New Addition to Campus

Relax at the BenUnion

This spring, the University unveiled the BenUnion on the first floor of the Krasa Student Center. The BenUnion is a recreational space where students can go after class to unwind and participate in a variety of activities including billiards, table tennis, foosball, air hockey, and video and board games. The space also features soft seating, which provides students additional space to relax, use their laptops or watch TV.

The BenUnion is a place where students can hang out, kick back, and where fun and the occasional healthy competition is encouraged. It is a place where students can put their books down for a few minutes each day to take a break and socialize with peers. The goal of the BenUnion is to support a healthy balance of mind, body and spirit while enhancing the overall college experience.

To view more photos, go to ben.edu/benunion.
You can help the University keep its promise and support efforts to provide students with an exceptional education and college experience by donating to the following naming opportunities. This is also an opportunity for you to commemorate your time here or honor someone at Benedictine.

**BenUnion ($250,000)**
The BenUnion on the first floor of the Krasa Student Center will continue to serve as a central location on campus, providing students with a plethora of recreational activities and lounge space for decompressing, relaxing and interacting with students when not in class or studying. It is an area of respite for entertainment and social interaction, encouraging students to spend more time on campus in a safe environment while also fostering a stronger connection to the daily life of the University.

- Furniture ($70,000)
- Technology ($80,000)
- Gaming ($50,000)
- Vending ($50,000)

**Student Success Center ($200,000)**
The Student Success Center supports students’ academic, personal and professional development through resources and services which serve to maximize their academic success, enhance their student experience, and better prepare them for further study or the workforce. This funding opportunity will specifically aid the Student Success Center’s Bridge to Success program and transition programs for freshmen and transfer students. The program will provide new students with study skills, tutoring and other remedial learning support, and help them to set goals and balance school with other life responsibilities.

- Bridge to Success Program Scholarships ($50,000)
- New Student Transition Curriculum ($80,000)
- Book Need Award ($50,000)
- Enhanced Tutoring Program ($20,000)

**The Career Development Center ($100,000)**
The Career Development Center offers one-on-one counseling for career planning and identification, job search coaching, interview preparation, job postings, networking opportunities and other career-related support services. Funding for Career Development staff, programming, media, job library materials and internships will help the University fulfill its mission to help every student gain employment after graduation or acceptance to a graduate or professional school supporting their field of interest.

- Career Technology Center ($40,000)
- The Career Exploration Initiative—The Four Year Model ($20,000)
- Experiential Education—job shadowing, internships, etc. ($20,000)
- The Career Mentoring Program ($20,000)

**Student Health Services ($80,000)**
Funding for Student Health Services will allow the University to meet the increasing need among students for counseling and medical services. The addition of educational programming will address a wider spectrum of wellness issues and other health needs so that medical concerns do not interfere with a student’s education.

- Alcohol Education Program ($30,000)
- Harm Reduction Training ($30,000)
- Online Health Screening Tools ($10,000)
- Healthy Program Activities ($10,000)

To view all of the naming opportunities or for more information, visit ben.edu/namingops. You may share your ideas for naming opportunities and memorial acknowledgments by contacting Pat Ariano, executive director of University Development, at (630) 829-6003 or pariano@ben.edu.

*Price to start or enhance project. Funding needs may fluctuate.*
In keeping with the Benedictine tradition of hospitality, the University celebrated Asian culture with the surrounding community at the annual Festival of Asia on January 31. Guests enjoyed food, festivities and fun that highlighted a variety of cultures including Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Indian heritages.

Desmond Washington, a freshman Accounting major from South Holland, Ill., made sure to get as much out of the experience as he could.

From going up against a table-tennis champion to trying Chinese dumplings and Gujeolpan, a traditional Korean dish comprised of vegetables and meats served with thin pancakes, Washington sampled a little bit of everything the festival had to offer.

“I’m a big food person, so when it came down to the cooking, I was so interested,” Washington said. “I never tasted anything like this in my life, and I’m really grateful for the opportunity.

“It is important that we recognize other cultures, and this event helps to make students who are new to Benedictine and the United States feel more welcome here,” he added.

The event, which coincides with the Chinese New Year, allows attendees to observe a cooking contest, sample traditional cuisine made from Benedictine students and shop in an Asian-style market featuring authentic clothing, jewelry and art.

This year’s festival featured a dance performance by the Ray Chinese School based on the legend of the female warrior Mulan, who volunteered to go to war in place of her elderly father, as well as traditional Hindu-inspired dance.
Festival of ASIA

Xiao Yu (pictured left), an international student studying in the Master of Science in Accountancy program from Xian, China, shared a piece of his heritage—an 11-by-5-foot cross-stitch of a traditional geisha scene, which took his aunt two years to complete—with faculty, students and guests at the festival. Benedictine routinely holds events that bring individuals from different cultures, backgrounds, religions and traditions together. The Festival of Asia showcases the diverse culture and traditions of students with ties to Asian nations.

“We encourage people to interact and learn from one another, which hopefully leads us to build a more connected and mindful world community,” said Elsie Yuan, executive director of International Programs and Services at Benedictine.

To view a video of the 2014 Festival of Asia, visit ben.edu/FOAvideo.

The University has greatly expanded its Asia programs at home and overseas.

Today, there are Benedictine class sites in China and Vietnam serving approximately 500 students. U.S. students have consistently been awarded full and partial Chinese Government Scholarships to study in China through the generous support of the Consulate-General of the People’s Republic of China in Chicago. Benedictine faculty members have also conducted research and participated in faculty exchanges, and every year the University hosts visiting scholars from China. To prepare more students for an increasingly China-centric global community, Benedictine added a Chinese Language (Mandarin) minor with an option for a Chinese Culture track in fall 2013.
Tim Goodly, Ph.D.’07 | Organization Development

While there were many leaders of the civil rights movement, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. recognized that his greatest asset was the strength and resilience of ordinary people to stand up for a cause larger than themselves.

This is the definition of a hero and one of many words of inspiration and encouragement King left as part of a lasting legacy, a blueprint for social justice and change still relevant today, said Tim Goodly, Ph.D.’07 (Organization Development), senior vice president of human resources for CNN Worldwide, Turner Broadcasting System (TBS) Inc.

“King not only walked the hero’s journey, he served as a catalyst that encouraged so many others to stand up, cast their fears aside and make bold and daring contributions to a cultural revolution that transformed America,” Goodly told a crowd of about 600 people gathered for the 19th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast at Benedictine in January.

Goodly is responsible for the development of human resources policies and procedures for domestic entertainment, animation and young adult, news networks and businesses including TBS, TNT, Cartoon Network and CNN. He was selected to speak at the annual event as an alumnus of the University’s nationally recognized Ph.D. in Organization Development program, a discipline steeped in many of the core values of the civil rights movement.

While many things King echoed 50 years ago in his famous “I Have a Dream” speech have now been realized, a clear gap still remains among the day-to-day experiences of blacks and whites when it comes to education, economic status, unemployment, and crime and punishment, he said.

How well the country addresses these issues and others associated with a demographic shift as minorities are expected to become the majority in the next decade, will depend on a new generation of “everyday heroes,” Goodly said.

“We will need everyday heroes to help our country transition through this change and realize not only Martin Luther King’s dream, but those of the founders of this country where life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are available to all citizens.

“As we look back on Martin Luther King’s dream, the challenge before us remains today to look within ourselves and ignite the hero within,” Goodly added. “We must overcome our petty desires, our fears, social pressure and live the lives that we were supposed to live. Each of us has a unique journey to make. And each of us is challenged to make our own special contribution for our families, our communities and to the larger society.”

At TBS, Goodly has led strategic personnel efforts, planning and implementing organizational restructuring and redesign efforts, and has served as chief human resources advisor to the company’s top executives. His more than 20-year career in human resources and general management includes service at Mobil Corporation, the Pepsi-Cola Company and as an officer in the U.S. Army. In addition to his work with TBS, Goodly is a senior executive scholar for the Ph.D. in Organizational Development program at Benedictine University at Springfield.

This annual breakfast is one of many ways the University encourages open dialogue and understanding to bring our students and community members closer together. As one of the most diverse schools in Illinois and the nation, Benedictine strongly believes our strength is in our diversity.

The King Breakfast is one of the largest events of its kind in DuPage County and is sponsored jointly by Benedictine University and College of DuPage. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund at both schools. Two Benedictine University students were honored as recipients of King scholarships, which are awarded based on a number of criteria including community service.

Benedictine students awarded a King scholarship were Deborah Afiriyie, a sophomore from Romeoville who is pursuing a double-major in Marketing and Management and Organizational Behavior; and E’Laina Craven, a junior Social Science major from Oak Park. •

A Day of Service

To commemorate the spirit of service that was engendered by King, the University organized several community service projects for the day. Volunteers could donate blood to the American Red Cross, write letters to U.S. servicemen and women, read to visually impaired veterans, make build-a-bears for the Ronald McDonald House and sort birthday bags for children served by local food pantries. •
Benedictine University hosted a Republican gubernatorial debate on March 6 in the Rice Center Arena.

About 700 people attended the debate in the Rice Center Arena, which was sponsored by the Center for Civic Leadership (CCL) and broadcast live by co-sponsor AM 560 after an hour pre-debate program hosted by former U.S. congressman Joe Walsh.

"The debate was a big success," said Phil Hardy, Ph.D., assistant professor of Political Science at Benedictine and acting CCL director. "Many people offered very positive comments about the event aesthetics, organization and format."

State Sen. Kirk Dillard (R-Hinsdale), state Treasurer Dan Rutherford and state Sen. Bill Brady (R-Bloomington) fielded questions from a three-person panel, which included Hardy, allowing them to present their ideas for the future of Illinois. Bruce Rauner, the fourth Republican candidate for governor, did not attend the debate.

The CCL regularly invites prominent figures to speak on campus to involve and engage students and the community in multiple issues and topics of public concern.

Many Chicago area media attended the event including, ABC 7 News, Fox 32 News and WGN 9 News, which reported live from the event. Benedictine’s central location in the western suburbs of Chicago makes a perfect backdrop for speakers and public servants to visit and reach a large audience.

At the event, each candidate addressed poverty, education and the state income tax.

Rutherford pushed his plan to freeze hiring and promotions for state employees, form a performance review committee and improve government services including an overhaul of the redistricting process through a fair map amendment.

Dillard, who served as chief of staff under former Gov. Jim Edgar and has represented the 24th district since 1994, proposed placing a moratorium on the health care mandate and forming a panel of advocate groups and businesses to rewrite the tax code.

Brady, the Republican candidate in 2010 who defeated Dillard by 193 votes in the GOP primary but lost to incumbent Democrat Gov. Pat Quinn in the general election, called for maintaining the current minimum wage, guaranteeing tax cuts in 2015 and eliminating the State Board of Education.

In the fall, the CCL will host two lectures, one featuring U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock (R-Peoria) and the other featuring Austan Goolsbee, the Robert P. Gwinn Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business, former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and a cabinet member for President Barack Obama. Both discussions will be free and open to the public.
LISA MADIGAN HAD SOME ADVICE FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PUBLIC SERVICE DURING HER VISIT TO BENEDICTINE IN FEBRUARY.

“Don’t run for office if you don’t like people.”
—Lisa Madigan

Attorney General Encourages Students to Pursue Their Dreams

Lisa Madigan, who has served as Illinois’ attorney general since 2003 and is the state’s longest tenured chief litigant, visited Benedictine at the behest of Distinguished Fellow Jim Ryan, himself a former attorney general, and founder of the University’s Center for Civic Leadership (CCL). Established in 2005, the CCL seeks to shape a new generation of public leaders and responsible citizens and regularly invites prominent public figures to speak on campus to expose students and the community to multiple viewpoints on current topics.

“I have a connection with Benedictine that none of you probably know about,” Madigan confessed to the audience of students, faculty, staff and community members. “Years and years ago, long before I was attorney general, long before I was a lawyer, when I was in high school, Benedictine had a volleyball camp that my volleyball coach actually taught at.

“I remember spending several grueling weeks on this campus having volleyballs spiked and served at my head,” she added. “It’s one of those camps where the only things you really ever want to do is sleep and eat, so luckily I don’t have any wild stories that I have to admit to. But I do have very fond memories of my time here on campus.”

Madigan also visited Benedictine years later when the school hosted a forum on identity theft issues organized by Ryan in 2006. She recently returned from testifying before a congressional committee about identity theft issues and praised Ryan and the University for their foresight on the issue.

Madigan spoke at length about the office of the attorney general and the work it does, the majority of which is on civil rather than criminal issues. Her office employs 730 people, of whom 350 are attorneys. Two hundred and fifty of those attorneys handle only civil cases. Surprisingly, perhaps, it is only the fourth-largest law office in the state.

The attorney general’s office is also one of the biggest revenue producers in the state, bringing in nearly $9 billion between 2003-2011. Madigan won more than $500 million in claims against Countrywide Financial Corp. and Wells Fargo & Co. for their discriminatory mortgage lending practices, and her office successfully recovered $82 million from a number of gas stations which failed to pay their state taxes.

However, Madigan cautioned those in the audience who were considering a career in law or public service to do it for the right reasons.

“The most important thing you can do with your life is figure out what interests you, what is your passion,” she said. “Don’t be afraid to try something that is new or challenging or even slightly scary if it interests you. Internships are obviously a great opportunity. I don’t want you to be a career intern. I know that is happening with some kids these days.

“If you have an interest in government, it is my hope that you would do it because you want to help others, you want to make a difference, you want to serve,” Madigan added. “You need to recognize that is the satisfaction. You are not going to get rich. If that is a goal of yours, my advice is to do something else in the private sector.”

Madigan also alluded to the Benedictine values during her closing remarks.

“If you do run for office, be prepared to work very hard,” she said. “It’s harder than volleyball camp, and I found that pretty grueling. And make sure you have a life. That you set some limits. Because at the end of the day, if you’re lucky enough to have a family, you will find out that is the most cherished thing in your life.”

The attorney general made a considerable impression on those students in attendance, including senior Derek Murphy of Downers Grove, a Political Science major who works with the CCL and is president of the College Republicans.

“I want to go to law school, so I like the fact that I got the opportunity to hear some advice from the attorney general,” he said. “I also talked to Jim Ryan about law school. That’s two attorney generals. Whatever advice they give you, you listen to them.

“Lisa Madigan represents what Jim Ryan represents—civic education, civic engagement,” Murphy added. “And as a person who wants to be a lawyer and then go into public service and government, no matter what your party affiliation is, she is someone you can look up to.”

To learn about more upcoming speakers sponsored by the CCL, visit www.ben.edu/ccl.
The transformation of Vietnam and its budding role in the world economy took center stage in February as part of the Global Studies Forum, “Global Vietnam: Conflict, Continuity and Change.”

The University invited Jack Harris, Ph.D., professor of Sociology at Hobart and William Smith Colleges (HWS), to discuss some of his research, experiences and insights on what has led Vietnam to become one of the world’s fastest-growing economies.

At HWS, Harris (pictured left) serves as director of the Public Service minor, coordinator of the American Commitments program, director of the Men’s Studies program and a member of the Asian Language and Cultures program.

In June 2013, Harris directed the ASIANetwork-Mellon Foundation Faculty Enhancement Program, which provided a group of U.S. scholars, including Vince Gaddis, Ph.D., professor of History at Benedictine, with a training seminar and comprehensive tour of Vietnam.

The trip helped Gaddis (pictured right) to develop a new course, “Contemporary Vietnam: 1975-Present,” as well as increased opportunities for faculty and student study abroad opportunities.

“Vietnam is emerging as an economic powerhouse,” Gaddis said. “Many American manufacturers, such as Nike, and other businesses have begun operations in the country in recent years. As a country involved in many global markets, we need to understand how this new form of Asian authoritarian capitalism works and its implications for the future of democracy.”

Several issues in the news of late, such as discussions over the Trans-Pacific Partnership—which would create the world’s largest free trade zone among the United States and a dozen Pacific Rim counties including Vietnam—have put the country’s diplomatic as well as economic role in the world in the spotlight, Gaddis said.

“Understanding the history, culture and economic geopolitics of the region are becoming ever more important,” Gaddis said. “In addition, Vietnam and China are engaged in a serious border dispute. While not militarized right now, this could lead to some level of diplomatic conflict with severe consequences for the region. China is also engaged in a similar dispute with Japan.”

“Vietnam is a culturally significant and vital global player,” Gaddis added. “Vietnam should not be viewed as just a country in which we had engaged in a bloody war against communism. Today it stands as a place that welcomes Americans and has a culture and history we can all learn from.”
Steven Day (Foreign Languages) and Cheryl Heinz (Biology) were awarded $34,955 by the ASIANetwork-Freeman Student-Faculty Fellows program to take five undergraduate students to China this summer to conduct field research on pollination.

Christine Fletcher (Theology) wrote an article, “Love in a Time of Adultery: The Moral Vision of Jane Austen and Dorothy Sayers” that was published on the Australian Broadcast Company website. In the article, Fletcher argues that Sayers and Austen share a commitment to the virtues, and like all virtue ethicists, define freedom as freedom for pursuing the good as opposed to those who argue that freedom is freedom from restraint. Fletcher also gave a lecture, “Vatican II and the Secular Vocation of the Laity,” at St Augustine’s Seminary, the diocesan seminary for the Archdiocese of Toronto, in March.

Joyce Jeeuwek (Education), a member of the Chapter Services Committee, presented a peer-reviewed presentation titled “Meetings to Go” at the 2013 Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) International Honor Society in Education’s Conference in Dallas, Texas in October 2013. The presentation discussed how to effectively use webinars in all aspects of education, from teaching lessons to providing professional development opportunities to educators and administrators. Chapter Services Committee members are appointed by the KDP president and are commissioned to develop and implement strategic planning for the KDP organization. Jeeuwek also teamed with undergraduates Tameka Smith and Karyn Tupek to present a peer-reviewed workshop session titled “Effective Reading Strategies in Action.” The workshop presented educators with a variety of research-based, hands-on reading strategies that improve comprehension and writing.

The artwork of David Marcet (Fine Arts) was displayed at the Robert Crown Center for Health Education in Hinsdale. The show, titled “In The Chair,” featured a collection of Marcet’s works, which he describes as contemporary figurative painting. The Robert Crown Center for Health Education is the largest provider of health education for school-age children and young adults in the metropolitan area.

Tim Marin (Chemistry/Biochemistry) wrote a paper as part of his ongoing collaboration with Argonne National Laboratory that appeared in the Journal of Physical Chemistry C titled “Mechanistic Insight into the Protective Action of Bis (oxalato) borate and Diffluoro (oxalate) borate Anions in Li-Ion Batteries,” 2013, 117 (45), pp 23750–23756.

Alfred Martin (Biological Sciences) was an invited speaker at St. Raphael Catholic Parish in Naperville. He spoke on the topic of “The Compatibility of Science and Religion,” which explores these two ways of thinking and how they complement each other.

Susan Mikula (History) was honored with the Prize of Milan Hodža by the Government of the Slovak Republic last October for her outstanding work relative to one of Slovakia’s most important political figures. The event took place at the Embassy of Slovakia in Washington, D.C. Mikula has been recognized as the most important expert on Milan Hodža.

Phil Novack-Gottshall (Biological Sciences) and undergraduate student Keoki Burton had a manuscript accepted for publication in the Journal of Paleontology. Their paper, titled “Morphometrics indicates giant Ordovician macluritid gastropods switched life habit during ontogeny,” is based on Burton’s independent research project using fossil snails from The Field Museum in Chicago. Novack-Gottshall also presented a talk titled “Regression and classification trees are powerful and intuitive analytical methods for complex datasets in paleontology” at the 10th North American Paleontological Conference in Gainesville, Fl. His co-authors were from Swarthmore College and the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center.

Teresa Parker (Fine Arts) participated in “Posada Centenario,” La Calacas Press III International Print Exchange at the Eugenius Gallery in Melbourne, Australia, and showed one of her prints in a group art exhibition called “Santitos” at Loyola University Museum of Art.

James Pelech (School of Education) had a book review published in the Teachers College Record. He reviewed Michael Apple’s book, “Can Education Change Society?” The book analyzes the interaction between education and society and the effect on social justice. Pelech was also the featured author at the Library Faculty Authors Book Chat, where he lead an informal discussion titled “Research in Education: Watch Out for the Curveball” in April.

Ovid Wong (Education) led students enrolled in “Geography/Physics 107—Earth and Space Science” to Fermilab in Batavia. The students were inspired by the high energy physics research and the many real-world applications. Students met with Roger Dixon, Ph.D., head of the Accelerator Division at Fermilab, who talked about how scientists collect data from the invisible world of particle physics, his defining life moments leading to where he is today, and the possible coexistence of the Big Bang Theory and creationism. Wong also wrote a book titled “Instructional Primer: Foundations to Career Success” based on his experiences training Benedictine graduate business faculty in China and Vietnam as well as Dalian Nationalities University faculty in China. The book was published by Roman and Littlefield in 2013 and led to Wong receiving the 2013 Distinguished Faculty in Research Award. The book and Wong’s training discuss such topics as defining personal teaching philosophies, inductive and deductive reasoning methods, questioning strategies and demonstrating the traits of an effective instructor in a mini lesson.

Jan Writer (Education) gave a peer-reviewed presentation and paper at the 2013 National TASH Conference on Severe Disabilities in December. Her interactive workshop, “Talk WITH Me! Communication Strategies that Empower Students with Significant Disabilities,” detailed diverse techniques for enhancing the communication abilities of children and youth with low incidence disabilities (intellectual disabilities, autism, orthopedic impairments and multiple disabilities), who are educated within inclusive school settings. Her session was rated by attendees as being among the top 15 percent of the more than 300 sessions conducted at the conference. Writer has subsequently been invited to design and present a pay-per-view, web-based training program on the quality education of students with low incidence disabilities for TASH, the largest international organization that advocates for the interests of individuals with severe disabilities. Writer also was appointed to leadership positions in two professional special education organizations. She has been selected to serve on the Committee on Severe/Multiple Disabilities for the international Council for Exceptional Children’s Division for Communication Disorders and Deafness (DCDD). The committee focuses on current issues, curricula and family-centered practices for students with speech, language and/or hearing difficulties who also have multiple or severe disabilities. Writer has also been appointed to the organization steering committee for the Illinois chapter of TASH and she will serve as historian for the group.
Two pillars of the University, Ralph Meeker, Ph.D., and Eileen Clark, Ph.D., retired in May at the conclusion of the academic year, leaving a lasting legacy of service and inspiration for the many students who were lucky enough to be in their classrooms and benefit from their many University-wide contributions.

Ralph Meeker, Ph.D., began his 50-year affiliation with the University—first as a student of Physics and Mathematics at St. Procopius College in 1963. After earning his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree, he began his teaching career at Benedictine in 1970 as an assistant professor of Physics, and later successfully managed a variety of leadership roles—from chairperson of the Department of Physics to dean of the College of Science.

His many contributions included coordinating materials for the University’s first master’s program in 1976 (the Master of Business Administration) and the University’s first doctoral program in 1996 (the Ph.D. in Organization Development). He was also responsible for securing several million dollars in grant funding to support various academic and institutional programs over the years, such as the $1 million U.S. Department of Education Advanced Institutional Development Grant in 1975, which greatly influenced the University’s potential for growth.

“This was at a time when the entire annual institutional budget was about $6 million,” Meeker said. “So the grant had a significant impact on new program development. In fact, one of the outcomes was the development and implementation of the first on-campus administrative computer system to support student records, financial management and fundraising.”

In 1978, Meeker and the late Rose Carney, Ph.D., successfully secured a $250,000 Comprehensive Assistance for Undergraduate Science Education (CAUSE) program grant from the National Science Foundation, which was used to expand a burgeoning Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science program. Meeker would eventually oversee the new program as chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science from 1988 to 1994 and as a professor of Computer Science and Information Systems until his retirement.

Meeker also advocated for the hiring of full-time physics faculty with a background and research experience in biophysics to better serve an increasing number of students pursuing the life and medical sciences, and was involved in the initial planning that led to the construction of the Birck Hall of Science in 2001.

He has received several notable awards for his accomplishments, including the Benedictine Life Award—the highest honor awarded to a University faculty or staff member—in 2003 for fostering a spirit of community, creating an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality and living the Benedictine values.

In 2012, he was presented with the Judith Ann Whinfrey Award for Leadership, for his distinguished record of leadership excellence, with a passion for fairness and evidence-based decision-making that helped shape the character of the University.

Although his plans outside Benedictine include traveling and visiting with friends in Florida and other destinations, both Ralph and his wife, Pam, plan to stay connected to the University.

“I will continue to follow Benedictine athletics, and I do hope to continue serving out my terms on a couple of advisory committees of which I am currently involved for the Athletics department and the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum,” Meeker said. “I’m always happy to interact with alumni, so I’ll continue to attend a variety of campus events that bring graduates back to campus.”
The dedication and care exhibited by Benedictines such as Meeker, Clark and Winkler keep the University focused on student success in a values-centered academic environment.

Eileen Clark, M.S., began her career at Benedictine in 1971, one year after Fr. Richard Shonka, O.S.B., received a National Science Foundation grant to purchase the University’s first Hewlett-Packard minicomputer. After four years as an instructor of Mathematics, Clark became an assistant professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, eventually transitioning into associate professor of Computer Science as the B.S. in Computer Science program was developed and first offered during the 1978-1979 academic year.

Funding from the CAUSE grant dramatically changed the academic and administrative operations of the University—from a Unix-based time-sharing computing system to a new system dedicated to academic use—and Clark stepped into the role as director of Academic Computing in 1981.

From 1981 to 1996, Clark oversaw the development of computing systems and facilities, replaced the old time-sharing system, and helped to establish microcomputer labs and a campus-wide network. When an Information Technology unit was established to oversee the new network, Clark returned to a more traditional role supporting faculty through technology training and education as coordinator of Learning Technologies.

In 2000, the University was awarded with a $1.75 million Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, which among other areas of support included the implementation of new technologies in the classroom. Through the grant, Clark became the professional development coordinator and until her retirement worked to encourage and train faculty in their use of various technological learning tools to enhance their courses.

She helped oversee multiple changes to the University’s Learning Management System software and was a constant source for faculty support through the evolution of WebCT, Blackboard, and more recently with the adoption and implementation of Desire2Learn and the ongoing expansion of online classroom delivery.

When the grant ended in 2005, she returned as a professor and continued to provide training to faculty.

While Clark also has plans to travel and visit with family in places such as North Carolina and New York, she expects to stay in touch with the many friends of the University and attend special campus events.

LONGTIME CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR/SCIENCE CURRICULUM INNOVATOR RETIRES

Edward Winkler, Ph.D.

Edward Winkler, Ph.D., joined the Science faculty at Benedictine as an assistant professor in 1979 and ascended to a variety of leadership roles including professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, president of the Academic Senate, member of the Health Sciences Recommendations Committee and academic advisor to Benedictine’s student-led chapter of the American Chemical Society.

Throughout his 35 years with the University, Winkler played a major role in developing the science curriculum for a number of courses and for encouraging the academic achievements of many.

Alumnus Christopher Hayward, C94, Social Science, said that Winkler was among several of his favorite professors.

“I came to Benedictine my freshman year as an undergraduate Biology student with plans to attend medical school,” Hayward said. “Let me tell you, that first year was rough. I spent so much time in Professor Winkler’s office I will bet if I were to see him today, he would still know me. This was a man who truly cared.”

In retirement, Winkler plans to travel and visit with children and grandchildren. He also plans to take history or literature courses and catch up on overdue house projects.

The dedication and care exhibited by Benedictines such as Meeker, Clark and Winkler keep the University focused on student success in a values-centered academic environment.
Take a Quick Survey About Our Updated Website

Throughout the past year, Benedictine has been working to update and upgrade the University website. Now that we are nearing the end of the initial project, we invite the University community to visit the revised ben.edu and tell us what you think.

Please go to ben.edu/survey to provide us with your feedback.