BenU 2020 Strategic Plan
GREETINGS, FRIENDS OF BENEDICTINE:

I write to you as I come to a significant point in my service to Benedictine University. It’s been 100 days since I came to campus and there have been so many joyful moments:

- Participating in the Opening Day Mass with our new freshman students at St. Procopius Abbey.
- Enjoying a Homecoming football victory.
- Opening the Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business.
- Processing to Convocation with students and faculty in Mesa.
- Hearing faculty research presentations.
- Meeting with the Springfield community in the Brinkerhoff Home.
- Learning about innovation in our online programs.
- Having dinner with the Class of 1969.
- Recognizing a distinguished alumnus from 1985.

My wife Tara and I are grateful for the leadership opportunity afforded to us by Benedictine. The mentorship I’ve received from Jim Melsa, Ph.D., chair of the University board of trustees, during this transition is very appreciated, and we are especially grateful to the monks of St. Procopius Abbey and the sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery for their gracious welcomes.

But I have a lot to learn. Over the summer, I invited all faculty and staff to write to me on three things:

- What challenges does the University face?
- What opportunities does the University need to consider?
- What are the first three things they would do if they were me?

I remain inspired by what I read. These are the highlights:

- The Benedictine University community shares the belief that our future is inextricably linked to the ways in which we fulfill our mission as a Catholic and Benedictine university.
- Community members wish to forge a shared vision of a strengthened institution that builds upon BenU’s recent successes.
- Faculty and staff want to develop a resilient culture across all of our sites that is interdependent, integrated, accountable, not complacent, well governed and highly competent.

In short, we want a culture that we can role model for our students as they develop and prepare to make their way out into the world and share the Benedictine way.

I recently spent a week in Rome with my peers on the 25th anniversary of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* considering the way forward for Catholic higher education in the 21st century. Despite all the challenges we face, there are good reasons for schools like Benedictine University to be optimistic about the ability for us to remain resolute in fulfilling our work in character formation, inquiry and addressing the common good.

In 1990, St. John Paul the Great presented *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* to Catholic higher education. He asked us to remember that we fulfill our mission when our graduates set out into the world ready to be thoughtful world citizens, and that the classes and co-curricular experiences we offer prepare our graduates to encounter the many difficult questions presented in our modern age, especially the dignity of the person. We must be devoted to our Catholic faith knowing that we serve students from all faith backgrounds.
Throughout the week, we heard from South America, Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe and North America; peers who are devoted to serving students from all walks of life; peers who fulfill their mission under extremely arduous circumstances; Catholic universities who host Buddhist and Hindu students in Asia and Catholic universities who serve students from three Abrahamic faiths in the Middle East.

Considering the work that Benedictine does in North America and Asia, I was comforted to know we are not alone in trying to make a real difference in this world. We serve students from all faith and economic backgrounds, anchored by the Benedictine hallmarks of community, hospitality and humility. Our peers from across the globe are inspired by the charisms of a multitude of congregations, but we are united and renewed by the state of Catholic education in the 21st century. We have made a difference. Though it may feel like Benedictine University is traversing one of the most difficult times in American higher education history, the meaning of our work is joyful and inspiring.

God bless you, God bless your families and God bless Benedictine University.

Sincerely,

— Michael S. Brophy, Ph.D., M.F.A., President
Shortly after Michael S. Brophy, Ph.D., M.F.A., was named the 11th president of Benedictine, he turned to faculty, staff, students and alumni to ask for insight on the challenges and opportunities that might lie ahead for the University.

He invited the University community to send letters and share their individual thoughts with him directly, and at the University’s Opening Day Meeting, staff members across all three campuses were invited to provide their ideas in small breakout and brainstorming sessions.

The input collected will be used, in part, to form the basis for a comprehensive University-wide strategic plan, BenU 2020, which will define the most pressing goals that the University will seek to accomplish throughout the course of the next five years.

“People need to feel that the institution knows where it is heading, especially for groups like our accreditors, our board and our banks,” Brophy said. “They want to see planning tied to budget. So not only do they want to see a strategic plan, they want to see year in and year out how that plan is realized in terms of the annual budget. They want to know that you have a clear sense of what your priorities are, you are intentional about the way you resource, you are fulfilling those priorities, and you assess what your work has done and what it has achieved. So having a strategic plan in place, showing that you are very intentional about those things, will make all the difference.”

In October, the University’s Planning Council finished a review and analysis of the information collected from the August breakout sessions and provided its findings to the president. The council is drafting the strategic plan, which will be presented to the Board of Trustees in April for review and consideration.
A significant portion of the plan will be built around the University’s previous accomplishments, Brophy said.

“The most important thing is we are certainly building on the successes from the last 20 years during Dr. Carroll’s tenure, but we are also taking time to really reach out to all stakeholders across the University to try and make sure that the strategic plan is authentic and that it will resonate with people as well,” Brophy said. “We’ve been really good at anticipating where higher education is going—and going forward quickly in most cases—to get a foothold. There is a lot of work to be done to develop those programs to make them stronger, but the fact that we actually started all of them is commendable.

“I think everyone is in agreement that it has been a visionary time for the University, and what we want to do now across all platforms and all programs is to strengthen them, whether it is through recruitment, through fundraising or through retention,” Brophy added. “I think people feel very good and they are proud of the broad scope of our work in Chicago, Springfield, Mesa, China, Vietnam and our online programs. But my sense from most stakeholders is they want to do all that better, that they want to strengthen those programs. That is my takeaway so far. People feel very strongly about our Catholic identity, our Catholic mission, and people want that on the front burner—there is no doubt about that.”

Each goal of the strategic plan will impact students and their experiences at Benedictine, said Thomas Wangler, Ph.D., assistant to the provost for University Academic Assessment Coordination and member of the University Planning Council.

“These goals will either directly or indirectly be linked to overall student success, one aspect of which is to prepare our students for opportunities and challenges they will face beyond Benedictine,” Wangler said.

The strategic plan may also serve as one of many supporting documents, along with the University’s budget and systems portfolio required by the Academic Quality Improvement Program, during the renewal process for accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission in November.

The strategic plan is one of the vital documents that lets the commission know how the University is conducting its planning and shows how it is working to achieve larger institutional goals.
This past fall, Brophy also formed a President’s Advisory Council (composed of senior-level directors from across the University) to whom faculty, students and staff can raise more short-term issues and concerns for discussion, consideration and action. This group may then morph into another form of advising body down the road.

“What’s great about the President’s Advisory Council is that it allows us to work on the day-to-day topical things,” Brophy said. “The University Planning Council takes a longer view. Its job is to work out the strategic plan, but there are so many day-to-day things that are coming up that we want to make sure those have a place to go as well. So this group is able to work on those items, and then when there is something that we think belongs in the long-range planning bucket, it goes to the University Planning Council.”

He said the important thing for members of the University community to remember is that everyone has an opportunity to contribute to build a better and stronger future for the University.

“I want everyone working at the University to know that every Friday they can go to their representative, share what is on their mind (big or small) and on Monday morning they are guaranteed that it will show up on the University’s radar,” Brophy said. “The goal is to have a continual feedback loop from everyone at the University. It is important to know that they have a voice.

“Every single person who provides insight and input is also a person on the other side of the process who will be a cheerleader and passionate about making it happen,” Brophy added. “And, when we are done, it will be a strategic plan people will feel was forged from their common experiences and their aspirations.”
We would like to send a big “Thank you” to all of the alumni who participated in last year’s Admitted Student Postcard Project. Your efforts contributed to the decision made by 206 admitted students to enroll at Benedictine last fall. The 2016 Postcard Project will be kicking off soon. If you would like to send postcards to the incoming class for 2016 encouraging them to attend BenU, please contact Trente Arens at (630) 829-6077 or tarens@ben.edu.

**New Hotel Benefits for Alumni**

The Office of Alumni Development is always on the lookout for new benefits to offer our alumni. Last fall, we launched a new discount hotel program through My Hotel Rewards. This website gives BenU alumni, friends and family exclusive access to savings on more than 275,000 hotels worldwide, including stays at Hilton, Marriott, Ritz-Carlton and Holiday Inn hotels.

There are no blackout dates, and you will be guaranteed the lowest price on the Web with savings up to $1,000 with every booking (perfect timing for that upcoming spring break trip). A portion of the sale from each reservation also goes to the Alumni Association to enhance the student experience and strengthen alumni connections. To access My Hotel Rewards and view your full list of benefits, visit ben.edu/alumnibenefits.

**BenU presents: An Evening With**

**JOHN F. MCDONOUGH**, president and CEO of the Chicago Blackhawks

Wednesday, February 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Goodwin Hall Auditorium

**HALEY (SCOTT) DEMARIA**, autobiographical author of “What Though the Odds: Haley Scott’s Journey of Faith and Triumph”

Wednesday, June 15 | 7:00 p.m. | Goodwin Hall Auditorium

Events are open to the public. For more information and to buy tickets for these events, go to ben.edu/speakers.

**Upcoming alumni events**

**FEBRUARY 4**

7:00-9:00 p.m. Painting Class at Pinot’s Palette Naperville

**FEBRUARY 23**

Meet the President Mixer Fitz’s Pub, Elmhurst (Hosted by Jim Friel, C82)

**MARCH 17**

Benedictine Day at Cubs Spring Training Sloan Park in Mesa, Ariz.

**APRIL 5**

Alumni Engagement Council Spring Meeting Benedictine University Lisle Main Campus

**MAY 3**

Happy Hour Lagunitas Brewing Co. Chicago

For more information on alumni and donor events, go to ben.edu/alumni.
Homecoming 2015: Road Trip

Alumni of all ages, students, faculty and staff came together October 12-18 to celebrate Homecoming Week on the Lisle campus.

The festivities kicked off with the Homecoming parade through campus along Memorial Walkway on Thursday with 18 student organizations showing off their school spirit. The Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum’s Student Advisory Council (whose members went the extra mile and dressed up in animal costumes) won the award for best car float, and the University’s Student Senate received the best walkers award for incorporating this year’s Homecoming theme, “Road Trip,” into the parade with a “Wizard of Oz” concept.

Friday’s highlights included the Golden Eagles Induction Ceremony for the Class of 1965, and the Annual College of Science Reunion at which Donna Hrozencik, M.D., C82, received the college’s Alumni Achievement Award.

Left: President Michael Brophy, Ph.D., M.F.A., congratulates Thomas Stras, C65, during the Golden Eagles pinning ceremony.

October 15, 2016
Mark your calendars and check ben.edu/alumni for further details.
The party continued well into the evening with two national country recording artists—
**Easton Corbin** (above) and **Jerrod Niemann** (right)—who performed inside the Rice Center. The show opened with Niemann singing such hits as “Blue Bandana” and “Lover Lover,” while dressed in a Benedictine Football T-shirt. The crowd was thrilled to hear Corbin, as he donned some Benedictine threads and sang his chart-topping hits “Baby Be My Love Song” and “All Over the Road.” He sang three encore songs, signed autographs and threw out guitar picks to his fans for a Homecoming finale our students and alumni won’t soon forget.

For more Homecoming photos, go to ben.edu/homecomingpics.

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**ALUMNI AWARDS**

**CELEBRATING THE STRENGTH OF OUR GRADUATES**

Each year at Homecoming, the Office of Alumni Development presents three distinct and unique awards to members of the Benedictine University Alumni family.

This year’s **Distinguished Alumni Award**, which recognizes outstanding achievement in a career field or personal endeavor, was presented to **Nicholas Giuliano, C85**, International Business. Giuliano currently serves as chairman of the board and co-chief executive officer of Pan American Bank as well as president and director of its holding company, American Bancorp of Illinois, Inc. He has been in the banking and financial services business for more than 30 years and has held various executive positions in the areas of private and community banking.

The **2015 Alumni Service Award** was presented to **Amy (Boruta) O’Rourke, M.P.H.’09, C07**, Molecular Biology, in gratitude for her service and dedication to the University. O’Rourke currently serves as the director of programs for the Respiratory Health Association. She has served on the Benedictine Alumni Board of Directors and remains an active alumna by greeting prospective students at an open house and speaking to new graduates at Commencement.

The **Benedictine Spirit Award** is given to an alumnus who exemplifies the Benedictine values of service, hospitality and dedication to philanthropic endeavors. This year’s recipient, **Daniel Tira, Ph.D., C65**, Mathematics, is professor emeritus at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry, where he worked his entire teaching career. Tira continues to support various educational institutions and students as he has done for many years. At Benedictine University, he and his wife, Mary, established the Keeley L. and Madeline M. Tira and Paul J. and Mary W. Flynn Memorial Scholarship in 2005.

Nominations for the 2016 awards can be sent to Trente Arens at tarens@ben.edu.
New mentoring program helps students refine career paths

The Office of Alumni Development and the Career Development Center launched the Benedictine University Mentorship Program last fall to support students and their development as they prepare to make the link between their academic program and possible career interests.

The program pairs students by their major with alumni who have gone on to have successful careers or have been accepted into graduate school in a comparable field. By volunteering to serve as mentors, alumni pass on their knowledge, insight and experience to empower and motivate students to further identify and pursue future goals.

In September, the group of mentors and mentees met for the first time at the Coal Ben on campus to learn more about each other. Mentors discussed their background while students shared some of their academic interests and their thoughts on future careers.

Both mentors and mentees keep in contact with each other on a monthly basis through email, phone calls and face-to-face meetings. Some mentors have also already planned several job shadowing experiences for their mentees.

The program culminates in April with a special dinner and recognition ceremony.

Becoming a mentor can be a highly rewarding experience. The guidance you can offer as someone who has made...
Kathi Orlowski, C97, Marketing, senior project expediter at Blue Book Services Inc.

“I want to show my mentee some past work that I have done that connects well with her thoughts on pursuing a career in marketing. There are a lot of options in the marketing field, and I want to be able to provide her with some insight on what some of those options are. I plan to make myself available to her whenever she needs advice or assistance, or has questions on moving forward with her career plans.

One of my own mentors (the president of our company) taught me to not be afraid to make mistakes and then learn from them. That has been the one single piece of advice that has kept me successful in my career and has pushed me beyond what I felt my limits were.”
“Where you come from is the foundation for your growth,” Andrews said. “It’s important to reflect on your past and your values in order to see clearly your road ahead. Benedictine is my heart and soul. Even when I am not specifically thinking about BenU, I’m still living the BenU way.”

She credits her Benedictine experience for reinforcing her values and for preparing her for a lifetime of success. She recalled one class in particular—Economics with Professor Emeritus Margaret Roth, Ph.D.—which drastically changed the course of her life.

“She saw something in me that I lacked the experience and insight to see in myself,” Andrews said. “She showed me my future by encouraging me to change my major from Mathematics to International Business and Economics. As a student, we often lack the insight into what a particular major may look like in practicality. ‘What does someone who has a degree in International Business and Economics do?’ In my mind, I was going to help companies expand globally. Dr. Roth helped me to see the potential in what I was studying in a real-world way.”

“Every road I’ve taken since has echoed the guidance Dr. Roth provided,” Andrews added. “As an adult, I try to reciprocate what she did for me by supporting and encouraging those around me toward success.”

During her time at BenU, she also developed a strong work ethic that she still carries with her to this day. After her freshman year, she decided to focus on working more to help pay her way through school.

“At times I held down two jobs while going to school full time,” Andrews said. “The first job I had was waiting tables at T.G.I. Friday’s in Lombard. The second was a paid internship with Platinum Technology where I worked in an international call center from 4:00-8:00 a.m. before I went to class.”

Andrews was a good student and looked forward to her classes, which she found engaging and challenging.
But that world came crashing down after she was assaulted while off campus. Traumatized by the experience, her grades began to slip. She felt broken and didn’t know what she should do.

Her math teacher, however, noticed something was wrong.

One day, she asked Andrews to follow her to the counselor’s office to get help. It was a gesture of profound empathy she would not soon forget.

“She said to me, ‘You need to be in production accounting,’” Andrews recalled. “The words resonated with me and reminded me of Dr. Roth’s insight into my degree. Within a week, she offered me a position on my first feature film called “Town and Country.”’ It was a big project that went on for what felt like forever. Even though I was an accounting clerk, she taught me payroll, accounts payable, how to budget and how to conduct myself on set. Her advice to me was to treat everyone I met just like anybody else. I’m glad she gave me this advice as my first day on set I met Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton, Jenna Elfman, Gary Shandling and Warren Beatty.”

She then sought out other opportunities as a freelancer and went from being a clerk on a film to a controller of a small production company in one year.

“From there, I worked on whatever job I got next, often through referrals,” Andrews said. “I did payroll, accounts payable, post accounting and key accounting. I worked on features, television, music videos, commercials and reality programs. Then, when my kids were born, I decided to take five years off. I was worried I would never work again, but when my son started kindergarten I called my old contacts and within a few weeks I was back at work.”

While working for the CBS reality show “Live to Dance,” she was recommended and hired for a corporate position with Disney/ABC Television Group.

As senior manager of production finance at Disney/ABC Television Group, Andrews was responsible for monitoring the financial status of the Disney Channel and Disney XD series, and managing multiple accounting teams on several series including “Girl Meets World,” “Kirby Buckets,” and “Liv and Maddie.”

“At the time, I didn’t see myself doing a corporate job, but I went to the interview anyway,” Andrews said. “That was more than four years ago and I can say I love working for The Walt Disney Company and my group within it. Each and every day is different. I fit in here because the values that the Walt Disney Company operates under are shared by me. In addition to the green efforts I see implemented within the company, The Walt Disney Company encourages its employees’ philanthropic endeavors. We have done beach cleanups, worked in soup kitchens and participate in Adopt-A-Family every Christmas. They also have a program that will make a donation to eligible charities based on employees’ volunteer hours. Disney doesn’t just post its green and volunteer initiatives on their website—they truly integrate these values into everything they do.”

And when she learned Disney offered a tuition reimbursement program for employees, she didn’t have to think too hard about where to go back to get her master’s degree.

“When I found this out, Benedictine was my first stop,” Andrews said. “The online program was perfect for me. I could attend school in the time I had available, which was often 2:00 a.m.- 4:00 a.m. and all day on Sunday thanks to the support of my husband and children.”

Shortly after graduating with a Master of Business Administration, she accepted a position as director of production with The Walt Disney Company—a promotion she says will allow her to continue to put what she learned to good use.

“At Benedictine, I wasn’t just a speck in a sea of faces,” Andrews said. “I was cared for by those around me and I can’t imagine where I would be today without the strong role models I had at the University.”

In spring 2015, Benedictine took note of Andrews’ accomplishments and recognized her for her professional and philanthropic achievements with the University’s Rising Star Award.●

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.
Helping others is vision of alumna’s business

Pranali (Mehta) Sirohi, O.D., C05, Health Science

When Pranali Sirohi reflects on her time as a student at Benedictine, it's the career guidance and preparation for her future she received that stands out the most. Today, she is an accomplished optometrist and small business owner in Naperville. She runs her own practice, The Eye World, along with her husband and is the proud parent of a newborn son.

“Benedictine really prepared me for my future experiences,” Sirohi said. “It was not only the detailed knowledge I gained from my classes, but in interacting with classmates and studying together that helped prepare me as well. My professors were also instrumental in guiding me in the right direction.”

As a member of the Optometry Club, she formed a close network with other like-minded students and consulted with them on which classes to take, asked questions about the profession, found a job shadowing opportunity and was able to research and compare notes on different optometry schools.

While in school, Sirohi became an optician at a local vision center at which she was able to shadow an optometrist, interact with patients, sell eyewear and learn more about the eye care profession.

“It was an exciting opportunity,” Sirohi said. “I learned all the ins and outs of this field before I started optometry school. The experience made my transition to my career smoother as I knew what to expect.”

After earning her Doctor of Optometry, she started working for a retail vision services chain. While she was able to gain important experience in the position, she soon realized this particular work environment, which drew an exceptionally high volume of patients, wasn’t for her. After two years, she decided to open her own practice at which she could spend more time diagnosing and treating people on a more one-on-one and personal level.

“The journey was like a rollercoaster ride with all the ups and downs of starting a business,” Sirohi said. “Nevertheless, nothing stopped me from doing what I always wanted to do, and in January 2013 my husband and I opened The Eye World.

“I must say it is not an easy task to own and run a small business,” she added. “There are many small things in everyday operations that need to be taken care of, but the satisfaction of doing what you love overcomes the stress you go through. I spend most of my time with patients, medical billing and continuing education to keep myself up-to-date with current medical research. Balancing both roles after three years is getting better with each coming month.”

At her practice, she provides comprehensive eye exams and consults with patients who have various eye injuries and diseases, such as glaucoma. She also provides free eye exams and eyeglasses to low-income patients, and for every patient who purchases a pair of glasses, she donates a pair to a resident of the community in financial need.

Her medical expertise has also helped underprivileged people thousands of miles away.

While on a mission trip to India, she and other medical professionals provided eye exams to 500 people living in a remote village, 100 of whom needed cataract surgery.

“My education in optometry made me realize how important our vision is and how some things should not be taken for granted,” Sirohi said. “I wanted to be able to give back to the poor and needy, and the gift of improved eyesight is the most rewarding thing to anyone who cannot see clearly.”

For students who are interested in following her footsteps, Sirohi recommends completing prerequisites in Health Science or Biology during the first two years of undergraduate study to have the time to prepare for the Optometry Admission Test, visit optometry schools, shadow optometrists or work as an optician to get more experience.

She stays connected to Benedictine through faculty and friends and has hired Benedictine students who are interested in becoming future optometrists.

“As an alumnus and someone who values time spent at Benedictine, I think it is important to help prospective students come one step closer toward their dreams for a profession,” Sirohi said.

“I love everything about my profession,” she added. “Owning my practice has allowed me to spend more time with patients and educate them about their eyes. Spending quality time, diagnosing, treating and providing quality eye care is what I enjoy most.”
Benedictine University students who are selected for the prestigious Arthur J. Schmitt Future Leaders Scholarship receive funds they can put toward tuition and critical leadership skills that help them make the transition from college into the professional world.

A critical component of the program and one that also helps them grow as contributors to the greater good (a key Benedictine value) is the program’s service leadership requirement.

Throughout the past decade, the Schmitt scholarship program has awarded $377,500 (up to $5,000 each) to 79 students. As of 2015, a total of 71 service projects have been completed benefiting dozens of children, high school and college students and 18 nonprofit organizations.

Projects have ranged from expanding an after-school reading program for two local elementary schools and two junior high schools, to collecting more than 20 tons of food for the Lisle Township Food Pantry. Other students have planned different programs and events to raise awareness about the effects of bullying and the importance of the state’s organ donor program. Another student service project successfully paired student-athletes who were strong enough in certain academic subjects to serve as tutors for their student-athlete peers.

BECOMING A SCHMITT SCHOLAR

Scholars must demonstrate moral and academic leadership and commit to complete 20 hours of interactive leadership workshops, which help them design, implement and evaluate a major service learning project at the end of the year. A new component of the leadership program this year included a team-building exercise through the Wheaton Park District’s Lincoln Marsh Challenge Course. Under the supervision of Joan Henehan, director of Student Engagement and Leadership Development, students further enhanced their teamwork, cooperation, problem-solving and communication skills.

The program was custom-designed by the University’s College of Business and Center for Values-Driven Leadership, and teaches undergraduate students from all majors best practices in values-driven leadership. The program culminates with a formal presentation to the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation board, college deans, advisors and parents during the spring semester.

Scholars who complete the program say they develop key leadership abilities in planning, time management, fundraising, communicating results, working in groups, sharing ideas, soliciting feedback, developing and acting with confidence, and leading by example.

The scholarship is named after Arthur J. Schmitt, an industrial executive who committed his resources to building moral and just future leaders. Today, the Schmitt Foundation continues its commitment both to education and to the development of responsible leadership.

Students from any major at or above sophomore status can apply to become a Schmitt Scholar by going online at ben.edu/stars. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must have at least a 3.0 GPA.
President’s Invitational Golf Outing
Scholarship Fundraising

The 21st Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing was not just a great time out on the links—it was an opportunity to support student scholarships and raise funds for the Fr. Kevin Sheeran, O.S.B., Textbook Program.

At the outing dinner, CBS Sports commentator David Feherty interviewed 10-time major champion Annika Sörenstam. Feherty, who was the featured celebrity guest at the 2014 golf outing, did not disappoint. He and Sörenstam entertained attendees of the dinner reception as they discussed their time in the world of professional golf and their thoughts on the future of the sport.

Thank you to everyone who participated to support student scholarships at BenU and to our 2015 President’s Invitational Golf Outing lead sponsors who helped make this event happen:

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For a complete list of our special sponsors, as well as additional photos, please go to ben.edu/webextras.

Tuesday, July 19, 2016
2016 President’s Invitational Golf Outing

Next year’s outing will be held at a new location—Cog Hill Golf and Country Club in Lemont—on Tuesday, July 19, with professional golfer Ben Crenshaw and Austin, Texas-based radio show host Ed Clements. Crenshaw and Clements co-host “Crenshaw on Golf” on SiriusXM Radio.

This event sells out quickly, so please don’t wait to submit a sponsorship or purchase tickets. Visit ben.edu/golf for a list of sponsorship opportunities or to register to attend the event.

Above: David Feherty interviews Annika Sörenstam. Below (from left): Chad Treisch, Annie Swanson, Eric Ferguson (WTMX Radio personality) and Bruce Litt (Admiral Heating & Ventilation).
As the average cost of student loan debt continues to climb ($35,000 for the average college student in 2015), future generations of college students are growing more concerned than ever about their prospects for affording college and whether it’s possible to earn a degree without being sentenced to years of loan payments. That is why at Benedictine, we try to provide as many scholarship opportunities as possible to make an impact on students who seek a private, values-based education. The median student loan debt of a BenU graduate is $21,500.

Student scholarships and awards help attract and retain a growing body of diverse, qualified and ambitious students like junior Exercise and Sports Studies major Destiny Faithe Jones (pictured above, right).

Jones is the recipient of the Celebrating Success Scholarship Award, which was established to financially assist and recognize current freshman, sophomore and junior African-American students at Benedictine. Award recipients, such as Jones, are actively involved in the community and demonstrate strong academic performance.

“I thank God for this scholarship because I wouldn’t have been able to finish my junior year of college had I not received it,” Jones said. “After my mom successfully battled cancer, all of the money my family had saved for me and my sister to go to Benedictine went to her medical bills. Hopefully, someday I can bless someone as much as this scholarship has blessed me and my family.”

You have the opportunity to help transform the lives of promising students at a time when scholarship support is more vital than ever. Please go to ben.edu/scholarshipgiving to learn more about scholarships and how you can help provide more students with a Benedictine education.

Giving makes a difference to our students. Thank you for supporting Benedictine University.

Send donations to: ben.edu/giving
Or mail to:
Benedictine University Fund
5700 College Rd.
Lisle, IL 60532

Indicate a campus or gift designation area if you have a preference.

The Faces of BenU Phonathon

Have you talked to a Phonathon student? Ever wanted to know more about them or what it is like being a student at Benedictine in 2016?

Students who participate in Phonathon connect with alumni and friends of the University to learn more about their Benedictine experiences and to keep them updated on campus news. When they ask for your financial support, they are helping to improve the BenU experience for current and future students.

They are also here to pursue their dreams for a rewarding future and strive to incorporate the Benedictine values as integral members of the University community into their everyday lives.

Your donation will help us continue to provide a values-based, quality education so our students can become successful leaders and make a positive difference in the world.

We ask for your generous support. When students such as James Holub, Giselle Alvarado and Marquis Dixon reach out to you through the Phonathon, please answer their call.

Get to know our callers at ben.edu/phonathoncallers.

#GivingTuesday  Even a little can help-a-latte on #GivingTuesday. Thank you to each and every one of our 58 donors who contributed $2,100 to this 24-hour global giving campaign on December 1. Learn more at ben.edu/gtbenu. #GTBenU
Aimee Ford has her sights set on earning a master’s degree and becoming a better leader at work and role model in her community.

Now, after receiving the Arthur J. Schmitt Future Leaders Scholarship, the working mother of two children and student at the University’s National Moser Center for Adult Learning is one step closer to realizing that dream.

“I am honored, appreciative and thankful to have received this scholarship. This award will help me complete my academic goals at Benedictine,” said Ford, who is pursuing an associate degree while working full time as a transportation coordinator for McCain Foods USA in Lisle. She was scheduled to graduate in December.

“The knowledge and experience gained from the process will enable career advancements through ethical business practices, continued volunteering with organizations that give back to others and our community, and a greater ability to lead and inspire others,” she said.

Benedictine understands the challenges and financial hardships many adult students face when it comes to deciding whether to pursue higher education. That is why the University offers several scholarships to help adult students like Ford, who must balance school with work/life and financial challenges, to succeed academically.

“I hope to inspire others as an accomplished woman with lupus,” Ford said. “After complications stemming from my illness, our current financial situation competes with my ability to afford [continuing education]. This scholarship award illustrates how the staff at Benedictine have helped to fuel my future and encouraged me to make the most of the endless opportunities available to adult students.”

National Moser Center students who are enrolled as undergraduates can apply to 170 undergraduate and graduate scholarships by logging into ben.edu/stars.

As a Schmitt Scholar, Ford must complete a service project as part of the scholarship’s requirements. Together with international student Fernando Filhao, Ford has organized several fundraising events to help raise $20,000 to build a recreation center/playground for the disabled and their families at John Gates Elementary School in Aurora.

Since establishing the National Moser Center in 2006, the University has offered working adults the chance to earn advanced undergraduate and graduate degrees in an accelerated format by taking classes one night a week or on weekends. It provides hybrid learning (online and in-person classroom settings) to professionals in the Chicago area, central Illinois and southwest Arizona, and online programming in 43 states.

Popular degree programs include a Bachelor of Arts in Management, a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership, a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, an RN to BSN, a Master of Business Administration, a Master of Public Health and a Master of Education in Reading and Literacy.

For more information about the National Moser Center—with locations throughout Illinois, as well as in Mesa, Ariz., and online—and a full listing of program formats, pricing, events and details, please visit ben.edu/moser, or contact (877) 353-9622 or成人enrollment@ben.edu.

The graduate programs on the Lisle campus also have scholarships available for qualifying students. To learn more, go to ben.edu/graduatescholarships.
New Quad Renovation Ties Campus, Community Together

A fully renovated campus quad complete with newly landscaped walkways and rain gardens serves as a central gathering place on campus, connecting key academic, enrollment and student life buildings.
Benedictine administrators, joined by the monks of St. Procopius Abbey, welcomed hundreds of students, faculty, staff, donors and honored guests in a dedication for the University’s newest academic building, the Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business, at a blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, October 17.

The new addition brings students, educators and business leaders together to learn, lead and innovate for the future of the dynamic business industry, said James L. Melsa, Ph.D., chair of the Benedictine University board of trustees.

“This building will offer students an educational experience like no other,” said Melsa. “It will enhance the University’s partnerships with corporations around the world, attract top-tier students, educators, speakers and business leaders who will bring the marketplace to Benedictine, and help the University to shine on an international scale.”

Named for the vice chair of the University’s board of trustees who provided the lead gift, the Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business is the largest classroom building on campus. Goodwin Hall will help to bolster the University’s renowned undergraduate and graduate business programs and provide generations of students with more hands-on, forward-thinking business training and the resources they need to be competitive in the global workplace.

“Goodwin Hall provides us with cutting-edge amenities and second-to-none facilities,” said Sandra Gill, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business. “We believe that offering our students greatly improved learning facilities and academic programs that are relevant is the right thing to do. Our students at all levels are already way out front in adopting values-based leadership practices through our curricular and co-curricular efforts. The new building is a lasting testament to our commitment to prepare highly competent values-based business leaders.”

Construction of the innovative, 125,000-square-foot, four-story Goodwin Hall began in April 2014. Final touches were completed prior to the grand opening.

Goodwin Hall is the home for the University’s graduate and undergraduate business programs, including the internationally-recognized Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior and doctoral programs in Organization Development and Values-Driven Leadership.

Among the building’s many features is a 600-seat auditorium for presentations and lectures from leading business thinkers; a state-of-the-art Bloomberg Trading Lab that provides students with access to peer-ranked investment simulations, public and private company accounting and international economic data, and other real-time financial information; and a
6,000-square-foot “Global Hall” entrance area that includes an etched glass globe, digital stock ticker and billboard-sized high-definition media wall that can broadcast business news from around the world.

“When you tour the classrooms, you will see they are pretty well thought-through from the way you enter them, the way many of the classrooms are modular in nature so students can work in teams, and even the Wink walls where faculty and students can come together to write their thoughts on the wall,” said President Michael S. Brophy, Ph.D., M.F.A. “It really builds on an intellectual community with people coming together. Those things are going to add up, just the fact we put this level of thought into these facilities means a lot.”

Utilizing Bloomberg Professional Service technology, students can gain access to the same information platform used by key decision-makers in business, finance and government. They can learn how to analyze financial markets, assess economic scenarios and interpret key news developments impacting the global economy.

“Other universities in the local area don’t have these types of resources and the resources make a difference,” said Deb Cernauskas, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Undergraduate Business. “Students will have the opportunity to go to a corporation and say ‘I know how to use this,’ and it shows that they have the capacity to learn different types of software. That makes a difference to a company. Our students are going to be able to do simulated trading, they will learn risk management and learn what it means to place different trades, which is something they weren’t getting before.”

Other faculty praised the new academic space for its potential for enhanced learning.

“In the new building, our students have comfortable spaces to meet for group projects, to check email between sessions and to gather in groups to debate ideas,” said Jim Ludema, Ph.D., co-founder and director of the Center for Values-Driven Leadership. “The new technology throughout the building means our students can work collaboratively and share their ideas with one another easily. More than that, the building’s design is inspiring—it conveys a sense of energy and excellence, which is exactly what we want to foster in our students.”

In addition to numerous classrooms, labs and study spaces, Goodwin Hall includes a Starbucks Café on the second floor; 150-seat and 80-seat seminar rooms on the third floor; and a banquet facility and terrace event space on the fourth floor.
The classrooms are incredibly interactive, which is so refreshing to see," said Sam Ortega-Guerrero, a Political Science major and president of the Student Senate. "A lot of times technology is brought into schools without training individuals on how to properly use it, and I know the biggest thing with this building was all the faculty were trained in advance which I think has been huge and will help us lead the way when it comes to innovation and technology in comparison to other schools."

In keeping with the Benedictine values of stewardship, designers and architects incorporated many green and renewable building materials and amenities, such as recycled construction materials, low-flow water fixtures, high-performance insulation, lighting occupancy sensors and a chilled beam cooling and heating system.

"The features of this building are going to carry us through for the next few decades and the potential for this building will take even longer to fully realize," said building namesake Daniel L. Goodwin. "I’m pleased at the way it integrated into the quad and the University architecture."

Building Highlights Include:

- 6,000-square-foot “Global Hall” with live digital stock ticker and billboard-sized, multiscreen high-definition media wall.
- 40-seat state-of-the-art Bloomberg Trading Lab.
- 600-seat auditorium for presentations and professional forum for business experts and guest speakers.

transformative experiences for students
The College of Business gives students the tools to have a transformative experience in the business world and prepares them through a values-centered approach to business education, incorporating the development of fundamental management, ethical and socially responsible leadership, and critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

Since the initial class of 39 business students graduated from the University a little more than 40 years ago, more than 10,000 students have graduated with business degrees and nearly 2,000 are currently enrolled in the College of Business’ various programs.

“To say that we are excited about this new building is a gross understatement,” said Ricky Holman, assistant professor and chair of the Master of Business Administration program. “We are now able to provide current technology and programs for our students that will best prepare them and help them in the real world of business.”

- 150-seat and 80-seat seminar rooms.
- LED touch-screen displays for checking class schedules and event information.
- Modern classrooms, computer labs and study spaces.
- Starbucks Café and lounge areas.
Engaging the Mission Series Brings Out Catholic Heritage, Tradition

The new Engaging the Mission Series was created to share and communicate the University’s Catholic identity and Benedictine charism, and the different ways they manifest themselves on campus with University faculty and staff. The series includes the Engaging the Mission Forum, which brings staff and faculty from various offices and departments together to share stories of recent success and discuss different ways they can share resources and collaborate with one another; the Engaging the Mission Seminar, which is designed to educate the University community about Catholic and Benedictine traditions and how those concepts can be integrated in the classroom and in daily work; and the Conversatio Round Table Discussion, which examines topics germane to living the University mission that are aimed at building community and perpetuating the charism of the University’s founders.

Symposium on Laudato Si’

The University community took an in-depth look at Pope Francis’s encyclical on the environment and its moral implications for ecological, theological and political transformation in the fight against climate change during “Everything is Connected: Perspectives on Pope Francis’s Laudato Si’,” on September 30. Students, faculty and staff who attended the event learned about the Holy Father’s various concerns on how the human race is using the Earth’s vital resources and the encyclical’s applications from the perspective of faculty members in theology (Christine Fletcher, Ph.D.), biology (Monica Tischler, Ph.D.), political science (Phil Hardy, Ph.D.) and philosophy (Martin Tracey, Ph.D.).

Prior to the event, Abbot Austin Murphy, O.S.B., President Michael S. Brophy, Ph.D., M.F.A., students, faculty and staff read the entire document aloud at the front entrance to the Goodwin Hall of Business.

The presentation on the pope’s encyclical is an example of Benedictine’s commitment to sustainability outreach and its efforts to actively encourage the greater community to participate in an ongoing dialogue about the role all of us must play in preserving the Earth’s vital resources.

New Religious Retreats Offered

Campus Ministry commits to cultivating the faith lives of students in dynamic and appealing ways. A new retreat this year, the FLIGHT (Freshmen Living In God’s Hope and Trust) Retreat was designed for first-year students to help them balance their new college lives with the development of their personal faith lives.

Freshmen attending the retreat spent a day at Starved Rock State Park on September 27, hiking, faith-sharing, praying and team-building. Upper-class students served as retreat leaders and shared some of the lessons they learned during their first year at Benedictine. They also answered various questions and concerns freshmen had about their new environment, which helped many first-year students begin the transition of developing their faith away from home in a new community.
Grant Strengthens University’s Emphasis on Vocation

Benedictine is putting a recently awarded Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) Chaplaincy Implementation Grant to work by supporting a greater University-wide mission to help more students further develop and pursue a life-calling.

The grant provides Campus Ministry with resources to reach more students through a new program called BenUnited.

BenUnited brings different University offices and resources together to provide new freshmen and transfer students with opportunities to further develop their values or reflect on their aspirations for a vocation at events such as New Student Orientation, the Student Employment Fair and the Community Service Fair.

“ar all of these activities, students are made aware of the support that is available to them from the Office of Admissions, the New Student Advising Center and the Career Development Center, and the central role Campus Ministry can play for students from all different faith backgrounds,” said Christine Fletcher, Ph.D., Benedictine’s NetVUE grant administrator.

This year’s Community Service Fair attracted about 140 students who agreed to volunteer at several local service organizations.

The goal of BenUnited is to help students make connections between their gifts and talents, academic career, and participation in community service as a pathway to self-discovery. Students are invited to reflect on how their service experiences, values and beliefs shape the careers they aspire to have in the future.

The grant, which is made possible by the Lilly Endowment and The Council of Independent Colleges, supplies incentives for students such as coupons for free refreshments at the campus Ben and expenses for food at service-related events.

Service a ‘way of being’ at Benedictine

More than 230 freshmen, 30 staff volunteers and a team from Illini Fighting Hunger came together to help those in need at the fourth annual “Be ImPACKful” food packaging event as part of the University’s Welcome Weekend festivities in August (above).

Together, members of the Class of 2019 packaged 57,888 meals for the West Suburban Community Pantry and St. Ethelreda School, a Benedictine University partnership school on the South Side of Chicago.

Prior to the event, students were asked to write down why they chose to serve. One student wrote they serve “To show the love of Christ.” Another student said, “Because when I die, I want to know that I left the world better than when I entered it.”

Upcoming CMI Event:
Benedictine Heritage Lecture

“A Source of Vigor in a Spiritual Ecosystem: Benedictine Presence in the Chicago Metropolitan Area”

Speaker: Fr. Joel Rippinger, O.S.B., C70
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 3
Kindlon Hall, Fifth Floor

For more information on Center for Mission and Identity or Campus Ministry events, please visit ben.edu/cmi, ben.edu/ministry or call (630) 829-1310.

The conference marked the anniversaries of two important Church documents, the Second Vatican Council’s Declaration Gravissimum Educationis (published in 1965) and the Apostolic Constitution Ex Corde Ecclesiae (published in 1990), and focused on the critical need to address some of the key issues facing Catholic education today.

The conference included sessions and roundtables led by experts from all over the world examining different educational challenges, the identity and mission of Catholic institutions, the subjects of education and the formation of formators, the fundamental rights to education, freedom of choice in education, and the many religious charisms that make a profound contribution to the richness of the Church’s mission.

The aim of the congress was to offer schools and universities a place to dialogue and debate about the challenges that provoke our society, educational systems and the Church; to draft a written analysis of these challenges and their repercussions for every field of education; to examine in greater depth the ideas that education is proposing and developing about humanity and society; to formulate useful suggestions and guidelines; and draft a message that is meaningful, descriptive and challenging.

On the final day of the conference, participants met to draw conclusions to some of the issues discussed, and following a speech from Pope Francis, re-emerged with a sense of hope and trust for the future.

“With Beethoven’s ‘Ode to Joy’ and Handel’s ‘Messiah’ triumphantly playing before ‘Papa Francesco’ arrived at the Vatican’s auditorium, I was not alone among my Catholic higher education colleagues in feeling renewed about our important work,” Brophy said. “We are blessed to be led by Pope Francis. Joyful calls for ‘Papa’ rang throughout the auditorium, echoing the way all humanity feels about this holy man. His time with us was entirely conversational and humble. He responded to presentations from African and Middle Eastern universities with respect and curiosity, and called on us to serve Christ by always serving the common good, especially as it relates to the persistent global challenges of violence and poverty.”
Benedictine is looking for curious, high-achieving and highly motivated students to join the new Jurica Scholars Program, a rigorous honors program for students majoring in the biological sciences.

Students who are accepted into the program will explore scientific areas of interest in deeper and more meaningful ways through a course schedule and curriculum that is designed to engage gifted students through intense learning, research and service opportunities.

The program is named after storied professors Frs. Edmund and Hilary Jurica, O.S.B., who developed the University’s Biology department in its early days, instilled a philosophy of “learning through doing” in their pupils and collected thousands of specimens for the nature museum on campus that bears their name.

The College of Science provides unique opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in research projects on campus and internships through its ties to the regional science community, which includes Argonne National Laboratory, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and the Field Museum of Natural History. This experience allows students to gain expertise in a laboratory setting, expand their understanding of classroom work and enhance their resumes.

For nearly a century, Benedictine science faculty members have prepared students to lead lives of meaning, purpose and distinction. Empowered by a values-centered science education that emphasizes hands-on scientific exploration and discovery, alumni have gone on to realize their professional potential, build stellar careers and bring their talents to bear on society’s most pressing needs.

Incoming freshmen can apply to be accepted to the Jurica Scholars Program, which begins in fall 2016. To be eligible, students must have a 3.75 cumulative GPA, a composite ACT score of 27 or higher or a combined SAT critical reading and mathematics score of 1210 or higher, and submit their high school course of study, a personal essay and a recommendation letter from a high school teacher or college faculty member.

Students must also be enrolled at Benedictine and have declared a major offered through the University’s Department of Biological Sciences in Biology, Environmental Science or Health Science. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, but prospective students are urged to submit their application by February 1 to ensure full consideration. To apply to the program, visit ben.edu/juricascholars.

For more information on the Jurica Scholars Program, contact Robert McCarthy, Ph.D., at (630) 829-6577 or rmccarthy@ben.edu, or Robin Pals Rylaarsdam, Ph.D., at (630) 829-6522 or rrylaarsdam@ben.edu.
THIRD ACADEMIC YEAR MARKED BY GROWTH IN STUDENTS, PROGRAMS AND ATHLETICS

BenU at Mesa’s enrollment is surging, and new traditional undergraduate and athletic programs are being added. A new enrollment benchmark was reached when more than 300 students, hailing from throughout Arizona and the Southwest, enrolled for classes this fall.

Benedictine added a new concentration in Medical Spanish for the existing Spanish major, and later this year will begin to offer bachelor’s degrees in Political Science (with a concentration in Pre-Law) and Graphic Arts and Design.

The concentration in Medical Spanish addresses the impact on health care and the socioeconomic challenges faced by the U.S. Hispanic population, and provides students with an emphasis on medical terminology, vocabulary and cultural proficiency to help them meet the needs of Latinos in various health care settings and emergency situations.

PROGRAM OFFERS FREE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES TO PUBLIC

A series of free English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction and community workshops was launched last fall to provide parents of college students and the greater community with the tools they need to communicate more effectively in English.

The University’s newly established Academy of Language Acquisition and Success offers practical English language lessons in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Participants practice useful, everyday vocabulary in both large and small groups with an emphasis on the following topics:

- Common English words, phrases and expressions
- Giving and receiving directions
- Phone conversations
- Ordering food and asking for help in stores
- Conversing with clients, work colleagues and neighbors

Parents with young children ages 2-12 can bring their children along and send them to a “Kids Corner” activities area while participating in a workshop.

The decision to offer free language instruction to the Mesa community was made after consulting with Benedictine students, many of whom are Hispanic first-generation college students and have parents or guardians who primarily speak Spanish.

The students expressed an interest in helping their parents and other Spanish speakers learn more practical English skills so that they could better assimilate into the community in which they live.

“We believe offering a University-sponsored ESL program will be an incredibly valuable and rewarding service that we can provide to the greater Mesa community,” said Kevin Broeckling, associate vice president for University Services and Student Life at BenU at Mesa. “This is another way for us as a University to live out the Benedictine values of hospitality and what it means to be an active member of a community. It’s about being concerned for the well-being of every individual within your community and asking yourself how you can best leverage your talents to help others.”
Diocese of Phoenix appoints new chaplain

Fr. James Aboyi, V.C., a parochial vicar at the Holy Cross Parish in Mesa, was appointed Benedictine University at Mesa’s chaplain by Diocese of Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted in July.

Fr. James succeeds Fr. Dan Vanyo, who was appointed as the school’s first campus chaplain. Fr. Dan currently serves as parochial vicar at St. Anne Roman Catholic Parish in Gilbert.

As a chaplain, Fr. James is responsible for providing access to the sacraments for the University’s Catholic students and spiritual counseling for students of all faiths. He will also celebrate Mass, hear confession and plan a retreat in collaboration with St. Procopius Abbey, home to the Benedictine monks who founded the University in 1887.

Fr. James, who was born and raised in Makurdi, Nigeria, is one of four pioneer priests of the Via Christi Society and one of four newly arrived priests serving the Diocese of Phoenix.

He previously served as a priest for 11 years in the Diocese of Tucson at five parishes with increasing leadership roles, most recently as a pastor in Superior, Ariz.

Fr. James earned a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Makurdi in 1996 and a bachelor’s degree in Theology at the National Missionary Seminary in 2004. He also earned a master’s degree in Human Relations and Counseling from Northern Arizona University and is currently working on a doctorate in Psychology.

The Graphic Arts and Design major will help students solve creative problems within art and design—including those involving issues of technical, aesthetic and conceptual knowledge—and familiarize them with a variety of philosophical and stylistic approaches to contemporary art and design.

Benedictine graduates have gone on to attend notable master’s programs at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, and others have found success in graphic design, teaching and art therapy.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of political scientists is projected to grow 21 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations. The Political Science major will help students develop a knowledge of the principles of politics, law, government and the judicial system. Benedictine graduates have gone on to attend top law schools and graduate programs.

The Pre-Law concentration provides students with an understanding of government systems and social problems while gaining skills in critical analysis. The concentration is an option for Political Science majors who plan to attend law school.

Student-athletes will be able to choose to play one (or more) of 12 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletic (NAIA)-sanctioned sports with the addition of baseball and women’s basketball beginning in 2016-17. BenU at Mesa, a member of the California Pacific Conference (CAL PAC) currently offers 10 NAIA sports: men’s and women’s cross country, golf, tennis and volleyball; softball and men’s basketball. Dance and cheer teams are available as club sports.

The University will continue to make strides to increase every opportunity for students to receive a well-rounded Catholic, values-driven liberal arts education.

Currently, Benedictine partners with Mesa Community College for athletic facilities access and the Phoenix Marriott Mesa for student housing.
Go Redhawks! Keep up with the Redhawks at BenUMesaSports.com.

Pair earns first conference players of the week honors in school history

Women’s volleyball players Courtney Pitts (left) and Olivia Ortiz (right) earned California Pacific Conference Player of the Week honors at their respective positions, becoming the first two student-athletes in the history of Redhawks athletics to receive the award.

Pitts earned Defender of the Week honors for her efforts during the week of September 14-20. She collected 75 digs during four matches at the Johnson & Wales University Invite in Colorado, where she helped lead the Redhawks to a 2-2 record. Pitts earned her second Defender of the Week award for the week of October 5-11, recording 39 digs against Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and La Sierra University.

Ortiz earned the Setter of the Week award for the week of October 5-11, handing out 78 assists against Embry-Riddle and La Sierra.

Softball kicked off season with fundraiser

The softball team played a 100-inning fundraiser on September 19 at the Inter-Stake Center in Mesa. City of Mesa Mayor John Giles threw out the first pitch to mark the start of the intra-squad scrimmage.

The team was separated into “Red” and “Black” teams and played 14 innings of regulation softball. The rest of the game was played with modified rules, such as beginning each inning with two outs or having hitters bat opposite-handed, to keep the game flowing.

The event included an auction and raffle, and was well-attended and supported by the Mesa community. The BenU at Mesa softball team begins its regular season in February.

Wingate tapped to lead golf program

Ryan Wingate was hired as the men’s and women’s golf coach. Wingate comes to BenU at Mesa with extensive teaching and playing experience. He replaces Athletic Director Steve Schafer, who was named head coach of the men’s basketball team.

He has worked at Mesa Country Club as an assistant professional, a position which he will continue to hold as he coaches the BenU at Mesa golf program. Wingate was a PGA professional intern at four different courses in Arizona.

Wingate earned a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management with a concentration in Professional Golf Management from Arizona State University (ASU). He golfed for the ASU Professional Golf Management program, leading his team to a Southwest Showdown title against other such programs from around the country. He also golfed at Palomar College in San Diego, Calif., for two years and helped lead his team to the Southern California Community College championship, shooting sub-70 rounds at both the regional and state championships.

FALL SPORTS NEWS

The Benedictine women’s volleyball team qualified for the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC) tournament last fall while the women’s soccer team advanced for the third time in program history. The men’s and women’s cross country teams traveled to Mequon, Wis., for the NACC championships at which the men placed fifth and the women took fourth.

The Benedictine golf programs concluded the fall portions of their schedules in October. The women placed third at the fall NACC tournament behind freshman of the Year Kelly Barker, who finished third in the individual standings. The men sit in sixth place heading into the spring. The final round of the tournament will take place April 24-25 at Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora.
BENEDICTINE FOOTBALL TEAM REACHES CONFERENCE TITLE GAME FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

The fate of the Benedictine football team was determined in the final game of the regular season for a second straight year. Entering the contest with an unblemished record through five Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference games, the Eagles went on the road to meet fellow conference unbeaten Lakeland College. The Eagles could not keep pace with the conference’s top offense, however, dropping a 46-22 decision. The loss ended an impressive 10-game conference winning streak.

The Eagles had an outstanding season that featured a 7-3 overall record and six consecutive wins from October 3 to November 7. Benedictine opened the season with a big road victory over Central College, one year after the Dutch defeated the Eagles 31-7 at the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex. Benedictine came from behind in three conference wins. The Eagles overcame a 28-7 second-half deficit to defeat Concordia University Wisconsin 39-35, rallied from a 17-0 hole to dispatch Aurora University 32-24, and came back after trailing 13-10 for a 30-13 victory over Wisconsin Lutheran College.

Quarterback **Ryan Sample** threw for more than 2,000 yards with 20 touchdowns and rushed from more than 400 yards and 5 touchdowns to finish third in the conference in touchdowns and total yards. Rushing leader **Derek Miles** ranked second in the conference and was one of three Benedictine players to run for more than 350 yards on the season. **Jesse Kilbourn**, who received national recognition by setting a Sports Complex record with 10 receptions in the comeback against Concordia Wisconsin, was one of six players to amass more than 200 yards receiving on the season.

FALL SPORTS POSTSEASON HONORS

Benedictine athletes reaped a number of honors at the conclusion of the fall athletic season:

**First Team All-NACC**
- **Kristina Billie**, women’s volleyball
- **Joe Dickert**, football
- **Nick Kapetanos**, men’s soccer
- **Jesse Kilbourn**, football
- **Jarrett Lecas**, football
- **Cristian Michalowski**, men’s soccer
- **Derek Miles**, football
- **David Nelson**, football
- **Gerald Valenzuela**, football

**Second Team All-NACC**
- **Danny Drummond**, football
- **Jackie Elzakhem**, women’s soccer
- **Lea Gindville**, women’s soccer
- **Keriann Groen**, women’s volleyball
- **Kevin Kreighbaum**, football
- **Jonny Lehman**, men’s soccer
- **Micayel McKechnie**, football
- **Taylor Pokorny**, women’s soccer
- **Erik Stammer**, men’s soccer

**All-Conference**
- **Tatiana Arturo**, women’s cross country
- **Kelly Barker**, women’s golf
- **Joe Chavez**, men’s cross country

**All-Conference Honorable Mention**
- **Maison Bittner**, football
- **Niko Paalolo**, football
- **Ryan Sample**, football
- **Andrew Soulis**, football

**All-Freshman**
- **Kristina Billie**, women’s volleyball
- **Zoie Holloway**, women’s soccer
- **Miguel Sanchez**, men’s soccer
- **Erik Stammer**, men’s soccer

**BENU NEWS**
**BENEDICTINE VOICES**
W2016
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: Amanda Grady, C'11
Please contact Trente Arens at (630) 829-6077 or taren@ben.edu by February 29 to collect your prize.

WANT TO SHOW SOME SCHOOL SPIRIT?
Get your alumni wear today!
Visit the campus bookstore or go online to ben.bncollege.com.

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.

St. Procopius Academy/College
‘58
Donald H. Hoffman, Philosophy, retired after 46 years of teaching Latin and serving as archivist at St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago. He previously taught Latin for 10 years at DePaul Academy and has been an oblate at St. Procopius Abbey since 1956. He continues to attend monthly oblate meetings where his classmate, Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., Ph.D., C'58, professor emeritus and assistant provost for Institutional Mission at Benedictine, is the oblate director.

‘60
John Stoessel, Chemistry, works once a month as the city clerk in Meadowlands, MN, writes stories (fiction and nonfiction) and develops new ideas for percussion instruments. He would like to thank the entire faculty that taught him during his college years. He doubts he would have developed the diverse life the University gave him had he been an undergraduate at any other college, mainly because of the smaller class sizes, which allowed him and his classmates to be distinct persons.

‘61
W. Brand Bobosky, Pre-Engineering, and his wife, Mary Ann Bobosky, Ed.D., received the George and Pat Pradel Humanitarian Award from The Education Center for Developmental Resources in Naperville at its annual Kids Best Friend Awards Dinner on October 16 for dedicating their lives to helping children, families and the community. The center is a nonprofit organization founded in 1979 to positively empower troubled children who have a broad spectrum of problems.

‘65
Robert J. Martin, Ph.D., (1961-1963) released “Playful Edge of the Wave,” a double album of solo piano music with composer Neely Bruce. The album was favorably reviewed by the British classical music magazine Gramophone. Martin remembers with gratitude Andy Marchese and Fr. Alban Hebic, O.S.B., who ran the Department of Music until 1978, for their inspiration and encouragement during his combined six years at St. Procopius Academy and St. Procopius College.

‘69
John Makarowski, Biology, and his wife, Ursula, recently visited California where they rode a zip line five times, went in a hot air balloon and went on a safari at the San Diego Zoo.

Bill Murphy, Ph.D., History, retired from the University of Rochester after becoming the university’s first vice president of communications in 2006. He had previously served in public relations leadership roles at the University of Chicago, University of Illinois and the Ohio State University. He is a co-founder of Futurity.org and is looking forward to having more time to exercise and research his family history.

Benedictine University
‘81
Diana Kwiecinski, Psychology, became the 12th recipient of the New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization’s Distinguished Service Award in the organization’s 36-year history. She was chosen for her exemplary leadership on the group’s ethics council, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary and was the first ethics committee among the nation’s state hospice associations. She is a clinical social worker and compliance official at Lighthouse Hospice in Cherry Hill, NJ.

‘93
Maria (Ellis) Westlund, Accounting, has been married to her husband, Randy, for 17 years and they have two children. She has traveled worldwide, including Saudi Arabia, Dubai, China, Singapore, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom in the last five years for her job, which involves the implementation of standard financial accounting procedures.

‘94
Jeanne (Buttney) Brown, Biology, and Tim Brown, C'93, Historical Management, started a pet sitting service in 2014 named Jeanne’s Personal Touch Pet Sitting Services. They have served a number of different pets including snakes, guinea pigs, fish, chinchillas and tortoises.

‘98
James O’Hearn, History, celebrated his 11th year working at CDW Corporation where he is currently a data center solution architect covering corporate accounts in the upper Midwest. He has three children, lives on the North Side of Chicago and volunteers as a Little League coach.

‘07
Dominic Manola, Social Science, and his wife, Lauren, live in Palatine with their daughter, Hope. Manola began his second year as activities director at Lake Park High School in Roselle this past fall. He is also volunteering as a mentor in the Benedictine University Mentorship Program this year to help a student who is an aspiring educator.

‘09
Kimberly Groll, M.S. in Clinical Psychology, owns and continues to grow her own business as the president of Achieving Solutions Counseling. She loves what she does and considers herself very blessed to take the knowledge she received from Benedictine and move forward in a successful manner.

Angela (Kulacz) Rogers, M.Ed. (Reading and Literacy), and her husband, Josh, welcomed their first baby, Andrew James Rogers, in March 2015.

Timothy Salamon, Business Management, was appointed emergency management and disaster preparedness coordinator for OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in April 2015.

‘10
Carina Cruz Benson, M.B.A., a former liaison for the Mayo Clinic in the southwest territory of the United States and Hawaii, left her job in 2013 and started a nonprofit organization, J Cruz Foundation, which caters to children at risk. She plans to establish a children’s hospital in the Philippines and a child care
DONATE TO A GREAT CAUSE
As a nonprofit institution, BenU relies on your donations to help fund student scholarships, make upgrades to campus, improve technology and academic programs, and so much more.
Please consider contributing to a Benedictine education.
Go to ben.edu/giving or mail donations to: Benedictine University Fund, 5700 College Rd., Lisle, IL 60532. Indicate if you would like your donation to go toward a specific area or campus.

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 cost of production. This is strictly voluntary. Please note your contribution is for Voices. Please utilize our online giving at ben.edu/giving or mail donations to: Benedictine University Fund, 5700 College Rd., Lisle IL 60532.

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

in memory
St. Procopius Academy/College
Daniel Jehl, C69, passed away July 19.
James Kolanowski, C65, passed away June 26.
Robert Koller, C50, passed away August 9.
Kenneth Maier, C65, passed away September 23.
Rev. Mario Pedi, O.S.B., C54, passed away August 28.
John Petrus, C66, passed away September 18.
Illinois Benedictine College
Maureen Milano, C87, passed away September 26.

Springfield Junior College
Donald L. Bacon, A.A., C55, passed away July 24.
Rita A. (Johnson) Braker, C41, passed away July 11.
Donald L. Davidson, A.A., C48, passed away August 18.
Margaret (Winn) Huffman, A.A., C51, passed away July 15.
Audrey Ann (Fleck) Knight, A.A., C47, passed away August 1.
Carl W. Krell, A.A., C55, passed away August 14.
Frances M. (Hussey) Stasukinas, A.A., C56, passed away September 27.
Abram D. VanMeter, A.A., C41, passed away June 28.
James Francis Weaver, A.A., C48, passed away August 18.

Springfield College in Illinois
John O. Meisner, A.A., C76, passed away October 12.

center of excellence in Las Vegas that will serve the children of battered women at the women’s shelter where she volunteers.

Robert D. Coady, Bachelor of Business Administration, and Jessica H. Orum were married on September 18.
Alison Kirchesnker, (SCI, A.A.), and Jacob Gerringer were married on July 18.
Erin Hovey, Writing and Publishing, and Nicholas R. Schafer were married on September 19.
Mary Wingbermuehle, M.Ed. (Reading and Literacy), and Alex Michael, M.D., were married on July 25.
Kelsey Taul, Writing and Publishing, and Nathan Schulz were married on July 25 in Godfrey, IL.

Springfield Junior College
Vincent Loopy, A.A., celebrated his 87th birthday with family in June.

Springfield College in Illinois

Benedictine University at Springfield
Clint Jeffers, (SCI, A.A.), and Michelle Crowe were married on October 10.
Megan Mehlick, Elementary Education, and Jeffrey Cox were married on May 30.
Nicole Burke, M.A.Ed., and Justin Robbins were married on July 11.
Kayla R. Bowman, M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior, and Steve L. Daniels were married on September 19.

Aeri Santos, M.S.N., is proud to be working in the 1st Medical Brigade of the U.S. Army.
Juardeen Smith-Morris, M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior, is a human resources volunteer recruiter with Miscarriage Matters Inc., a nonprofit organization based in Naperville which provides support and mentoring to women, men and families devastated by miscarriage, stillbirths and early infant loss. In her role, she recruits and trains talented individuals to recruit volunteers to help families in their time of need.

Springfield Junior College
Lori Dinh Nguyen, M.B.A., was thrilled to be able to attend the Commencement Convocation in New York. He credits the educational experience provided by Benedictine’s dual degree program for helping him advance in his career.

Peggy Cunningham, M.B.A., was promoted to chief operating officer of Montevista Hospital and Red Rock Behavioral Health Hospital for Seniors in July 2015.

Nikki Powers, Communication Arts, works for the Phoenix Suns professional basketball team in the corporate sales/public relations department. She is the daughter of Sue Stecher-Powers, C79, and Mike Powers, C82.

Lori Dinh Nguyen, M.B.A., was thrilled to be able to attend the Commencement Convocation for the M.B.A. program in Hanoi, Vietnam on October 3, 2015.
Congrats Graduates!
The University celebrated the hard work of the many graduates who completed requirements to earn a degree at the University’s 125th Commencement Convocation at the Rice Center on December 19. Congratulations and best wishes for a successful and fulfilling career.

Last look

View more photos at ben.edu/graduation.
The average net price for undergraduate students at Benedictine University is $20,078 per year.\(^1\)

Net price is what undergraduate students pay after grants and scholarships (financial aid that you do not have to pay back) are subtracted from Benedictine’s tuition cost.

The net price of attending Benedictine increased 8.5 percent for the most recent period in which this data is available. However, the net price nationwide among institutions that compare to Benedictine increased 9.4 percent.\(^2\)

Tuition and fees for the 2015-16 academic year at Benedictine is $29,700.

\(^1\)For academic year 2012-13. Data used to calculate average net price came from Benedictine’s annual submission to the U.S. Department of Education’s Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).


### Loan Default Rate

\(4.4\%\)

Just 4.4 percent\(^3\) of Benedictine University students defaulted on their federal student loans within three years of entering a repayment program, compared to 11.8 percent nationwide. The percentage of Benedictine students who enter a repayment program has also significantly decreased from 7.4 percent (13.4 percent nationally) since 2009 when the U.S. Department of Education released its first official three-year federal student loan cohort default rates.

\(^3\)Percentage of Benedictine’s borrowers who entered repayment on certain federal students loans in federal fiscal year 2012 (between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012) and who defaulted before September 30, 2014.

### Giving

Average donation per alumnus\(^4\) is $257.80

\(^4\)Based on the 1,082 alumni who donated $277,853.03 during fiscal year 2014.

### Graduation Rate

53 percent\(^5\) of full-time students earned a bachelor’s degree from Benedictine University within six years, surpassing the 44 percent average graduation rate for all institutions across the country.

\(^5\)For first-time, full-time bachelor’s degree-seeking students who began at Benedictine in fall 2006.

### Retention Rate

73 percent\(^6\) of first-time, full-time undergraduate students returned to Benedictine after their freshman year, compared to 67 percent of students who do so nationwide.

\(^6\)Percentage of students who began their studies in fall 2013 and returned in fall 2014.

### Employment

Families typically borrow $21,500 in federal loans for a student’s undergraduate study at Benedictine (the loans cover the cost of books, fees, meals, etc.). The federal loan repayment for this amount is $239 per month over 10 years.\(^8\)

\(^8\)The estimated monthly repayment amount was calculated using an interest rate of 6 percent. Simplified this means: The average student loan debt for Benedictine graduates is just $21,500. (The national average is $35,000.)

### Salary After Attending

$51,000\(^6\), Benedictine vs. $34,343 nationally.

\(^6\)The median salary 10 years after entering Benedictine of those students who received federal financial aid.

93\% of Benedictine graduates are either employed or in graduate school within 12 months of graduation.\(^7\)

\(^7\)Based on alumni who responded to Benedictine’s 2013 post-graduate survey.
Upcoming university events

- **FEBRUARY 20**
  Lisle Graduate and Adult Undergraduate Spring Open House*
  9:00-11:00 a.m.
  ben.edu/nextlevel

- **FEBRUARY 24**
  BenU Presents: John F. McDonough
  7:00 p.m.
  ben.edu/speakers

- **MARCH 1**
  Mesa Undergraduate Spring Open House*
  12:00-3:00 p.m.
  ben.edu/mesa/springOH

- **MARCH 3**
  Benedictine Heritage Lecture:
  Fr. Joel Rippinger, O.S.B., C70
  7:00-8:30 p.m.
  ben.edu/CMI

- **APRIL 8**
  Presidential Installation of Michael S. Brophy, Ph.D., M.F.A.
  St. Procopius Abbey

- **APRIL 9**
  Lisle Undergraduate Spring Open House*
  10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
  ben.edu/springOH

- **MAY 14**
  126th Commencement Convocation
  Benedictine University Lisle Campus

- **MAY 15**
  Commencement Convocation
  Benedictine University at Springfield

- **MAY 21**
  Commencement Convocation
  Benedictine University at Mesa

- **JUNE 15**
  BenU Presents: Haley (Scott) DeMaria
  7:00 p.m.
  ben.edu/speakers

- **ONGOING EVENTS**
  National Moser Center for Adult Learning Events*
  Multiple locations in Illinois and Arizona
  ben.edu/moser

* Event for prospective students

Upcoming art shows

- **MARCH 7 - APRIL 7**
  “Book Art: Tactile and Visible Stories”
  Hai Ri Han, assistant professor in the Department of Fine Arts, will display her elegantly complex graphic design and handmade books. Her work has become well-known in the field of graphic design and has been shown in several national competitions. A reception and lecture on her show will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 7.

- **APRIL 21 - JULY 30**
  “Chicago Alliance of Visual Artists”
  The Chicago Alliance of Visual Artists, formally known as the Senior Artists Network, is a Chicago-based group which celebrates the creativity of senior artists. Paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings and mixed media will be part of the exhibition. A reception and lecture on this show will be held from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 1.
Alonzo DeCarlo (Social and Behavioral Sciences), pictured above, traveled to Cape Coast University in Ghana last summer as a visiting Fulbright Scholar where he conducted seminars on categorical fallacy and research methods for doctoral candidates in psychology, and provided consultation on curriculum development and assessment for the University’s graduate programs in psychology.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government’s flagship international educational exchange program. It is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. Since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 300,000 participants with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.


Hai Ri Han (Graphic Arts and Design) was accepted to the national juried exhibition titled “Body and Mind” at the gallery of Sulfur Studios in Savannah, Ga. The gallery received more than 120 entries from throughout the United States, and 39 individual pieces of art (including Han’s artist’s books) were selected.

Joan Libner (Nursing), pictured right, was named a fellow of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Institute of Regulatory Excellence (IRE) during the NCSBN Annual Meeting and Delegate Assembly in Chicago in August. The IRE was established in 2004 with the purpose of providing boards of nursing with high quality regulatory education, expanding the body of knowledge related to regulation through research and scholarly
work, developing the capacity of regulators to become expert leaders, and developing a network of regulators who collaborate to improve regulatory practices and outcomes. The IRE Fellowship Program is a four-year comprehensive educational and professional development program designed for current regulators who want to enhance their knowledge of, and leadership in, nursing regulation. The program includes experiences in analyzing issues involving public policy and regulation, strategic planning, patient safety and communication. It also requires the application of evidence-based concepts in decision-making and leadership.

**Teresa Parker** (Fine Arts) was among 66 artists whose works were displayed at the Carlsten Gallery at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in fall 2015. The exhibit celebrated 25 years of visiting artists to Pointer Press at the university. She also had some of her work included in an exhibition at Chicago State University’s President’s Gallery. The exhibition, “Arceo Press: Santitos,” featured the work of 36 artists working out of the studio of master printer René Arceo. Parker was also invited to participate in the Alumni Spectacular 2015 at the University Galleries at Illinois State University.

**Shannon Rauch** (Psychology), an assistant professor at the Mesa branch campus, was quoted in a recent article “Is Social Media Just Another Bad Habit To Break?” that appeared on the Forbes magazine website. Rauch’s original study, “Face to Face Versus Facebook: Does Exposure to Social Networking Web Sites Augment or Attenuate Physiological Arousal Among the Socially Anxious?” was published on Anxiety.org and in the journal Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking in 2013. The Forbes’ article paraphrased Rauch stating that one of the main reasons people use social media is for self-distraction and boredom relief, and that the reinforcement people receive from supportive comments and “likes” makes it hard for them to stop using social media.

**Niina J. Ronkainen** (Chemistry/Biochemistry) published a manuscript titled “Course preparation assignments: A tool to enhance independent learning, increase student participation, and performance in chemistry courses” in LUMAT: Research and Practice in Math, Science and Technology Education 2015, 3(5), 675-692. The journal is published by the LUMA Centre housed at the University of Helsinki, Finland. She also authored a book chapter in Advanced Bioelectronics Materials (ISBN: 978-1-118-99830-4, publication date October 2015). The book, edited by Ashutosh Tiwari, Ph.D., Hirak K. Patra, Ph.D., and Anthony P. F. Turner, Ph.D., is a part of The Advance Materials Series by Wiley Scrivener Publishing. The title of the chapter is “Micro- and Nanoelectrodes in Protein-Based Electrochemical Biosensors for Nanomedicine and Other Applications” (Chapter 1, pp. 3-34). The book is written for readers from diverse backgrounds across chemistry, physics, materials science and engineering, medical science, pharmacy, biotechnology and biomedical engineering. It offers a comprehensive view of cutting-edge research on advanced bioelectronics materials.

**Ovid Wong** (Education) was invited to be a chapter reviewer for Biology: Concepts and Applications, a National Geographic Learning and Cengage Learning publication. He also published a newspaper article titled “Wish for a Dragon Son with Wisdom and Spirit Endowed” in Herald Monthly, Volume 28, No. 9, in October 2015. The article discussed how the road to excel (to become a dragon) is full of challenges, and parents need to step up to the plate in raising their children academically (wisdom) and spiritually (virtue).

**Jan Writer** (Education) was selected to give a peer-reviewed presentation and paper on strategies for overcoming barriers to the inclusion of students with significant disabilities at the 2016 International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability and Developmental Disabilities in Honolulu, Hawaii. Writer’s presentation is one of only 150 selected from more than 4,000 submitted proposals. A staunch advocate of inclusive education, Writer has facilitated the successful inclusion of students in pre-K through grade 12 with disabilities in schools across Illinois and in more than 15 other states during the past 30 years. ●
Clement’s presentation, “Lawyering in the Roberts Court: Ten Lessons from Ten Years” enlightened audience members to some of the big-picture conclusions he’s drawn while arguing more than 75 cases (more than any attorney since 2000) before the high court. His experience spans both aisles of the court, supervising and conducting litigation on behalf of the United States government as a solicitor general from 2005 to 2008, and litigating major constitutional challenges against the government as a current partner with the law firm of Bancroft PLLC.

Among the many lessons he learned is the justices’ unanimous belief that they have the competency to decide any constitutional issue that comes before them—even decisions involving certain separation of powers disputes previous courts have refrained from adjudicating.

“What this shows is there is no issue, no matter how contentious, no matter what the implications might be for diplomacy or the like, that the Roberts’ Court (referring to the Supreme Court presided over by Chief Justice John Roberts) thinks it does not have the ability to decide,” Clement said.

Other lessons Clement has observed include:

- The tendency for the court to announce up to a year in advance the consideration of overruling a past precedent.
- Inequities between justices and the time they dedicate to interpreting federal statues vs. constitutional issues.
- When it comes to purely free speech issues, all justices are universally pro First Amendment.
- When it comes to issues of religious liberty, all justices are very solicitous.
- While the Roberts’ Court has been noted as a pro-business court, there are some particular cases justices have sided against business.

When describing the process of oral arguments, Clement explained that it isn’t full of flowing rhetoric like in a fictional courtroom drama or some political debates on television. Attorneys have about 60 seconds for opening remarks, followed by a series of pointed questions from justices regarding the implications of each case, he said.

“There has literally almost never been a court that is more about asking questions of the advocates as part of the process of arguing cases,” Clement said.

He noted that the Roberts’ Court has not always leaned the same way politically, and cited a study revealing a major shift to the left during the last term which included such hot-button rulings on same-sex marriage and the Affordable Care Act.

“The results were really striking,” Clement said. “Using the same methodology they’ve used for years, these political scientists determined the last term was the most liberal term of the Supreme Court since 1969.”

Clement asked people in the audience to consider the meaning and purpose of Supreme Court decisions, pointing out that of the 10,000 cases the court is asked to hear each year—roughly only 75 are selected.

“The justices don’t want to just correct errors,” Clement said. “They actually want to use a case as a vehicle to set a national rule on some issue of tremendous national importance.”

Kellen McCullum, a sophomore Political Science major, said he felt privileged to hear Clement’s presentation, “Lawyering in the Roberts Court: Ten Lessons from Ten Years” drawing on his experience as former U.S. Solicitor General and one of the nation’s top attorneys, Paul Clement took more than 200 faculty members, students and guests up the 36 marble steps and onto the floor of the U.S. Supreme Court during a lecture held in the Goodwin Hall Auditorium in November.

Among the many lessons he learned is the justices’ unanimous belief that they have the competency to decide any constitutional issue that comes before them—even decisions involving certain separation of powers disputes previous courts have refrained from adjudicating.

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Kellen McCullum, a sophomore Political Science major, said he felt privileged to hear about what it is like to work as an attorney in the nation’s highest court.

“It was a rare opportunity for insight from a prominent individual into one of the most revered legal occupations in this country,” McCullum said. “Clement was extremely intuitive and down to the point regarding his delivery. There was no doubt regarding his knowledge or experience, considering his impressive list of credentials.”

A distinguished lecturer at Georgetown University Law Center and senior fellow at the university’s Supreme Court Institute, Clement was selected by the National Law Journal in 2013 as one of the “100 Most Influential Lawyers in America,” and named the “2012 Lawyer of the Year” by the Bar Association of the District of Columbia.

He was invited to speak at Benedictine as part of the University’s nonpartisan, nonprofit Center for Civic Leadership (CCL) Speaker Series, which seeks to bring dynamic speakers to campus so that students and the larger community can fully engross themselves in multiple issues and topics of public concern.

For future events sponsored by the CCL and the College of Liberal Arts at Benedictine University, please visit ben.edu/ccl.
Thank you to everyone who participated to support student scholarships at BenU and to our 21st Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing sponsors who helped make this event happen.

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Perry's Steakhouse & Grill
Quintessential Dental P.C.
Redline Press
Rosebud Restaurant
Seven Bridges Golf Course
Sheraton Mesa Hotel at Wrigleyville West
Signs Now, Downers Grove
Swingbytes
Timeless Spa & Salt Cave
Statement of Financial Position Information

As of May 31

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Liabilities and Net Assets

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<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>$5,825,154</td>
<td>$5,310,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>15,399,891</td>
<td>12,427,281</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current portion of bonds payable</td>
<td>798,930</td>
<td>668,955</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current portion of capital lease payable</td>
<td>137,812</td>
<td>262,137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposits held in custody for others</td>
<td>1,524,718</td>
<td>1,427,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td>23,686,505</td>
<td>20,096,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond and note payable, less current portion</td>
<td>48,738,155</td>
<td>49,538,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refundable U.S. government grants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for student loans</td>
<td>1,947,272</td>
<td>1,935,309</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest rate swap agreement liabilities</td>
<td>1,419,523</td>
<td>1,371,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred lease incentive</td>
<td>143,857</td>
<td>170,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred rent liability</td>
<td>721,196</td>
<td>794,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital lease payable</td>
<td>131,982</td>
<td>269,794</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>76,788,490</td>
<td>74,175,478</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>$96,972,964</td>
<td>$95,093,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$173,761,454</td>
<td>$169,269,465</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

The information presented here has been extracted from the University and Affiliates’ audited financial statements and represents University information only.
# Statement of Activities Information

**Years ended May 31**

## 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue and other support:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and fees</td>
<td>$113,304,614</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$113,304,614</td>
<td>$109,495,866</td>
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<td>Less scholarships and grants</td>
<td>(45,158,918)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(45,158,918)</td>
<td>(41,822,306)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net tuition and fees</td>
<td>68,145,696</td>
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<td>68,145,696</td>
<td>67,673,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private gifts and grants</td>
<td>1,361,740</td>
<td>545,063</td>
<td>113,696</td>
<td>2,020,499</td>
<td>3,230,512</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government grants and contracts</td>
<td>15,863,869</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15,863,869</td>
<td>15,309,310</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income (loss)</td>
<td>660,825</td>
<td>362,512</td>
<td>1,001,461</td>
<td>2,024,798</td>
<td>3,842,623</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>1,269,046</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,269,046</td>
<td>1,434,839</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auxiliary enterprises</td>
<td>4,728,226</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4,728,226</td>
<td>4,344,715</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>11,530,258</td>
<td>(11,045,209)</td>
<td>(485,049)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
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<td><strong>Total revenue and other support</strong></td>
<td>103,559,660</td>
<td>(10,137,634)</td>
<td>630,108</td>
<td>94,052,134</td>
<td>95,835,559</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compensation:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>41,413,736</td>
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<td>41,413,736</td>
<td>42,746,010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>10,183,918</td>
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<td>10,183,918</td>
<td>10,840,877</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total compensation</strong></td>
<td>51,597,654</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>51,597,654</td>
<td>53,586,887</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
<td>2,436,316</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2,436,316</td>
<td>2,363,838</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>4,063,410</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,063,410</td>
<td>4,499,055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1,177,989</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,177,989</td>
<td>1,181,904</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bad debts</td>
<td>803,444</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>803,444</td>
<td>657,027</td>
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<td>Supplies and services</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>32,045,860</td>
<td>32,382,318</td>
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<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>92,124,673</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>92,124,673</td>
<td>94,671,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in net assets</td>
<td>11,434,987</td>
<td>(10,137,634)</td>
<td>630,108</td>
<td>1,927,461</td>
<td>1,164,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other changes in net assets:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in fair value of interest rate swap agreement</td>
<td>(48,484)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(48,484)</td>
<td>84,825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>11,386,503</td>
<td>(10,137,634)</td>
<td>630,108</td>
<td>1,878,977</td>
<td>1,249,355</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets, beginning of year</strong></td>
<td>68,863,816</td>
<td>12,197,181</td>
<td>14,032,990</td>
<td>95,093,987</td>
<td>93,844,632</td>
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<td><strong>Net assets, end of year</strong></td>
<td>$80,250,319</td>
<td>$2,059,547</td>
<td>$14,663,098</td>
<td>$96,972,964</td>
<td>$95,093,987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LISLE MAIN CAMPUS

Michael S. Brophy, Ph.D., M.F.A., former president of Marymount California University, was named the 11th president of the University by the board of trustees in early June. Brophy succeeded President Emeritus William J. Carroll, Ph.D., who guided Benedictine through a period of unprecedented growth during his two-decades-long tenure.

Nearly 700 new freshmen and transfer students began classes on the main campus in late August.

The University’s enrollment—including all undergraduate classes, graduate, doctoral and online students throughout the Chicago and Phoenix metropolitan areas, Illinois, Arizona, all 50 states, China and Vietnam—reached 10,058 students for calendar year 2014.

A new state-of-the-art academic building, the Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business, opened last fall. The University also unveiled an extensively renovated campus quad—an expanse of grass, trees, benches, sidewalks and landmark-style lamps.

The University launched two new undergraduate programs—a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) in Entrepreneurship and a B.B.A. in Human Resource Management—and a Master of Science (M.S.) in Finance, the 16th graduate-level program available at Benedictine. The University is always reviewing and adjusting its degree programs to offer students the most relevant majors.

The past 12 months or so have marked a time of change and growth at Benedictine University. Here is a brief look at some of those events.
BenU AT MESA

BenU at Mesa hit a new enrollment benchmark when more than 300 students, hailing from throughout Arizona and the Southwest, enrolled for classes in fall 2015.

In May 2015, the University recognized 12 students—the first to graduate from BenU at Mesa—at the school’s inaugural Commencement Convocation.

The University added a new concentration in Medical Spanish for the existing Spanish major, and new undergraduate degree programs in Political Science (with a concentration in Pre-Law) and Graphic Arts and Design.

The addition of baseball and women’s basketball beginning in 2016-17 will bring to 12 the number of National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)-sanctioned sports offered on the BenU at Mesa campus. A member of the California Pacific Conference (CAL PAC), BenU at Mesa currently offers 10 NAIA sports: softball, men’s basketball, and men’s and women’s cross country, golf, tennis and volleyball. Dance and cheer teams are available as club sports.

Benedictine continues to partner with local businesses and the City of Mesa to offer relevant internships for students.

The new Academy of Language Acquisition and Success was established to offer free practical English language lessons in reading, writing, speaking and listening to help members of the local community communicate more effectively in English.
Renewed Focus on Growing Adult Population

The National Moser Center for Adult Learning, which offers programs at 42 class sites throughout Illinois including the Bellwood Learning Center in the Chicago area, has further expanded its scope by extending into communities and areas of the country where historically few opportunities for adult education have existed or have been prohibitively expensive for working families.

The center’s adult programs are offered in accelerated formats with options for taking courses fully online or in a blended format that combines the most effective aspects of live instruction with self-directed, Internet-based learning. Classes meet one night a week so adults can earn a degree while balancing both work and family obligations.

NATIONAL MOSER CENTER

$10K M.B.A. now offered in central Illinois and southwest Arizona.

$10K Master of Education in Reading and Literacy now offered at Lisle partner sites, the Springfield branch campus and at Springfield-area partner sites.

Nine-month English as a Second Language (ESL) and Bilingual endorsement programs offered at National Moser Center to meet need for Illinois teachers to address the cultural, linguistic and developmental needs of a diverse body of students.

$15K Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice launched at Lisle partner sites, the Springfield branch campus and at Springfield area partner sites. In Mesa, the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice program is offered on campus at $335 per credit hour.
To compensate faculty (87 percent of whom have the highest degrees in their field) and underwrite faculty development.

To build new classrooms (Benedictine continues to bring new classrooms online to accommodate a growing number of students and expanding programs).

To provide new laboratories and science equipment.

To build and maintain new facilities for the physical well-being of students.

To support programs that allow students to gain hands-on experience by working closely with faculty on a variety of projects, such as the College of Science Summer Research program.

To maintain Benedictine’s residence halls, which are an integral part of academic life.

To subsidize student clubs and organizations, which provide students with the opportunity to hone their leadership and interpersonal skills and to sponsor activities that promote social interaction.

To support academic centers of learning like the Center for Civic Leadership, which helps students become better citizens and community leaders through seminars and visiting speakers.

To develop new degree programs.

To provide students with the latest technological tools, computer software and hardware.

To support campus recreational programs.

To sustain student services such as the Student Success Center, which provides supplemental teaching, tutoring, textbook assistance and disability support services, and the Career Development Center, which helps students prepare for life after college.

These are just a few of the areas which rely on tuition dollars. As a nonprofit university, every dollar that the University takes in is reinvested in the success — present and future — of our students.
ED.D. PROGRAM PREPARES GRADUATES FOR WORLD OF HIGHER ED

The students and graduates of the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Higher Education and Organizational Change program are leaving their mark on higher education.

Michael Pressimone, a graduate of Benedictine’s Ed.D. program, was a vice president at another institution when he first enrolled at Benedictine. Today, he and many other graduates credit the University for career advancement and for gaining a broader appreciation of higher education beyond their previous focus.

Benedictine’s Ed.D. in Higher Education and Organizational Change program is intended for practicing professionals who wish to accelerate their career paths in the administrative side of higher education. Studies emphasize leadership for educational and organizational improvement.

PH.D. IN ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT GROOMS LEADERS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES

“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. “These companies are guided by professionals who can effectively lead, manage and organize.”

Sorensen and Therese Yaeger, Ph.D., an acknowledged leader in corporate organization dynamics, are internationally known scholars in the OD 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.

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 many other Fortune 500 organizations.
CVDL DEMONSTRATES HOW GIVING BACK CAN LEAD TO A PROFITABLE BUSINESS

The Center for Values-Driven Leadership 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 and provides research-based strategies that not only lead to improved performance and accountability, they help people and society as a whole.

Lee DeRemer, a retired military officer who worked as a high-level consultant while earning a Ph.D. in Values-Driven Leadership in 2014, 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.

FLEXIBLE M.B.A. STUDENTS DISCOVER PROFITABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY CAN CO-EXIST

The Sustainable Business and Leadership concentration in the flexible Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program is one of only two such concentrations available through the nearly two dozen Chicago-area colleges and universities that offer an M.B.A. degree.

The program is most beneficial to professionals who work in the environmental, health and safety areas of business, as well as those in related regulatory and technical fields. The concentration is also available as a certificate.

NEW INSTITUTE CHALLENGES STUDENTS TO SOLVE LOCAL BUSINESS PROBLEMS

The Institute for Business Analytics and Visualization enhances the University’s pioneering undergraduate and graduate programs in Business Analytics, and is designed to provide students with the opportunity to help local businesses find solutions to a variety of real-world problems. It also serves as a venue for an exchange of ideas regarding data analysis, predictive modeling in decision-making, and employing graphics and technology to better understand abstract business data.

The institute provides experiential learning projects in which three to five students can earn college credit by working to solve problems faced by participating organizations. Current projects include developing ideas for new products for ConAgra Foodservice and providing digital marketing and branding support for the National Tiger Sanctuary. Other projects are currently being developed with Downers Grove-based K-9 Swim & Trim, a business that promotes dog health and wellness; The Camelot Company, a logistics/freight-forwarding business in Schiller Park; and the Lisle Lanes bowling alley.

The institute has also received grants that substantially increase the resources available to students as they work on creating digital advertising campaigns for clients.
Student success has taken a giant leap forward with the opening of the Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business.

The 125,000-square-foot Goodwin Hall is the home for the University’s undergraduate, graduate and doctoral business programs in the College of Business. The college gives students the tools to have a transformative experience in the business world and prepares them through a values-centered approach to business education, incorporating the development of fundamental management, ethical and socially responsible leadership, and critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

Among the building’s many features is a state-of-the-art Bloomberg Trading Lab that provides students with access to peer-ranked investment simulations, public and private company accounting and international economic data, and other real-time financial information.
OTHER BUILDING FEATURES INCLUDE:

- 6,000-square-foot “Global Hall” with live digital stock ticker and billboard-sized, multiscreen high-definition media wall.

- 600-seat auditorium for presentations and professional forums for business experts and guest speakers.

- 150-seat and 80-seat seminar rooms.

- LED touch-screen displays for checking class schedules and event information.

- Starbucks Café and lounge areas.

- Modern classrooms, computer labs and study spaces.

- A fully renovated campus quad, featuring landscaped walkways and rain gardens, which serves as a central gathering place on campus and connects the front entrance of Goodwin Hall with other key academic, enrollment and student life buildings.
Every year, the University hosts several events, speakers and activities to recognize, celebrate and reflect upon those things that make us a distinctly Catholic institution.

More than 500 students, faculty, staff and monks of St. Procopius Abbey came together in late August at the University’s Opening Day Mass to mark the beginning of the 2015-16 academic year. Campus Ministry offered students opportunities to engage in service work during Welcome Weekend at which 230 freshmen and transfer students helped to package 57,888 meals for the West Suburban Community Pantry and St. Ethelreda School, an elementary school on the South Side of Chicago.

In addition to daily Mass services, a new religious retreat program was added to reach more students. The Freshmen Living in God’s Hope and Trust (FLIGHT) Retreat helps first-year students transition to college and form a new faith community while away from home. Students also embarked on two international mission trips to help build homes for the underprivileged in the Philippines and volunteered in day care centers, hospitals, orphanages and soup kitchens in Sucre, Bolivia.
The University’s Center for Mission and Identity (CMI) invited Robert Louis Wilken, Ph.D., professor emeritus at the University of Virginia, and Judith Valente, PBS national correspondent for religion and ethics, to address different themes and perspectives specific to the Catholic experience.

CMI also sponsored a September symposium examining “Laudato Si’,” Pope Francis’s encyclical on the environment and its moral implications for ecological, theological and political transformation in the fight against climate change. The CMI’s new “Engaging the Mission Series” provides faculty and staff members the opportunity to discuss the University’s mission and how they can better implement the Benedictine charism into their daily lives.

The University’s Catholic heritage is strong and determined. With a solid base, we will continue to flourish while bringing our Catholic and Benedictine values to a world still very much in need of them.
WHAT DO BENEDICTINE ALUMNI HAVE IN COMMON?
An affordable, values-based education that prepares them to make real contributions in the world.

Benedictine provides students many enriching opportunities to succeed in their classes and stand out on a resume including:

- Individualized learning with a 13:1 student to faculty ratio.
- Opportunities to serve in leadership roles in more than 40 student organizations.
- Free tutoring and career exploration assistance.
- Help finding internships offered through national industries and businesses located within minutes of the University.

Benedictine strives to make a private education affordable and does so by:

- Devoting a quarter of its annual budget to student scholarships.
- Employing a financial aid staff determined to help students effectively manage and apply all possible forms of financial aid to their tuition.
- Keeping tuition costs reasonable so students do not have to graduate with overly burdensome debt. The average student loan debt for Benedictine graduates is only $21,500 (the national average is $35,000).

As a strong faith-filled community that espouses Catholic and Benedictine values, the University seeks to prepare students for a lifetime of success and service that will help them lead purpose-filled and rewarding lives.
TRAINING STRONGER TEACHERS IN MATH, SCIENCES

Benedictine is using a $1.2 million Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Grant to encourage more talented science and math majors and career professionals to become K-12 teachers in an effort to better prepare the next generation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) professionals.

The University has set a goal of awarding 27 two-year scholarships to undergraduate students and 33 one-year stipends to career-changers by the time the grant expires in 2017.

The grant also supports internship experiences for freshmen and sophomores to explore the teaching profession, a learning assistant program for undergraduates to promote effective teaching practices in college courses, and an “Exploring Careers in Science” course for all incoming freshmen and transfer students in the College of Science.

PROGRAMS FOCUS ON FINDING LIFE PURPOSE

Benedictine received a grant from NetVUE—a national network of colleges and universities formed to enrich the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation in 2014—to help more students identify a career path that leads to success in work and in life. The grant helped strengthen and integrate vocation discovery across every academic discipline.

In 2015, NetVUE awarded Benedictine a Chaplaincy Implementation Grant to help Campus Ministry reach students through a new program titled “BenUnited,” which supports students as they make connections between their talents, academic career and community service activities.
Thank you to all our donors who generously support the University and help us provide a high-quality, values-based Catholic education. See a full list of donors at ben.edu/donorlist.

For the full 2014-2015 Statement of Financial Position and Activities, visit ben.edu/webextras.
Forbes magazine named Benedictine among “America’s Top Colleges” for the fifth consecutive year in 2015.

Benedictine’s Master of Business Administration program is listed by Crain’s Chicago Business as the fifth largest in the Chicago area in 2015.

U.S. News & World Report consistently lists Benedictine University among the best colleges and universities in the nation and ranks Benedictine among the most ethnically diverse campuses in Illinois.

Affordablecollegesonline.org ranks Benedictine University among the Best Online Colleges in Illinois for 2015, among the top 15 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 2014.

Benedictine is one of the safest campuses in Illinois based on campus safety and security reports filed with the U.S. Department of Education.

For more information, contact (630) 829-6000 or ben.edu.