Forbes magazine named Benedictine among “America’s Top Colleges” for the third consecutive year in 2013.

Benedictine’s Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program is listed by Crain’s Chicago Business as the fifth largest in the Chicago area in 2013.

Listed as a 2014 “Military Friendly School” by G.I. Jobs, a veteran-owned publication focusing on post-military education and employment.

Benedictine University’s Police Department in 2013 became the first private university law enforcement agency in Illinois to earn accreditation through the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

Affordablecollegesonline.org ranks Benedictine University among the top 25 most affordable Catholic colleges and universities in the country with the highest starting salaries earned by graduates, and among the most affordable colleges in Illinois for online programs in 2013.

Education and technology blog edcetera named Benedictine University at Mesa among 10 universities in the nation on the cutting edge of tech for 2013.

Recognized by the Daily Herald Business Ledger on a list of “Oldest Companies and Organizations” for 2013.

TheBestSchools.org ranked Benedictine among the top 10 online Christian colleges in the United States for 2013. Benedictine’s online Associate of Arts in Business Administration program ranked No. 1 in the nation and the online M.B.A. Entrepreneurship program ranked among the top 10 in the nation for 2013.

In 2012, The Chronicle of Higher Education ranked Benedictine University as the No. 1 fastest-growing campus in the country among private nonprofit research universities between 2000-2010.

TheBestColleges.org ranked Benedictine third among the Top Online Catholic Colleges and Universities, the online Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) program fourth in the nation and the online Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) program fifth in the nation for 2013.

U.S. News & World Report consistently lists Benedictine University among the top colleges and universities in the nation. For 2013, Benedictine was named to its list of “Best Online Bachelor’s Programs,” “Best Online Graduate Business Programs” and “Best Online Graduate Education Programs,” and ranked among the top 50 for our online Master of Science in Nursing.

StateUniversity.com ranks Benedictine University as the second safest four-year school in Illinois based on a scale that accounts for the severity and frequency of on-campus crime in 2012.

Named to Military Advanced Education’s 2014 Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities list.
The Year of Enrollment:
Embracing Change, Meeting Institutional Challenges

There once was a time when students attended a university to study under a particular scholar. This hearkens back to a long ago time when teachers were itinerant with their students in tow. Those times are no more. Universities—communities of scholars—replaced the itinerant teacher. Today there are more than 7,000 such communities in the United States alone. In addition, there are only so many students available to study at all of these institutions.

Benedictine University is one of those 7,000 institutions. We have done well the past 15 years growing our student population and expanding our territory. In fact, Benedictine has been recognized by The Chronicle of Higher Education as the fastest-growing university in the country.*

Where once we were local, we are now international. However, if there is anything we have learned during this time, it is that we cannot afford to be complacent. Significant changes are taking place in higher education. The tectonic plates on which our institution rests are shifting dramatically.

For example, for-profit universities are not disappearing; they are multiplying and threaten to devour our student population. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are chipping away at our traditional ways of offering and charging for courses. Benedictine was once one of a few institutions serving the adult learner. Today, most institutions have discovered that market.

Community colleges are becoming the first choice of many new high school graduates. The traditional lecture model is being challenged every day. Technology continues to change everything. Textbooks are disappearing. Competency-based learning appears to be our future. Tuition must decline in order for institutions to stay in the market. Government oversight will only increase. The credit hour is on its death bed.

Welcome to the brave new world of higher education. We can cower in the corner and think these things will not impact us, or we can do as we always have and embrace these challenges. I know we choose the latter.

For many years, we have embraced what is known as enrollment management. Admissions is a part of enrollment, but enrollment management functions before the admission process begins and well after graduation. It is not the purview of a single office, but of the entire Benedictine community. To meet the challenges ahead, we all have to get busy in new and exciting ways.

We have received the final report on our retention study. Every area is impacted. Interdisciplinary teams headed by the provost and executive vice president have been formed to meet the challenges described in the report. Every student retained is a significant financial boon to the University. Retention is key to enrollment management.

But recruiting and retention are only as good as the product we offer. While we have great academic programs, they are challenged by equally great programs elsewhere. Once again, Benedictine is called to push the envelope in developing even more new programs that will appeal to today’s student.

At a meeting of chairs and deans, I suggested many new programs. I asked our faculty to survey the state of learning in their disciplines and actively seek to move us to the forefront of what is happening. We will continue to look at alternative delivery methods, new programs to develop, more credit given for life experience, new populations of students, cooperative education, etc.

In addition to retention and developing state-of-the-art academic programs, we need to up our recruiting game through better outreach to potential student populations. We need to tell our story in new and exciting ways. We need to raise our game across the institution and among our supporters.

We need to be Benedictine at its best.

This year, which I have asked to be known as “The Year of Enrollment,” ask yourself, “What can I do to aid this effort? What can I do to spread the word to potential students on why Benedictine has so much to offer and how life-changing their time here can be?” We welcome your reply.

— William J. Carroll, President

*Between 2000-2010 among private nonprofit research universities.
THE UNIVERSITY LITERALLY “ROLLED OUT THE RED CARPET” in October for the more than 2,500 stars of Benedictine—alumni, students, staff, faculty members and friends—as part of the Hollywood celebrity-themed festivities for Homecoming Week.

The Programming Board hosted several student events, including a trivia night in the Coal Ben, Tie Dye Day and a bonfire in the campus quad. Judges awarded the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the Intercultural Club with first place for their Homecoming parade decor, and more than 300 students attended the Homecoming dance held at Harry Caray’s Italian Steakhouse in Lombard.

Ryan Nguyen and Kristina Fernandez were named Mr. and Ms. BenU and Kyle Turcic and Jessica Gill were the Homecoming King and Queen.

Members of Homecoming Court included Alexander Huba, Phil Kloc, Chris Kordick, Patrick Ives, Andy Rainville, Jeff Sam, Andrew Schroeder, Kaitlin Bellak, Stacey Brandstatter, Lauren Daraskevich, Kasia Dudas, Sydney French, Johanne Jeudy, Katie Partyka, Harjot Sangha and Nayeli Vazquez.

On Homecoming Day, tailgaters filled the Neuzil Hall parking lot with their grills and delicious aromas while several groups of alumni played bags and reminisced about their days at Benedictine.
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CARROLL (pictured second from right) honored three outstanding alumni with awards recognizing their service and accomplishments prior to the Homecoming football game.

The Distinguished Alumni Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in a career field or personal endeavor, was presented to Deborah Ariel Pagel, M.S.'92 (pictured center). Pagel is an international senior organization effectiveness consultant at Boeing Co., and a recognized leader in the field of Organization Development.

The 2013 Alumni Service Award was presented to Dana R. Wright, M.S.'12, C10, (pictured second from left) in recognition of service to Benedictine University with her time and talent. Wright, the first deputy chief with the Cook County Sheriff’s Office, can be seen in videos promoting the M.S. in Leadership program or speaking to students as part of the Office of Alumni Development’s “Get Connected” program.

The Benedictine Spirit Award, which is given to an alumnus who exemplifies the Benedictine values of service, hospitality and dedication, was presented to Brian Walker, C96 (pictured right). Walker is the Founder and CEO of AE Marketing Group, one of Chicago’s fastest-growing start-ups, and an active member of the philanthropic and volunteer community.

To read more about the award winners, go to ben.edu/webextras. Nominations for the 2014 awards can be sent to Trente Arens at tarens@ben.edu.

Kids of all ages and several adults were drawn to the exotic animal display in the children’s area. Some people were even allowed to handle a live python, macaw and a fennec fox. A few steps away, children took advantage of the bouncy house and craft tables.

Many alumni stopped by to mingle with staff and faculty members at “Tent Row,” the area along the perimeter of the parking lot overtaken by tents. Each tent represented a different college and featured its own signature food selection. A few key faculty members worked the grill, including Bart Ng, Ph.D., dean of the College of Science, and Vince Gaddis, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of History, representing the College of Liberal Arts.

After the food, it was time for the big game. Despite the rain, the Eagles came out on top with a 33-23 victory against Aurora University.

Don’t miss out on an opportunity to reconnect with your alma mater at this year’s Homecoming on Saturday, September 20. For more information, go to ben.edu/homecoming.
BENEDICT10

In order to better serve recent graduates, the Office of Alumni Development has created a special group for alumni who have graduated within the last 10 years called Benedict10. This year, alumni from 2004 through 2013 are invited to join Benedict10. The mission of this group is three-fold:
1. To connect recent alumni with one another and other Benedictine alumni.
2. To strengthen recent alumni’s ties to the University.
3. To help alumni grow personally and professionally through a series of social engagements and networking events.

ADLER AFTER DARK

A group of alumni mixed and mingled while exploring the cosmos at the Adler Planetarium in September. This was the first official event held specifically for members of Benedict10. Everyone had an opportunity to reunite with friends, reminisce and reacquaint. Thank you to all who attended this successful evening.

BENEDICT10 AND TOP 40 UNDER 40 DAY AT THE GAME

In November, recipients of the University’s 2013 Top 40 Under 40 society award joined members of Benedict10 for food, fun and a great football game at the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex where the Eagles took on Lakeland College. The event provided recent alumni with the chance to get to know one another and network with a cross-section of alumni under the age of 40 whose stellar achievements shine a light on their education at Benedictine.

HOLIDAY ALUMNI CRUISE

A large group of alumni had a great time in Chicago celebrating the holidays in style aboard the Mystic Blue cruise ship in December. Alumni enjoyed appetizers, refreshments and music from a disc jockey. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped welcome members of the University’s Benedict10.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

There are a lot of fun events planned for the spring. Watch your email for a variety of volunteer opportunities.
To learn more about upcoming events and activities, please visit ben.edu/alumnievents.

February 8
Casino Night

March 27
Cubs Spring Training—Mesa, Ariz.

April 12
College of Science Alumni Reunion Dinner

REMEMBER TO STAY CONNECTED

Be sure to visit the new and improved Alumni and Friends website for all the latest information about upcoming alumni events, Alumni Association benefits, volunteer opportunities, award winners and more. You can also stay up-to-date by liking the Benedictine University Alumni Facebook page, connecting with the alumni group on LinkedIn and by following us on Twitter.

ben.edu/alumni
facebook.com/BenedictineUniversityAlumni
Twitter: @BenU_Alumni
LinkedIn: Benedictine University Alumni group
GOLDEN EAGLES INDUCTION CEREMONY

A GROUP OF 29 ALUMNI FROM THE CLASS OF 1963 WERE INDUCTED INTO THE GOLDEN EAGLES at a special dinner and ceremony in October. They enjoyed a fun-packed weekend that included the Homecoming football game and were the featured guests at the dedication of the Neff Welcome Center Alumni Plaza’s bricks and benches. They also took a tour of campus and visited the new Fr. Michael E. Komechak, O.S.B., Art Gallery, the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum, the Rice Center and the recently renovated Benedictine University Library.

Plans are underway for the Class of 1964, whose members will be inducted into the Golden Eagles in the fall. If you would like to be involved in planning this event, please contact Deb Smith, director of University Development Events, at (630) 829-6080 or dsmith@ben.edu.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

I HOPE THIS LETTER FINDS YOU WELL after another year filled with great memories. We encourage you to continue to share your stories with your colleagues, friends and family through this publication. As we develop a stronger foundation for our Alumni Association, your support and interaction will be vital to its continued success.

In that same spirit, the Alumni Association Board of Directors has been working diligently to be your voice within the Benedictine community. We have worked closely with the University to foster new ideas and projects which we believe are important to alumni. One of those projects has been the implementation of new and improved Alumni Association benefits.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors and Alumni Development have put together a variety of benefits that are now available. We invite you to view these benefits at ben.edu/alumnibenefits.

We hope that you find value in these new offerings knowing that your participation is an investment in the future of the Alumni Association. Ultimately, our success is defined by your participation. We welcome your thoughts as we continue to improve and develop the organization. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with your feedback.

On behalf of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, we thank you for your continued support of Benedictine University and look forward to the many opportunities in front of us as an alumni association.

Sincerely,

Daniel Martinez, M.B.A. ’10, C06
daniel.justin.martinez@gmail.com

View alumni benefits at ben.edu/alumnibenefits.
But when she graduated in December 2011, she didn’t just leave with a degree. She benefited from an academic environment where she was able to interact with professors and other graduate students one-on-one and in small groups, and formed lasting and meaningful connections with professional peers and undergraduate students.

The experience left an impression on Drane, who returned with a new goal in mind to give back and encourage undergraduate students to prepare themselves for their careers.

“Whether you are a college student, an entrepreneur, working in corporate America or in any field, it is important to know that someone has walked in your shoes, overcame challenges and is willing to share their experiences and provide insight on how to succeed,” Drane said. “And that’s why I’ve decided to come back to Benedictine and stay involved.”

After earning an undergraduate degree in African Studies and Economics, Drane started her career in the auto claims division at State Farm where she has worked for 24 years. After a series of moves, Drane relocated to Chicago in 1997. While studying at Benedictine, Drane got to know several undergraduate students to whom she offered her friendship, encouragement and advice.

“The undergraduate students were so receptive—even when I had to provide them with a little ‘tough love,’” Drane said. “It reminded me of myself when I was an undergraduate and how important it was for me to have professionals come to campus who I could go to for insight, encouragement and support.”

Prior to her graduation, Drane solicited the help of family and friends to raise money for the “Celebrating Success Scholarship,” which will reward and acknowledge the academic achievements and community involvement of African-American students. The scholarship will be awarded to students for the first time in fall 2014. Although the scholarship is now endowed, Drane still encourages others to give so that the amount awarded to students can grow.

“I am thankful for the educational experience and networking opportunities I received at Benedictine,” Drane said. “I have had the great fortune of meeting other alumni who are doing some phenomenal work to support the University and help students—something I plan to continue as well.”

Under the auspices of the Black Alumni Chapter of Benedictine’s Alumni Association, Drane and a group of about 15 other alumni are currently working on establishing a student-alumni mentoring program. They encourage other alumni to stay connected and support their alma mater through their time, talent or treasure. The Offices of University Development and Student Life are partnering with them on this endeavor.
Thank You for Enriching Students’ Lives

With the money raised through the kindness of our trustees, alumni, friends, faculty and staff, students are able to establish roots at Benedictine and blossom into game-changing professionals. Learn how your donations invigorate students by providing them exceptional academic, spiritual and social growth opportunities.

View the 2013 Donor Impact Report at ben.edu/DIR.

Class Gift

The Class of 2012 raised $5,000 and the Class of 2013 raised $8,000 for their Class Gifts to Benedictine. Each class was recognized in October during Homecoming weekend with an engraved brick and a dedicated bench in the Neff Welcome Center Alumni Plaza.

Right: Eric Taylor, C12.
Below (from left): Erik Rickert, C13, Juanita Boykins, C13, and Alex Fridge, C13.

ONLINE GIVING
Easy. Quick. Appreciated.

It’s easier than ever to make a difference.

ben.edu/giving
It isn’t always easy for Dan Lietz to speak in front of a large audience or a sea of news cameras about the importance of the Illinois Secretary of State’s Organ and Tissue Donor program. Sometimes, he has to fight back a flood of tears. Every year in Illinois, approximately 300 people will die while waiting for an organ transplant. On January 9, 2013, Vikki Tulcus became part of this grim statistic when she passed away after spending two years on a waiting list for a kidney.

Tulcus was so much more than a statistic. She was Lietz’s fiancée and as the Chicago metro regional coordinator for the Illinois Secretary of State’s Organ and Tissue Registry, was an advocate for individuals and families who, just like her, were awaiting an organ transplant.

A week after her funeral, Lietz received a call from Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, asking him whether he would consider filling the position left by Tulcus. Heartbroken, but determined to keep her compassionate spirit alive, Lietz made a decision to switch careers and pick up where Tulcus left off, encouraging more people in Illinois to sign up for the lifesaving program.

“Secretary White thought that I was the only one who could fill the position,” Lietz said. “I really didn’t have to think about it very long. I accepted the job and started the following week.”

Lietz and Tulcus first met on the Benedictine campus in the former Kohlbeck residence hall and remained friends throughout their four years at Benedictine.

After graduation, Lietz pursued a career in finance, serving as a branch manager for American General Finance, then as an assistant vice president for Citizens Bank, and then moved on to vice president of sales for Pro Line Contractors.

Tulcus became a flight attendant for American Trans Air before pursuing a career in media and public relations first as a reporter for Liberty Suburban Publications, then as a public relations coordinator for Wheaton Community Television, and then as a communications editor for Professional Service Industries Inc., an engineering consulting and testing firm.

In 2004, Tulcus joined the Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network as a public education and volunteer coordinator. In 2007, she joined the Illinois Secretary of State as a community outreach coordinator.

In November 2009, Tulcus was rushed to the emergency room after she experienced breathing difficulties. After multiple tests, Tulcus was diagnosed with Wegner’s Syndrome, a chronic, rare autoimmune disease. Each night thereafter, she hooked herself up to a dialysis machine for 10 hours, and each day hoped for a lifesaving gift—a healthy donor kidney.

A few months later, she and Lietz reconnected on Facebook and soon began dating. One of those dates was to a Benedictine Homecoming football game. The relationship flourished and in October 2011 Lietz proposed to Tulcus.

In April 2012, Tulcus was featured in an emotional public service announcement highlighting the Secretary of State’s “Life Goes On” Organ/Tissue Donor campaign.

“Working with these families has been my job,” Tulcus says in the video, while looking at the many pictures and faces of donor recipients. “To know one
person’s gift can save so many lives. Last year I got sick and I found out I need a kidney. Before, my job depended on the organ donor program. Now, my life depends on it. Be an organ donor, because life goes on.”

As a result of the commercial, 18 people came forward to inquire about being an organ donor for Tulcus, Lietz said. “Although there was not a match, it gave us hope that someone out there was a match,” Lietz said.

Doctors believe that her illness developed from the large number of blood transfusions she received in her youth. She passed away as a result of renal failure after doctors could not find a kidney that matched with the antibodies in her blood in time.

Today, Lietz speaks about the donation program at hospitals, colleges, employee health and wellness fairs, churches and libraries as the Chicago metro regional coordinator of the Illinois Secretary of State’s Organ and Tissue Registry. It’s a position Lietz never thought would be suited for anyone other than Tulcus.

He is incredibly thankful for the time they shared at Benedictine and the values that were instilled in them for life—values emphasizing the worth and dignity of each person with a call for serving people in need.

Lietz formed close relationships while at the University and remains in regular contact with his three roommates Dan O’Rourke, C91, Accounting, Rob Fulton, C92, Physical Education, and Mike Geist, C91, Accounting.

In addition to her work with the organ donor program, Tulcus helped establish the “Hispanic Doctors Who Made a Difference Award” and the “Illinois Secretary of State Hospital Recognition Award.” She was also responsible for spreading organ donation awareness on community college campuses. A current program called “Be a Hero” is modeled after some of her ideas.

But of all of her success advancing the organ donor registry, it is her last gesture that speaks volumes.

“While she did not get the lifesaving transplant that she desperately needed, she still was able to be a cornea donor,” Lietz said. “Vikki’s selfless act of charity made it possible for women in Chicago and Cliffside Park, N.J., to be given the gift of sight. It is because of Vikki’s gift that these two people are able to watch their children and grandchildren play in a park.”

On January 1, 2006, Illinois residents were able to join an organ and tissue donor registry, which made a person’s wish to be a donor legally binding. The registry ensures that a person’s wish to be a donor is respected upon death.

Today in Illinois, there are more than 5.4 million registered organ donors.

Still, the demand for transplants outpaces supply. Currently, 4,500 of the 5,300 people in Illinois on the transplant waiting list are waiting for a kidney, Lietz said.

“The work that I am doing now is how I remember Vikki,” Lietz said. “The main thing I can take away from our time together is how Vikki made me a much better person. I can only continue the work that she was so passionate about and carry it forward.”

Do you know an alumnus who is giving back in the Benedictine tradition?

Email lhale@ben.edu.
The 19th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing welcomed entertaining CBS Sports commentator and former golf professional David Feherty to Cantigny Golf in Wheaton (pictured bottom, middle).

Each person who participates in this event helps make it possible for Benedictine students in need to earn a college degree. Another record number of golfers hit the links and was able to help 160 students receive scholarship awards.

The William Bartlett II Cup (first place) winners included Frank Fernandez, Jamie Blythe, Keith Aarseth and Todd Gosdem. The Bruce Bronge Cup (second place) winners included Bernie Glossy, Randy Talin, Mike Nichols and Wendy Pelligrino. The Maureen Beal Cup (first place women’s team) winners included Emily Callahan, Karen Callahan and Kathy Donofrio. The Alumni Challenge Cup (first place alumni team) winners included Jim Turner, C80, Steve Conklin, Don Huber, C73, and Rick Vath. The Prayer’s Cup (last place) winners were Dee Mastro-Holzkof, Gretchen Laska, Christine Shillestad and Carrie Kennedy.

Read more about this event at ben.edu/webextras.

In July 2014, the University will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the golf outing along with President William J. Carroll’s 20th year at the University. This will be a very special event. For updates, visit ben.edu/golf.

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Professional News Desk Donated for BenU Students

Students in Benedictine University’s TV News and Production class had some news of their own to report last fall after benefiting from a gift to the University’s news studio, care of NBC 5 Chicago.

In 2013, NBC 5 Chicago decided to close its street-side studio along North Michigan Avenue in favor of consolidating its newer high-tech studios inside NBC Tower. After hearing this news, Chris Comes, C94, Literature and Communication, asked the media company if it would consider donating the desk from the shuttered studio to his alma mater.

The news desk, which features an integrated lighting system, will give students the chance to report the news from a professional news desk that was the career spot for top Chicago news anchors. It replaces a white, four-foot-wide plywood table that Comes remembers using as a Benedictine student more than 20 years ago.

“I remember that table, and I am so proud that this real-world NBC 5 Chicago news desk will be a part of the studio at Benedictine,” he said. “My hope is that students and faculty will be able to continue to provide quality programming that is attractive to viewers with this new addition.”

Funding Student Scholarships: Annual Golf Outing Helps 160 Students

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New Global College Coordinates, Develops Programs, Services Abroad

In August, the University announced the creation of a sixth college—the Global College—to serve its growing overseas presence as part of an ongoing effort to meet the demand for quality, values-based academic programs at home and abroad.

The Global College coordinates and develops Benedictine’s many programs and services abroad, including administration of master’s programs in China and Vietnam and partnerships with colleges and universities throughout the world. This is made possible through a collaboration with the Office of International Programs and Services and under the leadership of University President William J. Carroll.

Alan Gorr, Ph.D., dean of the College of Education and Health Services for the past eight years and a 15-year professor, was appointed dean of the new Global College. Gorr has extensive international experience after working in Sudan, Egypt, India and Myanmar on behalf of the World Health Organization.

“The Global College is the academic umbrella for all of our international programs,” Gorr said. “Now, a number of new possibilities which crosscut other academic areas have an identity of their own.”

In addition to overseeing the University’s existing Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Management Information Systems programs in China and Vietnam, Benedictine’s Global College received permission from the Ministry of Education in China in 2013 to offer its Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) program there.

The new M.P.H. program follows an American approach to public health education, a model more Chinese are consulting as they continue to experience rapid population growth and the challenges that come with it, Gorr said.

“The M.P.H. is different in that it really initiates a new trend in health planning and decision-making in China,” Gorr said. “Such a change was called for in the policies of the central government, and this is a significant step in that direction.”

As of December, 450 students spread among 12 learning teams were studying in one of the University’s graduate programs overseas. Stateside, 170 international students are pursuing their degrees at the main campus in Lisle and at the Springfield branch campus.

In recent years, several Benedictine students have been awarded scholarships by the Chinese government to study in China. Faculty members have also traveled there to work with their Chinese colleagues on a variety of projects. The University has also announced a new Chinese Language (Mandarin) minor with a Chinese Culture track option. The program will allow students to connect specific issues in Chinese culture and history to current trends in Chinese society, and prepare them to communicate effectively in the context of another culture.

In 2013, nearly 20 faculty members spent two weeks in China sharing teaching methodologies, visiting classes and engaging in dialogue in similar and related disciplines for future collaboration. Visiting faculty also created a digital blog (http://benufacultyblog.wordpress.com) to document the experience and interact locally and internationally with others.

“So many of our faculty members have traveled, conferred and taught in China that many of our colleagues there seem to be part of our faculty here,” Gorr said. “New initiatives are underway to facilitate these kinds of faculty exchanges at every level and we will be paying increased attention to expanding study abroad opportunities even more.”

This new college will continue to expand the University’s global reach, bringing a Benedictine education throughout the world and exposing faculty and students to international experiences that enhance their careers and fields.
Before he passed away in 2009, Fr. Michael E. Komechak, O.S.B., dreamed that his life’s legacy—the more than 4,000 pieces of art he collected—would one day be housed in a permanent home at Benedictine to be viewed and appreciated on a grand scale.

Gallery Opening Commemorates Fr. Michael’s Collection and Lifelong Passion for ART

(Above) Henri Matisse, Seated Woman in Red Silkscreen, 1946, 16 x 20 in.

(Left and cover) Bruno Zupan, Spanish Village Oil on canvas, 1976, 16 x 20 in.
This past August, the beloved teacher and art curator’s dream finally came true when the University opened the doors to the new Fr. Michael E. Komechak, O.S.B., Art Gallery, located on the fifth floor of Kindlon Hall. Visitors and friends noted that the gallery was a fitting tribute to Fr. Michael, as they could sense his spirit and influence everywhere.

Fr. Michael’s lifelong enthusiasm for art led to the creation of one of the finest private art and sculpture collections in the Midwest. However, lacking a central location, Fr. Michael displayed what he could of the collection across campus in multiple areas and buildings.

The new space memorializes Fr. Michael’s passion for and the University’s ongoing emphasis on the arts, said University President William J. Carroll.

“This gallery enables us to exhibit artwork that had previously remained hidden due to space constraints,” Carroll said.

“It allows visitors an opportunity to access and appreciate this magnificent collection, and enhances and showcases the University’s liberal arts core.”

The gallery’s inaugural exhibition featured some of Fr. Michael’s favorite pieces from the collection and a recently donated lithograph by master artist Henri Matisse.

Paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics and other pieces from the collection will be rotated periodically and the gallery will also feature works by new artists.

The gallery’s regular hours of operation are 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information about the gallery, visit ben.edu/komechakartgallery.
After months of anticipation, planning and building, Benedictine University at Mesa officially welcomed 93 students into its inaugural class on September 3, 2013.

“This is a proud moment for Benedictine,” said Kari Gibbons, vice president for Enrollment Services. “We are excited to have been able to welcome this first class into the Benedictine family. Several of our students are first-generation college students and we are confident that all of them will excel in Benedictine’s values-based, rigorous academic programs.”

The Mesa, Ariz., branch campus opening was the culmination of a process that began nearly two years ago when the University responded to the City of Mesa’s innovative efforts to attract a distinguished university that would help revitalize its downtown area.

**Academic Building**

As anticipated, the new branch campus is attracting students with its storied values-based education and Next Generation, “lecture-free” learning model.

Benedictine unveiled its academic building, Gillett Hall, in downtown Mesa, for the first time to scores of guests, students, educators, spiritual leaders as well as city and University representatives at a blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The building, named in honor of Willis Gillett, chair of the University’s Board of Trustees, (left with Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted, Diocese of Phoenix) was a former hospital and community center that underwent a $10 million, yearlong renovation.

It has capacity for nine classrooms, including an interactive classroom with nontraditional, flexible furniture, a nutrition lab featuring kitchenettes with residential appliances, a computer lab, chapel, a “Spirit Store” which offers Benedictine merchandise, Student Resource Center and the Community Room.
Student Life

Through an agreement with the Mesa Family YMCA, located a few blocks from campus, students can unwind and participate in club sport opportunities, strength training, Pilates, aerobics, volleyball, basketball or rock wall climbing.

Students who choose the school’s housing option can take advantage of amenities offered through the Phoenix Marriott Mesa, which includes a private bathroom, mini refrigerator, full-size bed, flat-screen TV with free cable and wireless Internet, and access to a fitness center and pool/spa area.

Future plans include additional academic programs, student life activities, clubs, service opportunities and sports programs. Current students will play a role in shaping these programs as the campus continues to progress.

“My parents have this saying where the school doesn’t make the student, the student makes the school,” said freshman Alberto Carrazco, the first-ever BenU at Mesa Student Senate president and a Nutrition major. “They kept telling me that while I was applying to colleges and universities, and I never quite understood. Then Benedictine came here and I realized that we can make the clubs, we can make the programs at Benedictine. I was like, ‘Wow, that is amazing. A new school, here in Arizona, and we get the chance to help mold it into whatever we want.’”

New clubs that students have founded include the service-based organizations of the Student Senate, Rotaract and Media Club, activity-based clubs such as Golf and Performing Arts, and specific interest-based clubs such as Nutrition Club, Criminal Justice Club and a developing Inter-Faith Council.

First of its Kind

The branch campus provides a necessary service as the first four-year Catholic university campus in Arizona, and will grow and support the needs of an increasing number of local students who seek a Catholic and Benedictine experience, said Mesa Branch Campus President Michael Carroll, Ph.D.

“I have seen so much excitement and willingness by the local community to help in any way to make sure that we are successful,” Carroll said. “I look forward to building the academic reputation and value of Benedictine University at Mesa to both the student population and the surrounding community.”

Community Outreach:

Nutrition Club in Mesa

Students involved in the Nutrition Club at Benedictine University at Mesa set up a booth at the Phoenix Food Day Festival in October to show off healthy homemade pumpkin snacks and recipes to educate the community about nutritious food options. The festival is part of a national celebration promoting healthy, affordable and sustainably produced food.
Lisle COMMENCEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY’S 120TH COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION was held at the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex on May 11. One thousand ninety-eight graduates earned their degrees, including 40 who earned associate degrees, 524 who earned bachelor’s degrees, 508 who earned master’s degrees and 26 who earned doctoral degrees.

Scott Smith, the Mayor of Mesa, Ariz., who is credited with leading his city’s economic revival and bringing a Benedictine University campus to town—the first four-year Catholic university campus in the state—gave the Commencement address.

The University also held a December graduation ceremony at the Rice Center in which more than 200 graduates participated.
Lisle AWARDS

Nine students received the University’s most prestigious awards for academic excellence at the Hooding and Honors Ceremony on May 6.

PROCOPIAN AWARD
Lina Savickas, B.S. in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology
This award is the highest honor awarded to a graduating senior. It is given for consistently outstanding curricular and extracurricular activities.

THOMAS J. DYBA LEADERSHIP AWARD
Mary Higgins, B.S. in Health Science
This award is given to a student who demonstrates outstanding ability to initiate and organize worthwhile activities, encourages and directs the cooperative efforts of others, and commands respect as a campus leader.

BENEDICTINE SERVICE AWARD
Jocelyn Ligocki, B.S. in Health Science
The Benedictine Service Award is given for outstanding service to the University and fellow students.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Besa Krasniqi, B.S. in Health Science
This award is given for outstanding service in religious, educational, social or political activities.

ARCHBISHOP DANIEL KUCERA, O.S.B., AWARD
Kelsey Brar, B.S. in Biology
This award recognizes a nontraditional student who has an exemplary academic record as well as a record of contributions to the University community.

Awards in ACADEMIC HONORS

These awards are conferred upon students who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better and either completed research of consequence or were published in their field.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Erin George, B.B.A. in Marketing

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES
Jessica Schiappa, B.S. in Nutrition

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
Kinga Hodorowicz, B.A. in Political Science

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
Christopher Castle, B.S. in Biology
Springfield COMMENCEMENT

BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY AT SPRINGFIELD HONORED 147 GRADUATES, including three who earned associate degrees, 101 who earned bachelor’s degrees, 33 who earned master’s degrees and 10 who earned doctoral degrees. The University’s 83rd Commencement ceremony was held at the Prairie Capitol Convention Center on May 18.

Dalitso Sulamoyo, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies, gave the Commencement address. Sulamoyo graduated from Benedictine University at Springfield in 2011 where he was among the first group to earn a Ph.D. in Organization Development. Sulamoyo also graduated from the same campus in 1994 when it was previously Springfield College in Illinois.

Asia COMMENCEMENT

TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN BENEDICTINE GRADUATES were honored in ceremonies at Binh Duong University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Vietnam National University in Hanoi, Vietnam, and Shenyang Jianzhu University and Shenyang University of Technology in Shenyang, China.
The heavy table in the conference room has been pushed aside to make room for a video camera and a football stadium’s worth of professional lighting equipment. In the hot seat is the CEO of a Texas company. On the other side of the camera is Jim Ludema, Ph.D., director of the Center for Values-Driven Leadership (CVDL).

Though it might look like an interview to air on the evening news, this conversation is really part of the CVDL’s “Return on Values” research project, a three-year partnership with the Inc. Small Giants Community to answer the question, “In small and mid-size businesses, what is the link between culture and profit?”

“What we’re trying to establish is that a strong, positive corporate culture doesn’t just make your company a nicer place to work, it also has a sustainable impact on the bottom line by increasing employee engagement, customer loyalty and market share,” Ludema said.

The research initiative explores these topics through surveys sent to more than 26,000 companies and through deep-dive case studies of 30 companies with exceptional cultures and long-term profitable growth.

Ludema is conducting the research with doctoral students and Mike Manning, Ph.D., professor of Leadership, Strategy and Change, Kevin Lynch, Ph.D., leadership executive-in-residence, Marie Di Virgilio, Ph.D., administrative director and Amber Johnson, corporate relations advisor at the CVDL.

“We’ve learned so much already, particularly in the area of hiring the right people to fit the culture of your company. That’s the difference hiring for culture fit makes. Once you have a strong team in place, you retain talent, innovate faster, delight customers and meet your goals. It’s a first step in a long plan toward strong culture and even stronger results.”

To learn more about the Return on Values project, visit cvdl.org/research.

1. **SOURCE DIFFERENTLY**

Almost without exception, the companies that were studied found new hires through referrals from current employees.

“You employees know who they want to work with. They won’t let you down by recommending a low-performing candidate.”

2. **SCREEN FOR CULTURE FIT**

High-culture, high-results companies are clear about their values and the values their employees need to possess, and use screening questions to assess a candidate’s fit.

“One company we’ve studied believes compassion is the No. 1 value their employees need. The first question during their interview is, ‘Define compassion.’ If the candidate can’t offer a suitable response, the interview ends.”

3. **LET COLLEAGUES MAKE THE DECISIONS**

“Many of these companies let colleagues interview the top candidates. This gives everyone a sense of buy-in to their new team member and makes trust-building easier.”

4. **NEVER HIRE A “MAYBE.”**

“There’s often a lot of pressure to hire, but the companies we are studying won’t be rushed into making a decision. One company told us, ‘We never hire a maybe.’ There is too much risk in hiring someone who ‘might’ fit.”

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN LEADERS EXECUTE WELL ON THESE FOUR FACTORS?** Ludema says the difference is noticeable.

“One human resources director said to us, ‘Take a look around the company. You won’t find any jerks here.’”
UNIVERSITY POLICE: First agency of its kind to earn accreditation in Illinois

Benedictine University Police became the first private university law enforcement agency in Illinois to earn accreditation through the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP) after undergoing a thorough evaluation of its policies and procedures, management, operations and support services.

A team of ILEAP inspectors and evaluators, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and leading law enforcement and criminal justice administrators granted the accreditation, which means University Police meets professional law enforcement standards and provides the most effective and efficient services possible, according to University Police Chief Mike Salatino.

On Saturday, April 5, the University community including all online learners, alumni, faculty, staff and students at Benedictine University at Mesa, Benedictine University at Springfield and the Lisle main campus will have the opportunity to join together in an effort to serve their surrounding areas.

To register for this event, visit ben.edu/service.

There are limited spots for participating, so please sign up during the registration period from February 1 - March 28. For more information, contact Carrie Roberts at (630) 829-6028 or croberts@ben.edu.
Fidelity AND Openness:

Interfaith Dialogue Going Strong

When alumni or prospective students and their families visit campus and observe our population of Muslim, Hindu and Sikh students, they might wonder whether the University is still Catholic.

As Benedictines, it is our responsibility to tell them the University is proud to welcome people of all faiths (or no faith)—not because it is the politically correct thing to do, but because it is the Catholic thing to do.

Engaging in ecumenical (intra-Christan) and interreligious dialogue is no longer considered as an “extra” activity for Catholic universities.

Dialogue is part of the intellectual, social and spiritual reality of millennial students, many of whom check the box for “spiritual,” “seeker,” “agnostic,” or “none” when asked about their religious identity.

For students with religious backgrounds, participating in dialogue strengthens—not weakens—their own faith. This is because dialogue forces you to reflect more deeply on what you believe.

As Catholics, tradition is key, and so we must ask, “What does the Catholic intellectual tradition say about interreligious dialogue?”

The single-most important text on this topic comes from the Second Vatican Council: Nostra Aetate (“Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions”). This 1965 document is the first explicitly positive theology of religions, articulated from the highest level of Church authority that the Catholic Church “regards with sincere reverence those ways of conduct and of life, those precepts and teachings which, though differing in many aspects from the ones she holds and sets forth, nonetheless, often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all.”

The document continues to say that the Church’s positive stance toward others must be demonstrated with action, and therefore it “exhorts” all Catholics to dialogue and to cooperate with members of other religions.

Chapter 53, “On the Reception of Guests,” in the “Rule of St. Benedict,” is another foundational text describing the importance of dialogue and hospitality. The verse, “Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ, for He is going to say, ‘I came as a guest and you received me,’” is a quotation that is rooted in Matthew 25:35 and addresses this notion succinctly.

The University’s founding institution, St. Procopius Abbey, has a long tradition of dialogue.

Br. Gregory Perron, O.S.B., is a leader in Monastic Interreligious Dialogue, while Fr. Julian von Duerbeck, O.S.B., has been active with the local Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions. The Abbey has an even longer tradition of ecumenism, dating back to the 1950s when Dorothy Day became an oblate and said her love for the Abbey was because of its special function of praying for the reunion of Rome and Eastern European Churches.

Dialogue on our campus must be informed by this Catholic and Benedictine tradition. We do dialogue the Catholic way—not the secular pluralist way. It is true that there is a certain tension between dialogue and mission, between fidelity to the Catholic tradition and openness to the other. But we welcome the tension and the ongoing conversation.

Grant Helps Reduce Waste Sent to Landfills

Students, faculty, staff and visitors eating on the Lisle campus now have a third option when they go to clear their plates—one that sends nutrient-rich food scraps to a compost heap in place of the landfill.

Thanks to a $46,000 Food Scrap Composting Revitalization and Advancement Program (F-SCRAP) grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Benedictine University now has the capability of diverting around 105,000 pounds per year of food waste from area landfills and wastewater systems.

Read More at ben.edu/webextras.
In recognition of the more than 50-year history of the internationally acclaimed Master of Science (M.S.) in Management and Organizational Behavior, and growth of the Ph.D. in Organization Development (OD) programs, the University brought some of the world’s most recognized leaders and thinkers in the field to campus for a two-day conference in November to speak about new trends and the future of the industry.

The event, which drew a maximum-capacity crowd, was a rare opportunity for business professionals wanting to gain new insights on some of the best practices for netting positive outcomes and improving efficiencies from the best in the industry.

Attendees heard from a number of innovative and sought-after speakers including David Cooperrider, Ph.D., the Fairmount Minerals Professor of Social Entrepreneurship at the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. Cooperrider, who currently serves as faculty director of the Center for Business as an Agent of World Benefit, a global business forum, is best known for his pioneering theory on Appreciative Inquiry. He has served as advisor to senior executives in business and societal leadership roles, including former President Bill Clinton and Nobel laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and former President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica.

Other influential speakers who discussed the past, present and future of the OD field included W. Warner Burke, Ph.D., the Edward Lee Thorndike Professor of Psychology and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University; Allan Church, Ph.D., vice president of organization development global groups, functions and corporate, and executive assessment and development at PepsiCo; Janine Waclawski, Ph.D., vice president of human resources for PepsiCo’s commercial and corporate functions; Richard W. Woodman, Ph.D., the Lawrence Fouraker Professor of Management at Texas A&M University; and Christopher G. Worley, Ph.D., senior research scientist with the Center for Effective Organizations at the University of Southern California’s Marshall School of Business, and professor of organizational theory and management at Pepperdine University.

Benedictine’s OD programs are recognized as global leaders for providing an education in managing the human side of enterprise, which includes global interdependence, workforce diversity and the management of change—the hallmarks of excellent managers and leading-edge companies.

The internationally acclaimed programs are overseen by Peter Sorensen, Ph.D., a leader in the field and an integral founder in the development of one of the country’s first master’s programs in OD. Sorensen, along with Therese Yaeger, Ph.D., another recognized name in the field and a leader in corporate organization dynamics, have put the University on the map in the OD world.


Sulamoyo is a senior executive scholar at Benedictine University at Springfield, where he teaches graduate-level Organization Development courses in human resources, business research methods and international organization development. He is also a distinguished visiting scholar for the Ph.D. in Organization Development program.
Speakers for the “Chicago Style OD,” presentation included Bruce Mabee, managing partner at Milestone Partners LLC; Richard Axelrod, co-founder of the Axelrod Group Inc., a faculty member in the professional program in Organization Development at Columbia University and guest lecturer at Benedictine; Emily Axelrod, co-founder and principal of the Axelrod Group Inc.; Jennifer Smith, manager of human resources process improvement at Molex; Christopher Fernandez, Ph.D., director of organizational effectiveness, learning and change at Magnetrol International; and Philip Anderson, Ph.D., principal consultant and owner of BKD Consulting LLC and an adjunct professor at Benedictine.

To further enhance the leadership acumen and values-based business practices of high-performing CEOs and administrators, the University developed a doctoral program in Organization Development, which has earned more than 100 professional awards and special recognitions from national and international organizations.

To learn more about these programs, go to ben.edu/management.
State Legislative Leaders Discuss How Faith and Politics Intersect at Benedictine

STATE REP. LINDA CHAPA LAVIA (D-AURORA), STATE SEN. MICHAEL CONNELLY (R-NAPERVILLE) AND CHRISTINE FLETCHER, PH.D., associate professor of Theology at Benedictine, discussed the role of Catholicism and religion in the legislative process as part of the University’s Faith and Politics Series, “Catholic Identities and Public Policymaking: The View from Illinois,” last October.

While the separation of church and state is meant to prevent government interference in the establishment of religious institutions, and religious institutions from running the nation state—it has been left mostly up to interpretation and debate. The idea, which stems from the First Amendment, does not bar politicians from voting according to their religious values.

The event was sponsored by the Center for Mission and Identity, the University’s vehicle for reinforcing the Catholic intellectual tradition on campus, and the Center for Civic Leadership, which provides programs that help prepare students for leadership roles in public service.

To read full stories of these events, visit ben.edu/webextras.

Women’s Leadership Summit: Three Prominent Leaders Address Balance for Working Women

THREE ACCOMPLISHED WOMEN SHARED SOME OF THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES balancing the role of motherhood with their career pursuits as the featured speakers at the 2013 Greater Chicago Women’s Leadership Summit, last October at Benedictine.

The leadership summit, which was presented by the College of Business and Office of Community Development, is a regional conference that addresses the issues of working women and features nationally recognized female executive leaders who speak on topics such as financial literacy, work/life balance, culture and innovative leadership.

Speakers included (pictured from top) Mary Formosa, vice president of human resources for Navistar’s Global Truck and Engine Group, Quality Procurement and Safety; Geneace Williams, author of “Leadership DASH: Breaking Through the Finish Line,” an award-winning and insightful work that gets at the heart of how people become leaders of influence and Maureen O’Brien, CEO of the Global Women’s Leadership Forum, a Women’s Business Enterprise National Council-certified organization which focuses on women’s business resource groups, leadership development, and helping women to develop and demonstrate their full potential within Fortune 500 Companies.

To read full stories of these events, visit ben.edu/webextras.
New Program Additions
Meet Need for Expertise in
▶ Tax Code
▶ Business Analytics
▶ Linguistics
▶ and More

This past fall, Benedictine began offering new graduate business degrees—a Master of Science (M.S.) in Taxation and an M.S. in Business Analytics—designed to meet the growing need in the corporate world for experts in taxation and tax law and for managers who can analyze data to improve business performance.

The role that tax plays in society is crucial. Business leaders in the 21st century must navigate their way through a maze of changing federal and state tax regulations, the impact of globalization on tax exposures, and the continuous drive by corporations to lower their tax liabilities and improve profitability.

Benedictine University’s newly designed M.S. in Taxation program is designed to address new trends in the tax preparation field and to provide astute management skills in guiding corporations toward sound tax policies.

The new M.S. in Business Analytics program is designed to address new trends in the tax preparation field and to provide astute management skills in guiding corporations toward sound tax policies.

THE UNIVERSITY IS ALSO OFFERING THE MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS to provide practical and theoretical instruction in applied linguistics, including preparation to teach in a range of contexts. Degree candidates have the option of pursuing linguistics and cultural studies and languages other than English, including Spanish, Arabic and Chinese.

A new minor in Chinese Language (Mandarin) with an option for a Chinese Culture track helps prepare students for an increasingly China-centric global community, as well as travel to and business and research in China. The minor will foster students’ awareness of the increasingly global and multilingual nature of society, allow them to connect specific issues in Chinese culture and history to current trends, and prepare them to communicate effectively in the context of another culture. A concentration in Asian Studies has also been added to the Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies program, which incorporates language and culture courses from an Asian and global perspective to prepare students for understanding and/or working within various Asian societies.

THE DUAL M.S.N./M.B.A. PROGRAM was launched in response to a growing need for nurses to have both advanced skills in the health care and business fields to effectively run departments, clinics and other patient care facilities.

M.P.H. IN ANTIGUA
Benedictine announced an agreement in June with the University of Health Sciences Antigua to offer Benedictine’s nationally ranked online Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) program to Antigua students.

The University of Health Sciences Antigua is a private medical school in the Caribbean. The online M.P.H. program, ranked by TheBestColleges.org as the fifth best online program in the country, will be used to complement Antigua’s curriculum for educating physicians and health care providers.

For a full list of academic programs, go to ben.edu/majorsheets.
Financial Literacy Class Puts Students on Responsible Fiscal Path

Should I apply for a credit card while I am in college? What is a good credit score? Do I need to prepare a budget? These are some of the questions addressed in the Financial Literacy course, which is taught by Vicki Jobst, D.B.A., assistant professor of Accounting in Benedictine’s Department of Undergraduate Business. Jobst started the course, which is open to all students, in 2008.

Financial literacy studies show that young adults should be exposed to financial education as early as possible so they have the knowledge to make sound financial decisions as they become increasingly more self-reliant.

The curriculum for the Financial Literacy course was designed to address teachable moments with topics that were the most relevant to college students.

Students learn in class, online and through service projects. The course also features guest speakers in the financial service industry, including Matthew Krajniak, CO4, Finance, a financial planner for Waddell & Reed, and Edward Sanchez, president of Money Sharp Credit Counseling Inc., as well as representatives from U.S. Bank. Speakers discuss how to use credit and debit cards properly, credit scores, saving for emergencies and personal goals, and different kinds of investments. Students also create financial goals, build a budget, and calculate their net worth on gmhstudents.com, an online financial literacy education provider for college students.

Students post their reflections and personal stories of success in managing their money in an online discussion. They also document their spending habits in a journal provided by Alice Wood, a local advocate for financial literacy and the author of “Wealth Watchers: A Simple Program to Help You Spend Less and Save More.” At the end of the course, students pass on what they’ve learned to students at elementary and junior high schools through a partnership with Junior Achievement. Plans for future projects include developing a video on financial literacy for students to view on campus.

As a result of taking the course, many students have cut out unnecessary spending and have started savings accounts. Students who have reflected on the course have responded that it has taught them many important tools they will use throughout their lifetime.

“"My past financial habits don’t necessarily reflect my thinking about personal finance now,” one student said. “With the knowledge that I’m starting to gain by becoming more independent and also through taking this class, I’ve noticed some changes that do need to be made. Being financially successful isn’t determined by how much money you make, but by how you use the money you have and how you save it. There isn’t really any trick to it. It’s just knowing how money works, having a plan, spending less and saving more.”
MEN’S SOCCER

The Benedictine men’s soccer team was the surprise story of the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC). After playing an extremely difficult non-conference schedule featuring many of the top teams in the region, the Eagles shook the conference landscape on September 25 by recording a 1-0 road win at Dominican University. Edgar Reyes scored the lone goal as Benedictine put a crashing halt to the Stars’ NCAA record 104-match conference winning streak. The win helped propel Benedictine to the top of the conference standings, a position the Eagles held all season as the team earned a share of its first NACC championship. The Eagles were unbeaten in eight conference matches before a 4-0 loss to Aurora on October 24. Prior to the loss, the Eagles had allowed just five goals in conference play. Among their wins was a 2-1 decision over Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE), the program’s first win over MSOE since the conference formed. Benedictine also overcame a two-goal deficit to beat Concordia University Wisconsin.

Three different players earned NACC player of the week recognition. Benedictine reached as high as No. 9 in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Central Region rankings. Head coach Rich Nassif was named NACC Coach of the Year and Benedictine landed six players on the all-conference teams. Edgar Reyes and Anes Kadiric were first team all-NACC selections, while goalie Zorohn Reed, Ante Markotic and Eric Lukitsh were named to the second team. Lukitsh and Alex Haro were also named to the all-freshman team.

VOLLEYBALL

A season removed from an NCAA appearance, the Benedictine volleyball team advanced to the conference tournament semifinals before losing to Dominican University to finish 17-16. The Eagles won seven straight matches from September 28 to October 15 to surpass the .500 mark and jumped to the top of the conference. Benedictine did not drop a conference contest until falling to Edgewood College on October 18. Candice Cuppini ranked among the top hitters in the conference, banging out more than 20 kills on two occasions. Cuppini was the NACC Player of the Week for the week of September 2-8 and was named first team NACC all-conference. Abby Sattler led the conference in service aces while placing second in assists and was also a first-team all-conference selection. Molly Kovacich was a second-team selection and Nicole Adams was an honorable mention choice.

FOOTBALL

The Benedictine football team continued to improve as the season progressed and took a five-game winning streak and a 7-2 record into its regular-season finale. Newcomer Michael McNulty shouldered a big part of the offensive load, leading the conference with more than 130 rushing yards per game and scoring a league-best 10 touchdowns on the ground. The Eagles put 27 points on the board in a season-opening loss to Wheaton College, which was ranked as high as 10th in the nation. Wheaton did not allow that many points to any other opponent through its first six games. Following the loss to Wheaton, Benedictine reeled off back-to-back wins over North Park University and Kalamazoo College. The Eagles were tripped up by a single point in the conference opener at Concordia University Wisconsin, 28-27, but bounced back with four consecutive conference wins. Benedictine boasted the top rushing offense in the conference. Freshman Jarrett Lecas led the defense with 71 tackles and recorded a team-best four interceptions. A Benedictine student-athlete was honored as NACC Player of the Week nine times.
Andrew Karabinos, Chemistry, retired in 1992 after 40 years in the aerospace industry. Karabinos was widowed in 1998 and remarried in 2003. He is a world traveler, having been to China, India and Europe. In his spare time, he supports missions in southern Alabama and enjoys spending time with his 12 children, 25 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Eugene Nosal, Physics, retired in 2011 after 17 years of living and working in the Middle East, including four years in Saudi Arabia and 13 years in the United Arab Emirates, where he formed his own marketing and business consulting company in 2003. He and his wife, Nelda, now live in Texas.

Glen Gabert, Ph.D., Political Science, is the president of Hudson County Community College in Jersey City, NJ. He was recently appointed to the Presidents Academy Executive Committee, the principal staff development agency for college presidents and chancellors of the American Association of Community Colleges. He also received a 2013 “Distinguished Community Service Award” from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hudson County.

Michael Kathman, Literature and Communication, came out of retirement to serve as director of libraries at Saint Xavier University on a temporary basis until a permanent director is hired.

Edward Merkel, Ph.D., Economics, retired from Troy University in Troy, AL. He was the director of Graduate Business programs and a professor of Economics. During his 40 years in academia, he authored more than 30 articles in professional journals and published four instructor’s manuals. He and his wife, Pamela, have visited more than 60 countries after living throughout Europe from 1978-1984. Merkel expresses his deep gratitude to Abbot Dismas Kalicic, O.S.B., who inspired him to pursue academia as a profession.

John Makarowski, Biology, is planning to retire in April 2015.

Bob Lorentz, Business and Economics, retired last year after working for the Internal Revenue Service for 33 years.

Lester Sawicki, D.D.S., Biology, recently released “The Secret Buddha Tooth Tai Chi and Yoga Breathing DVD.”

Bill Lisowski, Literature and Communication and M.B.A.’83, was named to the editorial board of the Professional Retail Store Maintenance magazine. He is the vice president of operations at Springwise Facilities Management.

Kerry (Lyman) O’Donnell, Physical Education, and her husband, Joe O’Donnell, C81, Biology, have been married almost 30 years and have five children. He is a financial planner with LPL Financial Services. She graduated from Loyola University’s Institute of Pastoral Studies in May with a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling. After being a homemaker for 26 years, she recently accepted a position as a pastoral clinical associate with Gateway Psychological Services.

George Gogola, M.B.A., retired after many years of service at various nonprofit organizations. He intends to remain active with two professional associations and his parish building committee. He enjoyed attending Benedictine’s College of Business Success Dinner where he had the opportunity to meet current students and other alumni.

Stephen W. DeFilippis, Business and Economics, is the owner of DeFilippis Financial Group. He was recently honored as one of Cetera Financial Specialists’ top advisors and has 26 years of experience in the financial services industry.

Cheryl Teale, Computer Science, was inducted into the 16-inch Chicago Softball Hall of Fame in 2012.

Tim Buividas, Ph.D., Biology and M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior’95, recently earned a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership.

David Sudzus, Political Science, and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed their son, Booker, in February 2012. He joins his 5-year-old sister, Olivia.

Karlin (Eckardt) Gleason, Literature and Communication, became the marketing communications manager at Cardinal Health in La Vergne, TN.

Patrick G. King, Political Science, has joined Ulmer & Berne LLP as a partner in the firm’s financial services and securities litigation practice group. He earned a Juris Doctor from The John Marshall Law School.

Jeffrey A. Bockman, M.B.A., released a major revision of his book, “Give Your Family A Gift That Money Can’t Buy: Record and Preserve Your Family’s History.” He has also been working on posting the status animarum family history records from the St. Joseph Parish Church in Stari Trg ob Kolpi, Slovenia.

Liza (Kane) Strain, Ph.D., Psychology, and her husband, James, welcomed their daughter, Lucy Elizabeth, in July 2013. She joins her brother, Peter, and sister, Clara.

Berc Gawne, M.P.H. and M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior’03, is the vice president and chief medical officer at The Christ Hospital Health Network in Cincinnati, OH. He was awarded the 2013 Richard M. Smith, M.D., Leadership in Patient Safety Award for his work with the hospital’s “Target Zero” initiative to reduce medical errors and improve patient safety.

Torrrie Smith-Boylan, Special Education and M.Ed. in Reading and Literacy’10, is pursuing an Education Specialist in School Psychology degree.

Tracy (Dixon) Richards, Elementary Education and M.Ed.’99, earned her third degree from Benedictine, an M.S. in Reading and Literacy, in August 2013. She is the learning support coach at Madison Junior High School and lives in Naperville with her husband, Erik, who is an officer for the Naperville Police Department, and their two children, Natalie and Dylan.

Colleen (Anderson) Brusven, Psychology, is a registered nurse at Delnor Hospital in Geneva and

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 your application fee will be waived.

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

It’s always great to see that new issue of Voices in the mail. You can help supplement the cost of publishing and mailing the University magazine. Your tax-deductible gift of $25 helps defray the costs of production. This is strictly voluntary. You can enclose your donation in the attached contribution envelope.

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SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US.

Send in your class notes today!

- New career?
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- Baby?
- Finally retired?
- Took a great trip?
- Were you honored for something?
- Busy at home with your children?
- Met that person of your dreams?
- Or just haven’t been in touch for awhile?

Stay connected to the Benedictine community.

Submit your class notes online at ben.edu/classnotes or:

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.)

Annie Earle, M.P.H., is the program director at AIDS Leadership Foothills-area Alliance, an organization based in North Carolina that provides HIV/AIDS testing, education and counseling for nine different counties.

Lana Gundy, M.Ed., had her professional blog, “Boosting Creative Thinking in Math Class,” published in Education Week.

Raquel Hernandez, M.P.H., is a resource coordinator/case manager for Valence Health based in Austin, TX. She loves living in Texas and visiting the beach with her three children, Mariah, Mikey and Bella.

Alejandra Herrera, Communication Arts, was hired by Radiate Media in December 2012, received a promotion in July and is now the afternoon drive traffic producer, main fill-in for the morning assignment desk editor and traffic producer at NBC 5 Chicago.

Myles Kurnick, M.B.A., purchased a home with Katy Harney, who is pursuing an M.S.N. from Benedictine. Kurnick also earned a Certification in Control Self-Assessment from The Institute of Internal Auditors.

Sarah MacGregor, M.P.H., was invited to serve in the Peace Corps and will begin her service in South Africa this year. She will be working as a community health worker as part of an HIV/AIDS outreach program.

Sharnika Merricks, M.P.H., started working in April 2013 for the community affairs department of the Washington Regional Transplant Community, which is the organ procurement agency for the Washington, D.C. area.

William Sehy, Computer Science, works as a software engineer in test at kCura, a Chicago software company specializing in Web-based e-discovery applications for managing electronic evidence during litigation or investigations.

Maribel Arbarro, Nursing, relocated to Austin, TX, four years ago with her husband and daughter. She earned a B.S.N. with honors and would like to thank Crystal Pace, coordinator of B.S.N. academic advising and office operations at Benedictine.

Samyuktha Gumidyala, M.P.H., is a community reintegration specialist at the AIM Center of Independent Living. She works with people who have disabilities and helps them transition from nursing homes to their own independent living facilities.


Springfield College in Illinois

‘74 Joe Natale, A.A., was promoted to associate editor of the Springfield Business Journal in April. He has worked for the publication for 18 years as a senior correspondent, humor columnist and editorial cartoonist.

‘77 John Enlow, A.A., and his wife, Connie, celebrated their 30th anniversary in June.

‘80 Jeff Harpring, A.A., of Sherman, IL, completed a hypnosis training program in Las Vegas, NV, in April. The program prepares students to perform professional hypnosis shows.

‘85 Jane Diers, Ed.D., A.A., was named dean of academic affairs at St. John’s College. She will serve as the chief academic officer of the college.

‘93 Tana Frisina, A.A., owns Frisina Family Chiropractic in Springfield, which celebrated its 10-year anniversary last February.

‘02 Shawn Nokes, A.A., of Quincy, IL, was promoted in March to the rank of major with the 1,144th Transportation Battalion of the Illinois National Guard at Camp Lincoln in Springfield. He was called up for active duty to provide emergency relief after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and deployed to Iraq from 2006 to 2007 and Kuwait from 2010 to 2011.

Send us your email address and don’t miss a thing!

As the University reduces its reliance on paper documents, email is being used as an essential tool for keeping you in the loop. Don’t miss out on events, news, requests for alumni involvement, opinions and more.

Send your name and email address to Trente Arens at tarens@ben.edu today!
’03
Andrew Thomas Barnes, A.A., and Bethany Joy welcomed a daughter, Evelyn Rae, in December 2012. In May, Barnes received a certificate of appreciation from the Springfield Police Department for seizing suspected illegal currency.

Benedictine University at Springfield

’06
Marisa (Doerfler) Marty, (SCI, A.A.) and husband, Blaine, of Springfield, welcomed a daughter, Paisley Anne, in April.

’08
Paula Morrow, Management and Organizational Behavior, of Chatham, IL, received the “Public Safety Hero” award from the Red Cross for her work as a Springfield police detective who investigates sex crimes and abuse against children.

Scott Tucker, Management and Organizational Behavior, and his wife, Sarah, welcomed a daughter, Laiken Grace, in April.

’09
Robin Jacobs, (SCI, A.A.) was named “Employee of the Month” in January 2013 for her work as a telemetry nurse at Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Shane Overby, Management and Organizational Behavior, received a certificate of appreciation in May for his strong interviewing skills as a detective for the Springfield Police Department. He also received the Chief of Police Unit Citation for his work with the Hostage Negotiations Team.

’10
Kayla Cox, Elementary Education, and Jeffrey Krelling, C12, Elementary Education, were married in June at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Springfield. Cox is a teacher at Cathedral School in Springfield and Krelling works for Springfield Public Schools.

Lisa Fowler, Management and Organizational Behavior, and her husband, Adam, welcomed a son, Logan Lee, in April.

Katie McAdamis, M.Ed, in Reading and Literacy, and her husband, Paul, welcomed a daughter, Grace Katherine, last February.

Kristen Leigh Mogensen, Elementary Education, works with special education students at Fort Bend Independent School District near Houston, TX.

’12
Angela Brooks, B.S.N., received the “Health Care Hero” award from the Red Cross after using CPR to save the life of a man involved in a traffic accident who was near death.

Brittany J. Foster, Psychology, A.A.’09, received the Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver for the next four calendar years from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

Jennifer Heid, B.S.N., is employed as an oncology nurse at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield.

’13
Curtis Nelson, M.S., in Management and Organizational Behavior, and Meghan Nelson were married on May 11.

Cheryl Richardson, Ph.D., Organization Development’01, adjunct lecturer in the Accelerated Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior program, passed away August 5.

in memory

St. Procopius Academy/College

Jim King, C67, passed away May 8.

Dennis C. Slanicky, C60, passed away March 30.

Benedictine University

Cheryl Richardson, Ph.D., Organization Development’01, adjunct lecturer in the Accelerated Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior program, passed away August 5.

Gloria Tysi, Ph.D., former professor of History and dean of Faculty and Instruction, passed away May 21.

To read more, go to ben.edu/webextras.

Alumni Throwback Wear

These shirts are manufactured with environmentally-friendly materials and products made in America. Our inventory includes:

• “We Are Ben” T-shirts (white, $15)
• Illinois Benedictine College (IBC) T-shirts (gray, $15)
• St. Procopius College (SPC) polos (black, $30)

Purchase your shirt today by contacting Adrianna Saccone at (630) 829-6045 or asaccone@ben.edu.

Springfield Junior College

Kenneth Ackerman, SJC’65, passed away March 26.

Stanley N. Adams, Jr., SJC’50, passed away March 7.

Wanda JoAnn Borchelt, SJC’54, passed away March 11.


Donald F. Kruger, SJC’49, passed away in March.

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

Andrea “Andrew” Madonia, SJC’50, passed away February 26. He was the brother of Phillip, SCI’54, and Joseph Madonia, SJC’64.

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

Paul A. Riseman, SJC’59, passed away March 15.

Barbara (McGinley) Steward, SJC’42, passed away March 24.

James M. Winning, SJC’42, passed away May 1.

Springfield College in Illinois

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

Penny (Moore) Swigert, SCI’72, passed away May 10.

To read more, go to ben.edu/webextras.
BENFEST: Bringing Concerts to BenU

The Plain White T's returned to Benedictine in August, playing songs from their newest album as well as some of their most popular hits in front of a crowd of enthusiastic fans at the Sports Complex. Recording artist and first season finalist on NBC’s “The Voice,” Vicci Martinez, also rocked the crowd with some songs from her self-titled album.

Stay tuned for future events.

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.

Show off your poker, roulette, blackjack and craps skills while helping raise money for a great cause—the Alumni Board Scholarship Fund. The scholarship provides a Benedictine graduate with the opportunity to further their academic career by pursuing an advanced degree through Benedictine’s Moser College.

For more information, contact Adrianna Saccone at asaccone@ben.edu or (630) 829-6045.

Here’s the deal…
- Saturday
- February 8, 2014
- 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- Kindlon Hall Atrium
- Live Entertainment
- Raffle Tickets

Featuring Benedictine faculty and staff dealers.
- $40 individual
- $60 per couple
- $50 for BenU Sweethearts

Includes appetizers, two beverage tickets and $100 in gambling chips.

Think Spring…training!
Benedictine Day at the Park. March 27, 2014

Come out and watch the Chicago Cubs take on the Chicago White Sox in their new facility in Mesa, Ariz. Visit ben.edu/alumnievents for details.