“Our clients receive emotional resilience training and a nursing assessment, and are referred to health care providers as necessary,” she said.

Through efforts like its Boys to Men of Valor Mentoring and Leadership program, Step of Faith provides leadership training and kickboxing classes to teach youth the importance of fitness, and how to conduct themselves and discuss personal concerns.

“Our biggest success stories are aligned with the expression of hope that is so frequently verbalized by our clients,” Lackey said. “I have many success stories around lifestyle changes—clients who didn’t know how to access fitness facilities without feeling overwhelmed, or those needing counseling related to proper nutrition or diabetic counseling.

“My greatest success story was helping a client learn how to teach other diabetics about their disease, how to manage glucose monitoring equipment and how to give themselves insulin injections, and most importantly, how to interpret critical lab results that require referral to a doctor.

“Beginning Step of Faith has encouraged me to consider providing home care services which are in great demand,” she said.

The post-degree choices of Lackey and DeRemer are indicative of the University’s focus on graduating students who become successful values-based leaders and responsible citizens.

“My experience in the Values-Driven Leadership program was truly a highlight in my career,” Lackey said. “The authenticity of the program and emphasis on living your values and passion gave me the opportunity to align my Christian faith with my executive leadership experience.”

Lackey said a lecture on the principles of Appreciative Inquiry (AI) facilitated by CVDL founder James Ludema, Ph.D., was a revelation. AI is a model for analysis, decision-making and the creation of strategic change within an organization or corporation.

“The objective of the exercise was to stretch and expand our mental capacity and dream big,” she said. “What would we add to the global field? How would we impact our homes, communities and this nation? What did it look like? What steps or tactics would we use to achieve this nationally impacting objective?

“This program has challenged me to dream big, expect the unpredictable and walk into the unimaginable. Though our resources are slim and currently do not meet all of the needs of our clients, I will hold onto the belief that through God and dreaming big, all things are possible to those who believe and are called for His purpose.”

Established in 2008, the Center for Values-Driven Leadership at Benedictine University offers research, education and outreach opportunities to help business leaders forge new paths to profitability. It is a gathering place where top executives, entrepreneurs and thought leaders come together to innovate at the forefront of values-driven business practice.

For more information about the center, please call (630) 829-6225, visit cvdl.org or contact Amber Johnson at amberjohnson@ben.edu.
THE SHOES OF COMMENCEMENT

Our graduates set out on the right foot in style.
Picking the ultimate shoe to wear at Commencement has become an unofficial Benedictine tradition. To view more photos, visit ben.edu/commencementshoes.
Wilson Chen (Languages and Literature) was selected by the Council of Independent Colleges and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to participate in a special American history seminar on “Slave Narratives” at Yale University in June. The multidisciplinary seminar for faculty members in history, English and related fields used the slave narratives and other assigned secondary reading to comprehend the lived experience of slaves themselves in the transition from bondage to freedom. From a pool of 83 highly competitive nominations, 27 faculty members were selected to participate in the seminar.

Christine Fletcher (Theology) presented a paper, “Benedictines, the True Environmentalists,” at the 61st annual convention of the College Theology Society, “An Unexpected Wilderness: Seeking God on a Changing Plane,” held at the University of Portland (Ore.) in May.

Hai Ri Han (Fine Arts) was one of just a handful of artists whose work was selected from among more than 1,200 entries from 35 countries for exhibition in “ArtVenice Biennale 3” in Venice, Italy. ArtVenice Biennale 3 was an online juried competition and digital presentation held in Venice during the opening week of The Venice Biennale 56.

Phil Novack-Gottshall (Biological Sciences) participated in a working group at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center in Durham, N.C., in April. He collaborated with researchers from Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley, the University of New Mexico, the Smithsonian Institution, Duke University, the University of Florida and others on research on body-size evolution.

Teresa J. Parker (Art Gallery) had some of her work included in “Global Print 2015,” an exhibition of the work of 440 artists from 64 countries held during July, August and September in five cities in Portugal—Alijo, Braganca, Favaios, Villa Nova de Foz Coa and Sabrosa.

Michael Salatino (Benedictine University Police) was a featured speaker at the Illinois Problem-Oriented Policing Conference at the Chicago Marriott Naperville in May. Problem-oriented policing emphasizes new responses that are preventive in nature, that are not dependent on the use of the criminal justice system, and that engage other public agencies, the community and the private sector when their involvement has the potential for significantly contributing to the reduction of the problem. Salatino’s presentation, “Building Partnerships While Reducing Campus Burglaries and Alcohol Disorder,” addressed initiatives to reduce crime on college campuses and progressive measures to address student misconduct.

Kari Stone (Chemistry/Biochemistry) published a paper, “Manganese-Substituted Myoglobin: Characterization and Reactivity of an Oxidizing Intermediate towards a Weak C-H Bond,” in the journal Inorganics. Recent Benedictine graduates Joey Hua (C13, Biochemistry/Molecular Biology) and Humdoon Choudhry (C15, Biochemistry/Molecular Biology) were co-authors on the paper. This work focuses on possible new entries of heme enzymes in biocatalysis.

Ovid Wong (Education) published an article titled “Talking about Generosity” in Herald Monthly, Vol. 28, No. 6, June, 2015. The article discussed the various ways to show a person’s generosity to include sharing one’s wealth, time and presence. Wong also published another article titled “coincidental life events that are not coincidental” in Herald Monthly, Vol. 28, No. 7, July 2015. The article described that when put together, many of life’s perceived coincidental events are by no means coincidental. Wong also conducted new faculty training at Dalian Nationalities University in Dalian, China, via lecture, demonstrating teaching and co-teaching. In between training sessions, he worked with students on a race car that runs on electricity.