In Living Color: Kleina’s Photos of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

When Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came to Chicago in 1965 to advocate for fair housing rights, Bernard Kleina, a young priest at the time, joined the demonstrations and brought along his camera to document the experience. Today, Kleina’s photos are some of the only known color photos of King and the Chicago Freedom Movement.

His photos are now part of the Smithsonian’s national collection and will be on display at the Fr. Michael E. Komechak, O.S.B., Art Gallery at Benedictine through February 28.
WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT:
Issues Facing Today’s Working Women Topic of Event

The president of Nicor Gas, a leadership coach and consultant, and a special administrator within the Chicago Public School system were the featured speakers of the 2014 Greater Chicago Women’s Leadership Summit in October.

The leadership summit, which is sponsored by the College of Business and the Office of Community Development at Benedictine, is a regional conference that addresses the issues of working women such as work/life balance, culture, innovative leadership and financial sustainability.

Beth Reese
Nicor Gas president
Named one of 2014’s “Who’s Who in Chicago Business” by Crain’s Chicago Business, Reese is the first woman president of Nicor Gas—the largest natural gas distributor in Illinois. At Nicor, she has served as vice president of business innovation, customer service and finance, and as controller. Reese is a member of the board of the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago and The Field Museum of Natural History.

Dilara Salim Sayeed
Special assistant to the chief administrative officer of the Chicago Public Schools
Sayeed has worked as an elementary school teacher, a university instructor, an entrepreneur and school administrator. She co-founded The Global Teacher Project, an education technology initiative that facilitates collaboration and peer mentoring, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in education policy and leadership at Harvard.

Alvenia Rhea Albright
Founder, president and CEO of Alvenia Rhea Albright and Associates LLC, a consulting firm specializing in leadership development
Albright earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Ohio State University and has served as an adjunct professor at Aurora, Benedictine and Lewis universities. She left American Express in 2001 to found Alvenia Rhea Albright and Associates LLC. She also serves as acting executive director of the “The Rhea of Hope Foundation,” which helps women ages 10 to 21.

The event was emceed by Sandra Gill, Ph.D., associate dean for Strategy in the College of Business at Benedictine University. Gill, the former dean of the College of Business at Benedictine, led the college through the largest growth period in the University’s history. She previously worked in health care consulting and is a certified clinical sociologist.

Keep an eye out for details about next fall’s Women’s Leadership Summit at ben.edu.
President’s Invitational Golf Outing

Two decades supporting student scholarships

Congratulations to the winners of the 20th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing!

**President’s Cup Winners**
- Jamie Blythe
- Mark Demoss
- Frank Fernandes
- Todd Gosdem

**Bruce Bronge Cup Winners**
- Brian Brown
- Dan Casey
- Bev Frier
- Lou O’Brien

**Maureen Beal Cup Winners**
- Carrie Kennedy
- Gretchen Laska
- Dee Mastro-Holzkof
- Christine Shillestad

**Prayer’s Cup Winners**
- Jason Appelt
- Rodney Fowlkes
- Allan Gozum
- Tom Harazim

Join us on July 27, 2015, for the next golf outing. For more information, visit ben.edu/golf.
William J. Carroll (Office of the President) was named a recipient of an INSIGHT Into Diversity Visionary Award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant past and present contributions to diversity in higher education and who have made an indelible mark in broadening diversity and inclusion at their college or university. INSIGHT Into Diversity is the oldest and largest diversity magazine and website in higher education today, connecting potential employees with institutions and businesses that embrace a workforce more reflective of our local and national communities for nearly 40 years. To read the complete story, see Page 20 in Voices.

Christine Fletcher (Theology) was named the recipient of a Barbara Reynolds Highly Commended Award from the Dorothy L. Sayers Society for her book titled “The Artists and the Trinity: Dorothy L. Sayers’ Theology of Work.” The judges found that Fletcher’s book “makes a strong contribution to social theology, interestingly drawing together art, work and theology, and is well supported by a wide range of research evidence.”

A team of Benedictine students from John Draut’s (Graduate Business Administration) spring 2014 MBA 671 Strategic Management class—Christopher Drevallas and Alison Hunter—competed in the Best Strategy Invitational, a three-week competition hosted three times per year by the Business Strategy Game. The Business Strategy Game is an online exercise in which class members are divided into teams and assigned the task of running an athletic footwear company in head-to-head competition against companies managed by other class members. More than 1,000 teams from around the world were invited to compete.

Brian Hickam (Library, Springfield) has been invited to attend the “Modern Heavy Metal: Markets, Practices and Cultures” international academic research conference in Helsinki, Finland, in June 2015. He will be presenting a paper titled “From Shamans to Cyborgs: the use of masks and shadow in branding heavy metal.” In addition, Hickam has the lead article in the premier issue of Metal Music Studies, which is titled “Amalgamated anecdotes: Perspectives on the history of metal music and culture studies.” Hickam is also the current editor of the Metal Music Studies Bibliography and a founding member of the International Society for Metal Music Studies.

Ramon Luzarraga (Theology, Mesa) participated in a discussion on the death penalty with Maricopa County district attorney Bill Montgomery as part of the “Community Conversations on the Death Penalty” events in November at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Ariz. Luzarraga was also interviewed on Catholic radio in Arizona as part of the ongoing public discussion.


Robert McCarthy (Biological Sciences) published a paper, “A morphometric re-assessment of BOU-VP-16/1 from Herto, Ethiopia,” in the Journal of Human Evolution. In the paper, McCarthy and co-author Lynn Lucas (University of Arizona College of Medicine) questioned whether an important early human fossil from Ethiopia should be placed into a new subspecies of Homo sapiens. A short segment on the November 17, 2014 episode of “Daily Planet” on Discovery Channel Canada highlighted research by McCarthy and colleague Philip Lieberman (Brown University) on Neanderthal vocalization. To watch the two-minute video, go to http://discovery.ca/dailyplanet and select “Zoology: Neanderthals” under “Segments.” In addition, McCarthy’s research on howler monkey skulls was recently featured on the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology website.

Joaquin Montero (Foreign Languages) recently published a book of poetry titled “Soledads, ausencias y ahoranzas. Poemas de un alma errante,” which translated in English is “Solitudes, absences and nostalgias: Poems of a wandering soul.” The collection of 124 poems is a reflection of all types of life experiences, including missing the homeland, faith, the excitement and disappointment that love can bring, the importance of living in the moment, happiness and sorrow, nostalgia and melancholy for what life takes away, hope, and salvation through art, inspirations and poetry. The book is Montero’s second, following his novel on Alexander the Great, which was published in Spain. This latest book was published by the University Press of the South and includes 12 illustrations, all by Montero, who also did the oil painting that appears on the cover. “Soledads, ausencias y ahoranzas. Poemas de un alma errante” can be found on Amazon.com and in some book stores.

Phil Novack-Gottshall (Biological Sciences) co-chaired the session “New Insights from Quantitative Paleobiology” at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada, on October 20. During the session, he presented the talk “Ecological and structural constraints revealed by simulating theoretical ecospaces.”

Teresa Parker (Fine Arts) was one of 86 printmakers featured in The Green Door Studio’s “International Print Exchange 2014.” The exhibit at the Banks Mill Studios in Derby, England, ran through early November. Parker was also included in the La Calaca Press International Print Exchange III, “Posada Centenario” which showed at the Zahir Ul Akhlaq Gallery at the National College of Arts in Lahore, Pakistan. She also produced several prints that went on display at the Universidad de El Salvador through December 1, and a group exhibition she curated on the theme of the Madonna was shown at La Casa Tomada at El Centro Cultural de Espana, in San Salvador.

Kari Stone (Chemistry) published a paper, “Preparation and Properties of an MnIV-Hydroxide Complex: Proton and Electron Transfer at a Mononuclear Manganese Site and Its Relationship to the Oxygen Evolving Complex within Photosystem II,” in the journal Chemical Science. Stone and collaborators from University of California-Irvine, Carnegie Mellon University and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory performed a thermodynamic analysis based on manganese complexes and proposed a possible role of the calcium ion in the oxygen-evolving complex in photosynthetic plants.

Amy Weidner and Julie Wroblewski (Library) participated in ILEAD U (Illinois Librarians Explore, Apply and Discover), a prestigious yearlong program designed to help library staff understand and respond to user needs. Weidner and Wroblewski served on a five-member team with librarians from North Central College, North Park University and Dominican University. The team recently presented its final project, a consortial institutional repository called “Constellation.”

Jan Writer (Education) gave a peer-reviewed presentation and paper on quality educational practices for students with significant disabilities at the 2015 International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability and Developmental Disabilities in Clearwater, Fla. She also presented a nationally broadcast webinar for TASH, an international organization that advocates for the interests of individuals with severe disabilities, in mid-August. Her presentation on the design of augmentative and alternative communication devices was filmed on the BenU campus in front of a live audience comprised of Illinois parents and educators of children and youth with severe and low incidence disabilities (autism, intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities and multiple disabilities).
Stephan Pikul, C13, Management
Consultant/Coach/Trainer for SRP Consulting and Coaching
(Illinois Back to Work Program)

After many years of working to provide for my family, I was not prepared to compete in today’s business environment when the economic downturn hit. The Illinois Back to Work Program (which Benedictine launched in 2011 to provide long-term unemployed Illinois residents who had not yet earned a bachelor’s degree with free tuition), focused on crucial skill sets necessary to update and prepare the unemployed for today’s business world. Being able to support a family while obtaining a degree was essential. Benedictine offered both a scholarship and educational program focused on the needs of the individual, and took into consideration the individual’s world of work experience while focusing on the skill set needed by adults to compete in today’s job market.

Large institutions do not address the needs of individual students like they do at Benedictine, where professors freely give their knowledge and time to anyone willing to work hard to achieve their greatest success.

— Stephan Pikul

Experiencing a job loss is difficult. After 30-plus years, I never thought that I would ever go back to school and finish my degree. One day while driving my car, there was a Benedictine radio advertisement about the Illinois Back to Work Program. It seemed like Benedictine was the only institution willing to invest in people with experience who were caught in the economic downturn. They cared about those who had spent their careers providing for others and who were now in need themselves. Benedictine provided the necessary tools to help people again believe and motivate themselves to move forward in life when the unthinkable happens. Benedictine is in the business of changing lives and making a difference.

Benedictine provides what others say they have, but don’t deliver — quality. At graduation, everyone in my cohort agreed that our being together was life-changing — something we will never forget. There are many institutions with far higher and lower costs, but they don’t provide for the needs of their students. There is no other institution that provides the quality of education, encouragement, skill set and opportunity for personal growth for the dollars spent. People from many parts of the country and all over the globe choose Benedictine. In the business world, Benedictine is recognized for its level of quality and the knowledge their graduates possess.
For students with no additional costs.

To sitting in with guest speakers and building your resume, Benedictine offers a lot of opportunities from networking with professional alumni, the diversity and the overall campus. The resources available to the students are priceless. With endless opportunities from networking with professional alumni, to sitting in with guest speakers and building your resume, Benedictine offers a lot for students with no additional costs.

I always knew Benedictine was the right fit for me. I liked the small classroom sizes, the diversity and the overall campus. The resources available to the students are priceless. With endless opportunities from networking with professional alumni, to sitting in with guest speakers and building your resume, Benedictine offers a lot for students with no additional costs.

As a financial aid specialist at Benedictine, I help our students and their families understand the financial aid process by breaking down the terminology and federal guidelines for them. Our main goal is to help make going to school more affordable once students complete their FAFSA application. We also focus on assisting students who have special circumstances and financial needs by providing information about private loans, outside scholarships and Benedictine endowed scholarships.

As a prospective student, I was deciding between Benedictine and another institution in Chicago. I felt that I needed more of a balance and needed to really channel my academic abilities. Aside from wanting a more rounded college experience, Benedictine definitely offered more scholarships. Living in Chicago alone would have been a financial strain on my family. With Benedictine, I was offered several merit scholarships in addition to federal aid. Throughout my undergraduate career, I was able to apply for additional need-based scholarships as well. I received the Family Recognition Award and the Benedictine Incentive Award. I also received the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial Scholarship twice and the Dr. Cheryl B. Richardson Award. Along with federal aid (loans, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and MAP) Benedictine and the financial aid I received covered more than 80 percent of my tuition each semester.

I always knew Benedictine was the right fit for me. I liked the small classroom sizes, the diversity and the overall campus. The resources available to the students are priceless. With endless opportunities from networking with professional alumni, to sitting in with guest speakers and building your resume, Benedictine offers a lot for students with no additional costs.

I was very concerned about having an excess of student loan debt after graduating college, but I only had to take a small amount of student loans compared to my friends.

— Stephanie Saghafi

When you factor in financial aid and scholarships, the price you actually pay is worth the education and experience you receive here. College in general is expensive and you have to expect that you’ll have to pay some money and take out some loans no matter where you go. At Benedictine, you receive an amazing education as well as community and support.

I will definitely have an advantage with a degree from Benedictine. You are always meeting new people and being exposed to new opportunities here. After graduating, I know I will have the contacts, experience and real-world knowledge to help me gain an edge over others when applying for jobs.

Amber Johnson, Senior, Writing and Publishing Major

At first, the cost of attending Benedictine might seem high, but the University’s Office of Financial Aid works with you. They help to make your future more pronounced and manageable. I consider Benedictine affordable given all the many resources and opportunities that it has to offer.

When it came to applying to colleges, I applied to the University on a whim. Out of 16 applications, Benedictine was the only school that accepted me right away and provided me with the financial assistance that I needed.
Heriberto Diaz, C13, Political Science
Conflict mediator and account specialist at Katz Law Office, LTD., and law student at Chicago-Kent College of Law

One thing that I like to point out to students who are researching universities is that they should consider how much they will be able to stand out at the schools to which they are applying. Benedictine’s small class sizes allow professors the opportunity to help every student on an individual level, and also to get to know them on a personal level. These relationships open the door for undergraduate research as well as leadership and internship opportunities. The University also offers a wealth of scholarship opportunities which greatly help reduce the financial burden. All things considered, I can say as an alumnus that I might not have been able to have the experiences I was able to have had I not gone to Benedictine.

I was very fortunate to receive scholarships during my time at BenU and by taking advantage of those opportunities, I was able to earn my bachelor’s degree with no debt. Students who are concerned about accumulating debt after graduation need to consider the benefits of attending a smaller campus where they will be competing against fewer students for private scholarships than if they were to attend a larger public school.

Benedictine understands the financial burden many students now face, and the school makes a great effort to alleviate it through a wealth of scholarships and by attempting to not increase tuition. The quality of the education, learning from very intelligent professors and receiving personal attention, provide all a great opportunity for students to shine and get the most out of their education. This in turn contributes to the preparation that students receive for their future careers.

Caroline Ebeling, C11, Elementary Education
First grade teacher, Berwyn North School District 98

Benedictine was able to offer me more scholarships and more opportunities for aid than any other school. This greatly affected my decision to attend Benedictine.

Thanks to the Margaret M. Gillett Memorial Scholarship in Education, I was able to accomplish my dream of becoming a teacher. Today, I cannot imagine doing anything else. Teaching has really allowed me to showcase all I have learned from Benedictine, especially what it means to be a leader. I love being a teacher and seeing the results of my work every day through my amazing students and their growth. I have a passion for teaching students who are learning English as a second language, and I feel like I have found the perfect career for me.

Another scholarship I received was the Arthur J. Schmitt Future Leaders Scholarship. It was unique in the fact that the participants were expected to create a leadership project that encompassed both school and community and then present their experiences to the donors, their family members, faculty and staff. Receiving this scholarship allowed me to view myself as a citizen who could truly make a difference in this world.

As a writing tutor on campus, I was able to simultaneously earn a paycheck and improve my resume. This is just one of many examples of opportunities Benedictine provides to make students’ time in college more meaningful, affordable and worthwhile.

I definitely have an advantage with a degree from BenU. Not only is Benedictine a highly acclaimed university that is driven on a values-based education, but it has taught me what it means to be a leader in society. My experience at Benedictine is something I will treasure for the rest of my life.

Jerry Marshall, C14, Management
Assistant vice president at BMO Harris Bank

The attraction to Benedictine was the excellent reputation of the University and the creative thinking of the faculty, especially President William J. Carroll, to assist individuals who were negatively affected from the recession and declining job market in 2010. Benedictine’s Illinois Back to Work program allowed me to complete my bachelor’s degree within a very short time while providing me with the resources to continue with my career.

Due to successful completion of my degree, I have enlightened my son to consider Benedictine as his college of choice. I am honored to receive a degree from Benedictine, and I know new doors will continue to open throughout my career. When people hear I have a degree from Benedictine, they realize the work, dedication and sacrifice associated with this achievement.
Leonna S. Ameduite, M.S.N.’14
U.S. Army Public Health Nurse, Army Nurse Corps

I believe Benedictine is extremely affordable, especially for those in the military. It has been a great experience and well worth the investment.

My degree has broadened my knowledge base and given me the tools to be a more rounded leader and professional.

Katherine Ebeling, C14, Elementary Education
First grade aide, St. Dominic School

To help with the expense of college, you should apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. The quality of education Benedictine gives has lifelong effects. I have benefited greatly from earning my degree at Benedictine because I received hands-on experience in the classroom to prepare me for my teaching career. I feel like I have an advantage because I was a part of a diverse community that supported independent thinking and problem-solving. The values BenU instilled in me will stick with me throughout my career and life.

Shannen Hitzeman, Junior, Radiation Therapy Major

I love that Benedictine is a smaller school. The class sizes are not that big and the teachers learn who you are. I’m not just a number here. While the cost for me to go to classes here and live on campus isn’t cheap, compared to other schools and taking into account how much this school has to offer makes it all worth it. My goal for post-graduation is to work in radiation therapy at a children’s hospital.

The staff here made all the steps with financial aid very clear. My transfer advisor sent me many emails making sure I got every opportunity and did not miss any deadlines. The transfer student scholarship I received helped me feel better about my loan debt. I am also currently working on campus, which has taken some of the stress about money away while giving me more experience for the future. The scholarships offered by the University really do affect people who plan on coming here. I know I plan on applying for as many as I qualify for to help with next year’s tuition.

I only had to take loans for my freshman year. Thanks to Benedictine’s scholarships, I no longer need to borrow money to pay for my tuition.
— Jermeen Wadie

Jermeen Wadie, Junior, Biology Major

My admissions counselor always kept me updated on the processing of my financial aid application, and a representative from the Office of Financial Aid spent a good portion of time with me and my parents to explain the process, which we really appreciated.

One of the most valuable hands-on experiences that I have had is through the Summer Research Program. Scientific research is something that I have a passion for, and I consider myself lucky to have been selected to grow this passion and enrich my knowledge in this area by being a part of it and working under a great, supportive mentor.

When I first came to Benedictine, I didn’t have any job experience, but now I have a strong resume that I have no doubt will be a competitive one when I apply for positions after college.
Lindsay Dillon, graduate student in M.S.N. Program
Pediatric intensive care unit/RN clinical research coordinator, Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Advocate Children’s Hospital
I chose Benedictine because the tuition was more affordable when compared to other programs.

Being that this is my first experience as a virtual learner and because I have been out of school for more than a decade, my communication with advisors was critical. I had to change my course plans many times and the transition was made stress-free.

Marianne Yarshen, student in the adult accelerated B.A. in Management program
At Benedictine, there are a number of excellent individuals who go the extra mile to ensure you are properly educated about the choices and the direction you need in order to pay for your education. These are skilled and caring individuals who want students to be able to attend college, enjoy college and not stress out about the bill that comes after you graduate. These skilled individuals make sure students maximize every possible benefit that can help.

Alexes Hernandez, Freshman, Sociology Major
Although I applied late to Benedictine, the University’s Financial Aid staff was very mindful and helped take a lot of the stress out of the process. Scholarships played a big role in attending Benedictine. The scholarships that I have received cover about three-fifths of the cost of attending Benedictine. If I did not receive the amount of scholarships that Benedictine had offered, I might have considered other colleges. This experience will help me in the future because Benedictine prepares you for real-life situations and jobs. BenU teaches hands-on skills and concepts that you need for your career and life rather than teaching things that you will never use.

Jacqueline Schultz, C10, Social Science
Assistant producer for Onesti Entertainment and owner of Natural Talent Productions
When I visited Benedictine for the first time, I walked in and just knew without speaking to anyone that I would be getting my degree here. I look back on my college experience fondly and would recommend attending the University to anyone.

There were many scholarships that were available, which made Benedictine affordable. I received a transfer student scholarship as well as a few others that the University offered, and by working at a restaurant on the side, I was able to graduate with zero debt.

The coursework at BenU was very challenging, and I felt like the help I needed was always available. I truly wanted to study and learn everything I was being taught. Every class I finished felt like an incredible accomplishment bringing me closer to graduation. I was proud of myself, and I truly believe this was because of the University’s curriculum and professors.

After graduating, I started my own theatre company, Natural Talent Productions. Through my company, I produce, direct, choreograph, create costumes, and design sets and lights for musicals and plays. Even though I didn’t get a job in my major, I still know that BenU was the best choice I could have made for my undergraduate education and my future.

Watch The Benedictine Promise video—it’s a great way to learn what the Promise means to faculty, staff, students and alumni. ben.edu/promise.