Welcome Abbot Dismas

You’ve seen him at graduations and other Benedictine activities — the black robed, tall, bearded man who wears a silver cross that settles on his chest as his long strides take him to meetings, across campus or at graduations. Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B., by virtue of his role as Abbot of St. Procopius Abbey, was the Chancellor of Benedictine University for the past 17 years. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees.

When Abbot Hugh celebrated his 65th birthday, according to the laws of the American Cassinese Congregation, he had to submit his resignation as Abbot. The monks spent months in preparation for the Abbatial Election which was held on December 29.

It was a prayerful, discerning process. The monks completed a self-study about spiritual needs, the Abbey’s physical plant, financial needs and human resource concerns. That self-study ushered in a lot of preparation for election day. Appropriate readings were read aloud at their main meal, and discussions took place at Abbey meetings about the role of the Abbot. With reason, there was a certain amount of anxiety surrounding this event, for Abbot Hugh had been in that spiritual and secular position for a long time.

However monks, by virtue of their life-choice, are prayerful men, who believe that God chooses. And though men throughout time have often scratched their heads about the result of such an election — they do believe that God makes the final choice.

After months of preparation, the monks gathered on December 29 to begin the election process. A two-thirds vote was required for the first three ballots; a majority vote for the final one. The candidates were evaluated, a prayer was invoked and then they voted.

The elected monk, Fr. Dismas Kalcin, O.S.B., made a profession of faith, signed required documents and each monk then pledged his obedience. It was a very important time in the Abbey’s history. Abbot Hugh could have been re-elected but, as he had already told the monks, he felt it was time for a new Abbot. He hopes to attend the Aquinas Institute in St. Louis and study spiritual direction.

During my presidency I have often talked about the founders of this University. Abbot Hugh was a modern-day founder.

We now welcome Abbot Dismas Kalcin, O.S.B., the ninth Abbot of St. Procopius Abbey.
When serious historians hear the words "October 1964," their thoughts turn instantly to the minor classic of that title by David Halberstam, who masterfully studies and analyzes all that led up to the epic World Series that month between the Yankees and the Cardinals. Others events, admittedly, were occurring elsewhere: the round-faced Soviet dictator known for bashing his shoe was being overthrown; Senator Goldwater's attempt to unseat President Johnson was disarraying, notwithstanding a well-received speech by an actor from California; and there had been some unpleasantnesses two months before in someplace called the Trianon Gable. But more epistemological occurrences could only pale by comparison with the drama to be found in that autumn's confrontation pitting the Cardinals of Gibson and McCarver against the Yankees of Mantle and Ford.

October 1964 was, however, also the month in which an address was delivered at Chicago's Conrad Hilton Hotel by the newly-elected Abbot of St. Procopius. Fr. Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B. From the vantage-point of 2002, Abbot Daniel's part in our University's history (especially as president from 1959-1965 and again from 1971-1976) perhaps seems increasingly distant. For a full 25 years have passed since that day in July 1977 when Holy Church snatched Abbot Daniel away from Lake, where Pope Paul VI named him auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Joliet. Later, Pope John Paul II would appoint him first Bishop of Salina, Kansas, and then Archbishop of Dubuque. Archbishop Daniel continues to serve the Church in many ways from his current residence near Denver, but few of the present members of the University's faculty, administration and staff have ever had the privilege of working with him. By sharing a few excerpts from his October 1964 address, I hope to do something to remind us all of the lasting contribution he made to the school's development.

Abbot Daniel readily conceded that many in the world of the 1960's would find the ideals of St. Benedict baffling and anachronistic. He contended, however, that there remained a place for the Benedictine vision even in a rapidly changing world. As he observed:

"Modern man seems unaware of his destiny or how to achieve it. He struggles to maintain his personal dignity and rights and at the same time permits his own values, monasticism, in a world of unbalance, stands for sanity... By keeping alive, in a world of mutual distrust, an awareness of man's dignity and his relationship in charity to the rest of the human race, monasticism brings with it hope."

It is easy to detect a continuity of approach between the passages cited above and the "person in community" theme of the University's present first year seminar and, indeed, the entire core program. Not that the developers of the seminar and core based their work upon words spoken by Abbot Daniel in 1964. But it seems reasonable to suggest that amidst all the changes of the last few decades, amidst all the growth and development of our University, certain traditionally Benedictine values have not only survived, but flourished anew. A person-centered educational philosophy, a respect for the other growing out of respect for God, the balance and common sense that grow out of instruction based upon right reason, an acknowledgment of the importance of order and permanence—these are goods of a perennial nature, arising out of the "sanity and hope" that, at its best, the Benedictine tradition offers to every age that it touches.
The program is open to math majors. The first grant is from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) and will provide $525,634 over a three-year period. The second grant is from the U.S. Department of Education’s Transition to Teaching Grant for $560,530. This grant will support a formalized mentorship-training program and scholarships for student candidates.

Due to the national concern for teacher shortages in math and science, the Alternative Teacher Certification Program at Benedictine is highly desirable. “This is a unique program, because it uses a holistic approach, where candidates are immersed in a teacher program that is organized around learning communities, which embed traditional content coursework that is typically taught in a teacher preparatory program,” said Kolich. “This program addresses teacher competencies in a truly alternative way and changes science and math professionals into certified, quality teachers,” said Eileen Kolich, associate provost for academic affairs. Kolich also oversees program reviews, assessments, accreditation and funded programs and grants and will direct these grants over the next three years.

The students in the program are trained through problem-based learning techniques specifically in teaching math and science. The program consists of an eight-week, full-time summer program and a one-year mentorship internship. “This mentorship is critical to the success of the teacher,” adds Kolich. “Mentors are trained to support teachers and help them acclimate themselves to their new surroundings. Out of the nine students in our first cohort for this program, eight have been employed by their internship site. That is truly a success,” concludes Kolich.

Benedictine President Bill Carroll adds, “A FIPSE grant speaks to innovation, and is one of the most difficult to obtain. This grant was built on our ground-breaking Alternative Teacher Certification Program in the sciences. In the last two years, the program has received approximately $1 million in federal support. In addition, original art is a vital part of any university environment and is a vital component of the liberal arts program,” states Fr. Michael.

“The program is open to math and science professionals with at least five years of professional experience in those fields. For more information about this program, contact the School of Education at (630) 829-6182,” concludes Kolich.

Fr. Michael Brings ART APPRECIATION to the Benedictine Community

Michael Romechuk, O.S.B., is not only Benedictine University’s and St. Procopius Abbey’s art curator, he is also the passionate voice that reminds the Benedictine community of the importance of art in everyone’s life.

Benedictine University’s walls vibrate with artwork. The Benedictine art collection has recently been cataloged and photographed and contains more than 2,000 pieces, plus 400 fine art posters. The collection includes sculptures, paintings, drawings, photography, calligraphy, ceramics and other craft and folk art pieces. The bulk of the collection is made up of original prints — modern artists, Japanese art, Slavic and New Mexican.

There are four kinds of print art within the collection: relief, intaglio, screen press and lithograph. Benedictine teaches three of these forms of art currently, and will be adding lithography soon.

“The part of the purpose of this collection is to call attention to the studio art program at the University. It serves as a reference for students. In addition, original art is a vital part of any university environment and is a vital component of the liberal arts program,” states Fr. Michael.

The program has come a long way since Fr. Michael first founded it in 1978. The program prides itself on offering the classic approach to design, drawing, painting and printmaking. Lettering, layout and calligraphy are the hallmarks of a Benedictine school and are taught with this in mind.

The history of art is also emphasized along with an appreciation of the language of art. Fr. Michael believes these excellent foundation courses help students to excel in the arts. “Studio classes have no more than 15 students. This is a must for proper guidance and direction. A place where students from all over the area can come and see these wonderful pieces,” adds Fr. Michael.

Fr. Michael attended the Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts. He exposed himself to all types of art in order to formulate his own studio art program at Benedictine.

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MBA 690 Internship Underway

The Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) Internship course launched this fall combines classroom preparation, assessments from Benedictine University’s Career Services and opportunities for supervised internship experiences to qualified M.B.A. students. Larry Henry serves as internship director, working with Sandra Gill, M.B.A. department chair, to mentor and develop student success. “Our focus is to help M.B.A. interns excel in every class, not just MBA 690. We want to help each student develop their fullest potential in this difficult economy, so the internship experience is just the start,” stated Gill.

WebFlex M.B.A. Offers OnLine Educational Options

WebFlex M.B.A. courses offer Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) students the flexibility of online learning (OL) with the comfort and quality of classroom instruction from experienced full-time and adjunct M.B.A. faculty. MBA 520 Managing in a Complex Environment, MBA 541 Business Statistics and MBA 530 Organizational Behavior started this fall in partnership with Collegis, a national leader in instructional technology and design for higher education. Classes meet on weekends, usually once a month, throughout the academic quarter for face-to-face instruction. Individual and team assignments are completed using WebCT®, used in higher education throughout the nation.

The three 500-level WebFlex M.B.A. courses launched this fall followed intensive instructional design efforts with five full-time and adjunct M.B.A. faculty. As result, Margaret O’Leary, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor and immediate past department chair, leveraged her pioneering work with WebCT® in the 2000-2001 academic year to produce five new video streaming lectures for her MBA 641 IT Management with Bill Klaves.

Sandra Gill, M.B.A., associate professor of business and department chair, combines individual case analyses with team projects in her MBA 520 WebFlex course, where students have established live chat and discussion forums for their weekly assignments outside of the classroom.

WebFlex courses provide 24/7 support for students and faculty with the on-campus expertise of Joe Robey, WebFlex M.B.A. program manager. Collegis technical staff provides off-campus technical support around the clock. Mary Labuen, WebFlex M.B.A. program manager, connects WebFlex courses to area corporations and interested students. She can be contacted at (630) 829-6368.

Let Your Fingers Do The Walking

How to Take Your Company Global

Benedictine University has launched a new cohort in the accelerated Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program. This highly successful program attends classes one night a week, the same night for the entire program, which allows them to schedule work and family activities. It is a cohort group, meaning that students start classes together and remain together until completing the required courses. Their study groups meet weekly outside of class to complete group assignments. The cohort M.B.A. programs are on the Lisle campus and at several regional sites.

One of the assignments for the second M.B.A. cohort group’s International Business course was to investigate Web sites to recommend to businesses considering doing business internationally. They wrote about a variety of Web sites that will be helpful to individuals and businesses interested in doing business in other countries as well as people that want to learn about another country.

Benedictine University M.B.A. programs include the evening M.B.A., which has been Benedictine University’s largest M.B.A. program for more than 25 years. There are both evening and weekend courses available. The New Internship M.B.A. provides new graduates an opportunity to gain business experiences through an internship while they work on their M.B.A. degree. The WebFlex M.B.A. combines traditional classroom instruction on weekends with custom designed online course work. The Executive M.B.A. is the cohort weekend model for senior executives.

To learn more about this student project, please contact Sandra Gill, Ph.D., chair of the M.B.A. programs, at (630) 829-6216 or sgl@ben.edu.

Number of M.B.A. Graduates Now Tops 2,000

Benedictine University has received a $10,000 grant to support its disaster management concentration within the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) program. This is one of two grant applications that have been developed to extend the program to remote populations and to faculty who are in distant locations. According to Alan Gorr, Ph.D., chair of the M.P.H. program, both disaster workers and the experts are often at places that require their physical presence. Thus distance learning such as video conferencing combined with computers may contribute to creative education.

The SRC Foundation, through the Associated Colleges of Illinois and the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities, awarded the grant. As one of five recipients of this grant program, the competition is reported to have been strong.

The disaster management certificate and concentration in the M.P.H. program began in the spring of 2002 in response to the needs and initiatives of Homeland Security. The emphasis of the program is on making this emerging field more professional. Until now most instruction in disaster management has aimed to teach skills to emergency workers and managers.
Field Placement Program

For the past 15 years, the Department of Sociology and Psychology has provided the opportunity for their majors to test their skills, knowledge and interest in the field of sociology or psychology by completing a field placement for anywhere from three, five or six hours of credit. Field placements are offered year round to the sociology/psychology students who have met the academic requirements to apply (pre-requisite, junior or senior standing and 2.5 or higher grade point average (G.P.A.).

Students who are working toward a minor in social work, life span services and criminology are required to complete a field placement, while general sociology or psychology majors are strongly encouraged to pursue this opportunity. Students, after completing the clinical practicum lab studies minor and may be taken for psychology or communication arts credit. The minor was established in 2000 as an interdisciplinary course of study taught by faculty from the psychology, sociology, communications arts, and English language and literature departments. “This course is intended to acquaint the student with the entire screenplay writing process, from the initial step of developing the film theme to the final step of crafting the first draft of an original screenplay,” Iaccino explains. The work in the class consists of weekly advanced film writing exercises. Clips of films such as “Planet of the Apes,” “The Shining,” and “The Blair Witch Project” will be studied and used as guides for the film writing practice. In addition to the films, sections of Iaccino’s own screenplay, “The Vidbond Connection,” will be used as examples for the students’ own foray into the creative process. The class will underscore the cultural importance of narrative film in modern life, teach students how to interpret film from a variety of perspectives and develop a strong foundation for advanced film studies. Students will also learn to critique their work and eventually have a product that they can pitch to an agent of the Writers Guild of America, the premier organization for screenplay writers.

Ms. Iaccino, Ph.D., department chair of the sociology and psychology department, is teaching a new course offered through the psychology and communication arts departments. The course, Film Screenplay Writing, is a virtual how to course in the art of screenwriting. The class meets for eight weeks and is offered at 1.5 credits.

The screenplay writing class is part of the University’s film studies minor and may be taken for psychology or communication arts credit. The minor was established in 2000 as an interdisciplinary course of study taught by faculty from the psychology, sociology, communications arts, and English language and literature departments. “This course is intended to acquaint the student with the entire screenplay writing process, from the initial step of developing the film theme to the final step of crafting the first draft of an original screenplay,” Iaccino explains. The work in the class consists of weekly advanced film writing exercises. Clips of films such as “Planet of the Apes,” “The Shining,” and “The Blair Witch Project” will be studied and used as guides for the film writing practice. In addition to the films, sections of Iaccino’s own screenplay, “The Vidbond Connection,” will be used as examples for the students’ own foray into the creative process. The class will underscore the cultural importance of narrative film in modern life, teach students how to interpret film from a variety of perspectives and develop a strong foundation for advanced film studies. Students will also learn to critique their work and eventually have a product that they can pitch to an agent of the Writers Guild of America, the premier organization for screenplay writers.

The students who participate in the field placement program receive hands-on supervision from experts in their fields. Many students have reported that they have field placement programs been life-changing by assisting them in identifying the appropriateness of graduate training and what specific area to specialize in. Some of the students have appropriately networked while at their field site and have secured positions upon graduation from Benedictine University.

What students learn in their field placement is difficult to teach in the academic setting. The Sociology/ Psychology field placement program allows students the opportunity to observe and test the realities of what it is like to work in the helping field.

The Master of Science in Clinical Psychology program recently completed a yearlong collaboration with The DuPage County Health Department, Family Services of DuPage, Lutheran Social Services, Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging, Central DuPage Health, and other community service organizations. This collaboration provided a series of educational workshops on services for the aging population in DuPage County.

The programs brought together service providers, students and consumers to explore the range of services and the special needs of elderly residents in our community. This valuable program linked consumers to resources and information on medical and mental health services, respite and recreation, financial and legal assistance and housing and transportation considerations.

The series of five program events, held at Benedictine, drew an audience of more than 100 attendees each time and proved to be a successful partnering between organizations that care about the elderly. Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) were offered to providers and the DuPage County Health Services Senior Citizen Resource Directory was provided to all who attended.

The Business Management Institute, part of the University’s film studies minor and may be taken for psychology or communication arts credit. The minor was established in 2000 as an interdisciplinary course of study taught by faculty from the psychology, sociology, communications arts, and English language and literature departments. “This course is intended to acquaint the student with the entire screenplay writing process, from the initial step of developing the film theme to the final step of crafting the first draft of an original screenplay,” Iaccino explains. The work in the class consists of weekly advanced film writing exercises. Clips of films such as “Planet of the Apes,” “The Shining,” and “The Blair Witch Project” will be studied and used as guides for the film writing practice. In addition to the films, sections of Iaccino’s own screenplay, “The Vidbond Connection,” will be used as examples for the students’ own foray into the creative process. The class will underscore the cultural importance of narrative film in modern life, teach students how to interpret film from a variety of perspectives and develop a strong foundation for advanced film studies. Students will also learn to critique their work and eventually have a product that they can pitch to an agent of the Writers Guild of America, the premier organization for screenplay writers.

The Business Management Institute is pleased to introduce the Business Management Institute. This new series of workshops is part of a growing list of services at the University that are committed to supporting the business development needs of the community. At every point along the business life-cycle continuum a dynamic "business toolkit" is required. These powerful "business toolsets" will be delivered in a series of 12 three-hour seminars spread out over two years. Each seminar will provide students with cutting-edge best practices, allowing them to be more productive and achieve greater results immediately.

There is an opportunity for participants to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) in addition to participating in a professional development network. Seminar speakers are chosen for their professional success in their particular areas of expertise.

Part of our mission in the College of Business, Technology and Professional Programs is to reach out to the local business community. The Business Management Institute will provide a resource of practical action steps and skills, which will enhance the life of business owners and operators. Also, it will provide a professional development network for participants," said John Cicero, dean of the College of Business, Technology and Professional Programs.

These seminars will provide a rock-solid foundation for a student’s business and professional success. Reservations for this program are being taken at (630) 829-6088.
**New Business Certificate Programs**

OFFER AN EDGE IN THE WORKPLACE

She particularly cited her physiology class with Allison Wilson, Ph.D. and her biometry class with Larry Kamin, Ph.D., as two classes that were most memorable and enjoyable. Gavin recalled, “After each class, several adult students and I would head for the Lormick Library study room to attempt to make sense of the weekly homework projects. It was a real battle of wits to try to ‘outwit’ Dr. Kamin and his probability brain teasers.”

In the Benedictine liberal arts tradition, Gavin was required to take courses outside of her discipline, and she found a most rewarding experience in a drawing class with William Scarlato, M.F.A. Gavin reminisced, “The trek up to the fourth floor for class was memorable. Passing through the music department was part of the total experience. You were serenaded by sopranos and jazz and classical pianists. While working on art projects at night, I was inspired by the gospel choir. It was a real gift for me to polish my art skills. I thought that part of my life was lost when I chose the field of science. I am so happy that art has such an important place at Benedictine.”

Gavin spoke further of her Benedictine tutelage, “Benedictine took someone with minimal computer knowledge and transformed me into a research professional. I have been able to attend school full-time while working full-time. Benedictine has filled that empty space that had been inside of me for so long.”

The Certificate in Management program provides the skills and knowledge needed to move into supervisory and management positions. The program improves students’ skills in communication, analytical thinking and appreciating the human element in business organizations. All students in the Certificate in Management program will receive a thorough grounding in the important functional areas of management, including human resources, team building, entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship, and emphasizing the management process of planning, implementation and control.

The Certificate in Marketing program provides students with a comprehensive background in important areas of marketing, including markets, product, price, promotion and place of distribution. The program improves students’ skills in communication and analytical thinking necessary for developing marketing decisions and related business issues.

The Certificate in Business program provides the specific skills, knowledge and practices applicable to various aspects of the functional areas of business. All students will become fully acquainted with the principles pertinent to most areas of business: accounting, marketing, economics, international business, management, entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship.

“Taking the first step toward a new future is never easy,” Cicero said. “So as working adults consider their options, we encourage them to consider the Business Certificate Programs at Benedictine. In an uncertain world, one of life’s certainties is the need to learn new skills.”

For more information, call Benedictine’s University College at (630) 829-6200.

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**International Center**

**Study Abroad**

**Expands Students’ Horizons**

by Kathleen Moy, study abroad advisor, International Center

Students spending a summer in Copenhagen study at the Copenhagen Business School and enjoy a cosmopolitan city. Close to quaint medieval towns, white beaches and lovely forests, participants can enroll in one or two business courses, music appreciation and impact of nutrition.

Participating in the study abroad program to Strasbourg enables students to experience the beauty of the Alsace region of France. The itinerary also includes educational and cultural trips to Provins, Chartres, Alsatian villages, Paris, Ille-de-France, Colmar and Aachen.

Studying in Madrid expands students’ knowledge of Spain in an immersed Spanish-speaking environment. While visiting Leon, Madrid and Toledo, students can earn credit in advanced oral communications, elements of Spanish civilization and culture, and the way of St. James and medieval Spain.

Currently, the International Center has semester and year-long exchange agreements with the Copenhagen Business School in Denmark, Universidad de Monterrey and Instituto Tecnologico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Mexico and Chuo University in Japan. These partnerships enable Benedictine students to enroll in highly academic programs enriched by native and international students.

Over semester break, students have the opportunity to enhance their study of medieval renaissance England. Participants can pursue medieval art and artifacts at the National Gallery, Tate Britain and various museums in London.

Study abroad programs assist in broadening one’s horizons by providing opportunities to reinforce language skills, prepare for a future career, learn about different cultures and gain a new perspective of the world, all while cultivating life-changing experiences.

Visit the International Center in Benedictine Hall Room 240.

**Adult Alumnae Feels FULFILLED**

by Elizabeth Summers, C’00

Catherine Gavin received a college diploma at Benedictine University, but she also came away with renewed insight into the importance of a higher education. As an adult student in an undergraduate curriculum, her challenges were numerous and invigorating.

Benedictine’s adult program has filled an important need in the community for students like Gavin. Donna DeSpain, dean of University College explains, “Adults return to college for various reasons. For many, it is the unfinished business that they have always dreamed of finishing. For others, it is the realization that a college degree is now necessary to move them on to the next step in their careers. In our changing economy, some adults who were successful in careers without degrees are forced to begin again and a college degree is now essential.”

“My academic experiences have been wonderful. This is not to say that I did not struggle or shed some tears, but the nutrition faculty have honed [the students] into nutrition machines,” Gavin said. Gavin found her most difficult classes as the most rewarding.

The recent upheaval in the U.S. economy has had at least one positive consequence,” said John Cicero, dean of the College of Business and Technology and Professional Programs. “It was a real gift for me to polish my art skills. I thought that part of my life was lost when I chose the field of science. I am so happy that art has such an important place at Benedictine.”

Gavin spoke further of her Benedictine tutelage, “Benedictine took someone with minimal computer knowledge and transformed me into a research professional. I have been able to attend school full-time while working full-time. Benedictine has filled that empty space that had been inside of me for so long.”

“The recent upheaval in the U.S. economy has had at least one positive consequence,” said John Cicero, dean of the College of Business and Technology and Professional Programs. “It was a real gift for me to polish my art skills. I thought that part of my life was lost when I chose the field of science. I am so happy that art has such an important place at Benedictine.”

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“T"
Ph.D. Program

Accomplishments

The Benedictine University Ph.D. program also involves international scholars in research work including the leading European scholars on Action Research and Chaos Theory, illustrated by David Coghlan, Ph.D., Trinity College, University of Dublin; Ralph Stacey, Ph.D., University of Hertfordshire, UK; and Frans Van Eijnatten, Ph.D., of Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands.

The Global and International Organization Development book by Sorensen, Head, Yaeger and Cooperider (2001) continues to be used at numerous universities and colleges including the University of California—Berkeley and Albion University.

The quality of the Benedictine University Ph.D. program is validated again as Debra Orr-Alfeo, Ph.D. candidate, receives the First Student Presentation Award given by the OD Network.

The Benedictine University Ph.D. program is becoming nationally known as we are attracting more students from around the country and experienced a 40 percent increase in out-of-state enrollment. Students came from Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, New York and California.

Chi-Chi Catalano, associate director of admissions, stated, “I’m most pleased with the diversity our students bring to the campus as noted in the 2003 U.S. News & World Report. Benedictine University was ranked sixth for Campus Diversity in the Midwest.”

Benedictine was also listed as a Top School and “Best in the Midwest.”

A lot of students will be able to ‘Experience the Benedictine Difference’ this year, and we will continue to help others do the same in the future.


**AQIP Program Explored and Accepted**

Eileen Kolich, Ph.D., associate provost of academic affairs, has lead Benedictine University in exploring the feasibility of a more proactive approach to re-accreditation. As the head of the Accreditation Task Force, Kolich oversaw the steps necessary in deciding if the University should participate in the Academic Quality Improvement Project’s (AQIP) process. AQIP was introduced on campus in January 2002, in an attempt to explore the possibility of pursuing University re-accreditation through an alternate process offered by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NCA).

The AQIP process is structured around quality improvement principles and processes and integrates accreditation into the University’s own strategic planning and timetables.

In order to see if AQIP was a good match for Benedictine, a yearlong timeline was introduced. The steps included:

1. A review of the University’s current strategic plan and outcome measurement system.
2. Identification of potential partners and collaborators.
3. Development of an action plan.
4. Implementation of the action plan.
5. Evaluation of the impact of the action plan.

To decide whether AQIP was the best route for enabling us to maximize our potential, facilitate strategic planning and lead to re-accreditation,” stated Kolich.

The AQIP process enables universities to find their personal directives and narrow them down to the top five things they can do right now to succeed. They also use the values and principles found in high-performing institutions as a guide to success.

On December 5, 2002, the AQIP process was approved and will be implemented.

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**Title III Brings Technology To The Classroom**

Imagine participating in a course that requires you to interact electronically with classmates outside of class by exchanging drafts of a collaborative project. Or sitting at your desk and viewing a video about an online course at Benedictine University, made possible by a five year, $1.75 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Transforming Today

The project, part of the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program, is designed to encourage use of new technology to transform the way students and faculty interact. When the University first learned that it had been chosen to receive the grant two years ago, a team immediately set out to meet its two major objectives, one addressing advising and the other explaining instruction.

**Online Service**

The first component, overseen by Ethel Ragland, Ph.D., has already begun to transform registration and advising by making information immediately available through two Web sites connected with the Benedictine University Web page. (See below.)

Recently added is a new faculty toolkit feature that allows faculty to verify student enrollment. In the near future, this site will allow faculty to submit course grades electronically and students to view their grades in a similar fashion.

**Access to Technology**

Component two of the grant, directed by Jonathan Lewis, Ph.D., has supported faculty technology workshops where instructors learn how to create and maintain Web pages, uses digital cameras and make the most effective use of new teaching technologies. Not only has the grant provided release time for some faculty to work on special projects (such as electronic portfolios of student materials and online course materials), it has purchased computers, cameras, scanners and printers for two training rooms.

In addition to these two areas, the Title III grant has also supplied computers for classrooms, brought guest speakers to campus and paid for travel to conferences about new teaching technologies. This year, the grant’s third, funds are earmarked to improve technology access for students with physical and learning disabilities. Already, Title III funds have purchased a new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant workstation for the Benedictine University library, and in the near future speech recognition technology will be acquired making it possible for students with hearing disabilities to view transcripts of lectures as they are being given.

Benedictine President Bill Carroll concludes, “AQIP is the most dynamic innovation in accreditation since I have been in higher education.

For years, our institutions of higher learning have been declaring the quality of their programs without any real verification as to the authenticity of these claims. AQIP will provide a process by which quality will be measured and assured. Any institution interested in assessing quality must strongly consider AQIP.”

On December 5, 2002, the AQIP process was approved and will be implemented.

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**Tegrity Adds Depth to Online Courses**

Tegrity WebLearner™ is a system of hardware and software that enables teachers to create and deliver online lectures to their students. The hardware includes a data projector and camera that projects Power Point presentations from a hard drive located on a cart onto a white board or even a white wall. A second camera films the teacher while a lapel microphone records her or his voice. The teacher controls the progress of the Power Point slides and may annotate the slides with a felt-tip marker applied directly to the whiteboard. The first camera captures this annotation. The completed presentation is uploaded onto a server which students can access through their personal computers and view any time at home, school or work. One instructor can wheel the system into a classroom for use without the need for any technologic support, such as a videographer.

Eileen Clark, associate professor of computer science and director, professional development coordinator, Title III grant, says, “Tegrity is a very cost efficient way of providing audio/video Web-based instruction. Lectures are captured and posted to the Web for asynchronous viewing by online students. The system also has the capability to do a real time Web cast and to burn lectures onto compact discs (CDs) for distribution.” Benedictine University has recently purchased a second Tegrity system to meet the demand for instructor creation of online lectures.

Margaret O’Leary, Ph.D., associate professor, M.B.A., program, has used the Tegrity system to create a growing number of 15- to 30-minute “lecturettes” for graduate students in physical and learning disabilities. Already, Title III funds have purchased a new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant workstation for the Benedictine University library, and in the near future speech recognition technology will be acquired making it possible for students with hearing disabilities to view transcripts of lectures as they are being given.

More information about the Title III grant and its impact on Benedictine University can be found online at [http://www.ben.edu/titleIII/](http://www.ben.edu/titleIII/).
Rudy Giuliani said he was able to get through the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center because, “I rested on the shoulders of giants.”

Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City and TIME Magazine’s 2001 “Person of the Year,” spoke to more than 2,000 people at Benedictine University’s Dan and Ada Rice Center on September 29, 2002 as part of the Richard C. Becker Great Issues – Great Ideas Lecture Series.

“Every leader must have a philosophy, a set of beliefs. What are the things that are important to you? People cannot follow ambiguity, they have to follow an example.” — RUDY GIULIANI

Giuliani’s speech, “Leadership in Difficult Times,” touched on his experience as leader of the nation’s largest city and as the voice for a country after the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

“Nothing must how much you think you know, you never know everything,” Giuliani said. “I was able to get through September 11 because I rested on the shoulders of giants, people who really knew how to get us through a crisis.”

Giuliani, the grandson of Italian immigrants, graduated from New York University Law School magna cum laude in 1968. He spent 18 years in the U.S. Attorney’s office and eight more in private practice before he was elected mayor of New York City in 1993.

Giuliani was also the guest of Benedictine President William Carroll at a private luncheon at the Rice Center. Following his lecture, Giuliani attended a reception in the Trophy Room at the Rice Center.

Among those attending Giuliani’s lecture were members of the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District, who presented the colors. The Benedictine University Concert Band played a selection of patriotic songs and faculty member Marc Stingley performed the National Anthem.

Benedictine Initiates Scholarship To Offer Firefighters College Degrees

In an unprecedented move, Benedictine University has offered Lisle-Woodridge Fire District firefighters the chance to earn a college degree free of charge. Local officials don’t know of another program like it. Neither does the International Association of Fire Fighters union, which represents about 255,000 firefighters in the United States and Canada.

The University and the Fire District have built strong community bonds over the years. After the events of September 11, like most people, Benedictine President William Carroll became acutely aware of the great sacrifice firefighters make to help others. Through his relationship with the Fire District, he also learned that in addition to the strenuous and dangerous work, the hours are long and the pay is low. Many firefighters often have second jobs to supplement their income. This spurred the decision for Carroll to start the Firefighters Scholarship Fund. The Fund is for the amount of $15,000/annually (approximately one year’s tuition at a private university or several part-time enrollments).

Carroll presented the idea to the Fire District and asked them to decide how they would like it awarded. The response was astounding and in true firefighter tradition, they worked as a team and came up with a way for the most people to benefit. They asked the University to consider using that money to pay instructors to teach whole classes of firefighters. The University decided to send instructors to the firehouses for classes so the greatest number of firefighters could be served.

An associate of arts, a bachelor of management and master of business administration programs have been developed for the firefighters. Of the 112 Fire District employees, more than half have applied to the program and 28 are currently enrolled. The first classes commenced in February 2002.

Carroll states, “I’m trying to structure this program on a no-cost basis to the firefighter. If we utilize federal and state programs already in place along with the generosity of the private sector, I believe that the firefighter can achieve a college degree at a minimal cost (for instance, the cost of books). I’m convinced that every firefighter in Illinois can receive a low cost, quality degree — if we establish the right partnerships. I hope this program will become a national model.”

Firefighters would agree. Lisle-Woodridge Fire District Bureau Chief Terry Vavra states, “While most people are going to college, firefighters are starting their careers. Training has always been a big part of the job and is part of what makes us the number one Fire District in the country; we are consistently running skills and becoming certified at many levels. But in today’s complicated world, a degreed education is becoming essential. You can learn problem solving and organization skills you can’t learn on the job, and a degree may become essential for firefighters to rise in the ranks at some point.”

“A degree brings firefighter validation on several levels. Firefighters learn through life experiences, but a degree gives you more credibility with the outside world. Also, in a career that usually spans between the ages of 21 and 51, it opens other career options when necessary, and a degree from a prestigious private university such as Benedictine is a definite plus,” concludes Vavra.

To learn more about this program, please contact Ellen Wenzel, assistant to the president, at (630) 829-6004.

Benedictine Initiates Scholarship continued from page 16

Benedictine Gives Memorable Presentation

continued from page 16

“Afterward, I felt guilty so I called my mom. I asked her if she watched the show, and she said, ‘You were funny in the monologue, but then they didn’t have you on after that’, ” Giuliani said. “I left it at that.”

Earlier in the day, Giuliani met with 400 high school students representing 13 area high schools in the Krass Center. He shared with them many of his ideas on leadership and government during the nearly one-hour question-and-answer session.

Giuliani’s visit was sponsored by NICOR; the Chicago Tribune; the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation; the Borse Family; and the Village of Lisle.

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Benedictine Initiates Scholarship continued from page 16

by Phil Brozynski

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Benedictine’s Scholarship Ball Delights and Rewards

The Krasa Center dining room was the site of the 37th Annual Scholarship Ball. The evening was filled with a spectacular drama of lights throughout both Kindlon Hall and Krasa. One patron termed the evening as, “something out of a romantic movie.” More than 40 items were donated by local vendors and friends of the University for both the live and silent auctions.

This year’s black tie event carried a special significance because of the reduction of the Monetary Award Program (MAP) through the state of Illinois. Benedictine University absorbed the 5 percent reduction for all new and returning MAP recipients. By initiating an offset for this loss to our students, Benedictine positively impacted approximately 575 students who fall into this category.

It was a successful evening with 270 in attendance. The Marshall Vente Band provided entertainment after the live auction raised close to $20,000. In total, the evening’s proceeds exceeded $170,000.

“The Scholarship Ball is such an important part of our University. It gives the Benedictine community a chance to dress up and enjoy a lovely evening out, but it also impacts our students in a positive manner by raising funds. Once people attend a ball, they usually want to keep coming back because they can feel really great about having such a good time,” states Julie Nelligan, director of alumni relations.

Nelligan adds, “Thank you to our co-hosts, Jeff and Sherry Rhodenbaugh, trustee co-chair, and Brand (C61) and Mary Ann Bobosky, alumni co-chair, plus all who helped volunteer their time to make this year’s ball such a big success.”

Ave Maria Restoration Made Possible by Duda Donation

The Ave Maria structure on the University’s south end underwent a much-needed restoration thanks to the generosity of Martha Duda. The gift was made in memory of her sister Mary Duda. Also, her nephew Ralph Duda is a class of 1977 alumnus.

Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B, designed the structure in 1953 and the construction was completed in 1954. Fr. Al Sinsky and Frank Arbanas donated the funds used to create the original structure.

Restoration was needed to repair the deteriorating marble exterior and to provide lighting around the statue of Mary.

It is through such generous donations that future generations will be able to enjoy the history and beauty of the Benedictine campus and community.

If you are interested in donating to the Benedictine community, please contact Brad Carlson, development director, at (630) 829-6362 or bcarlson@ben.edu.

Planned Giving Offers Advantages

Being generous is an important part of our Catholic instruction and heritage. But in these times of relative uncertainty and low interest rates, it becomes especially difficult. We need to be sure that there is enough for our families and for our future. There are three ways to give that make good sense to meet all of our priorities.

Plan A provides you with guaranteed fixed annual income for the remainder of your lifetime. Depending on your age, it will probably provide you with an annual income of 6 to 8 percent of the value of your gift, which is far better than what most certificates of deposit (CDs) or stock dividends are paying. Plan A is very simple to establish and can provide you not only with tax benefits for your donation, but like each of the three methods mentioned, can help you avoid capital gains taxes, as well.

Plan B includes the creation of a trust and offers flexibility. It also provides you with a fixed annual income amount, year after year. The advantage of Plan B over Plan A is flexibility. For gifts of the same amount, you can receive a larger portion back each year for greater annual income, or you can receive less back each year, but a larger tax deduction.

Plan C also requires a trust and offers beneficiary specified assets. It provides fixed annual income to Benedictine University. But after a specified period of years, the remainder of the assets in the trust goes to a beneficiary specified by the donor/s. If you are grandparents, these assets may be passed on to your grandchildren who will pay no taxes upon receipt.

For more information, please call Mike Wall, vice president of advancement, at (630) 829-6008, or Brad Carlson, development director, at (630) 829-6362.
The Birch Family Camp, part of the Herbert G. Birch Services organization, has been a haven for families afflicted with HIV/AIDS since 1989. Families come to the camp to enjoy a week of carefree, fun-filled moments together.

The camp utilizes more than 200 volunteers who work toward providing a place where kids can be kids and adults and teens can get the support they need. The camp tries to provide everyone with the kind of life they should be able to live: one where everyone is treated with respect and compassion, without prejudice or stigma.

Two Benedictine alumni, Christopher Mickus, C’96, and Keeli (Ellison) Mickus, C’97, have been fortunate enough to participate in this enriching and inspiring program. Keeli first went to the camp as a volunteer and had such a wonderful experience that Christopher decided to go this past summer.

The Birch Camp is a chance for families to enjoy the simple things in life that most take for granted. The families come from neighborhoods that are less than safe and are economically challenged, so participating in swimming, seeing wildlife, eating plenty of food and having carefree fun, are not part of their regular lives.

“What struck me the most is how generous the parents are with their children and themselves. They just embrace you, no questions asked. We all learned a lot from each other. The families at camp gave us much more than we could have possibly given them,” stated Keeli. “Kids should not be sick or have to deal with sick parents or siblings. Unfortunately, these families are sick. This camp is an outlet for them, and for one week they are at a place where they are guests and where, at least to a certain extent, their problems are lightened.”

Christopher Mickus also went to the camp and had a wonderful experience. “We both have a new outlook on life. These families not only struggle from a health standpoint, but from an economic standpoint as well. It is difficult to think of a reason to complain after meeting these strong kids and watching how brave they are.”

The camp now has more than 500 campers who enjoy this experience. Beyond camp, Birch provides support throughout the year with educational programs, social events and counseling.

“Keeli and I absolutely recommend this as a volunteer opportunity. We have no doubt that our life experiences drew us to this program,” concludes Christopher.

The Mickus’ have found that the getting is in the giving, which is something Benedictine University not only encourages but also tries to instill in every student, employee and friend of the community. Volunteering your time or resources to a cause that benefits others is a fulfilling and rewarding way to live life.
Homecoming '02

The day began with alumni and students filling the Krasa Center parking lot for tailgating activities. Later, the crowd cheered as the team entered the field to meet the Greenville Panthers.

It was a beautiful day with great weather and good food for Homecoming 2002. Plenty of alumni returned for the day and enjoyed renewing friendships with fellow classmates as well as enjoying the game. The class of 1962 celebrated its 40th anniversary and the class of 1982 celebrated its 20th anniversary.

In an exciting contest, the Eagles football team beat the Panthers 27-21 in overtime. The Homecoming dinner/dance, complete with a pig roast, topped off the day’s festivities for students and alumni alike. The alumni office thanks all who volunteered and attended.

The alumni office is already in the planning stages of Homecoming 2003 and is looking for your help in planning class reunions for class years ending in a three or an eight. Please contact Julie Nelligan, director of alumni relations, at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu.

alumni identified

The ‘computer hackers’ are Bob Reznok, C93, and Paul Chrobak.

The ‘ladies at lunch’ are Jenny (Gallagher) Squires, C93, Dianne Kachinski and Patty (Benesh) Bushland, C91.

Contributed by: Kim Davis, C93, and Margaret Roth, professor.
The response to our article on the ‘Tradition of Science at Benedictine’ has been very positive. We do want to remind all the readers that this project is far from finished and we continue to need stories and those interesting facts and even legends about science when you were a student here.

Science-related photos from any era are desperately needed.

With any history story there always are flaws, errors and omissions. I failed to mention the one member of the Benedictine community who has quietly been the science link to the Abbey for the last 30 years — Fr. Theodore Suchy, O.S.B. Fr. Ted, the consummate biologist, has carried on the tradition of the Junicas as the museum curator since 1972, an associate professor and chair of the biology department and a driving force behind many programs including the health science major.

A much larger book edition of our science tradition is in preparation and will include many other professors with a department-by-department history.

Please send your stories, photos and questions to:
Dr. Wayne Wesolowski, Department of Chemistry
Benedictine University
5700 College Road
Lisle, IL 60532
wwesolowski@ben.edu
Career Services Receives Donation From A.M. Castle Metals

The Department of Career Services received a generous donation from the Castle Metal Foundation. Founded in 1890, A.M. Castle Metals is recognized as North America’s largest industrial distributor of carbon, alloy, stainless steel, nickel alloys, aluminum, titanium, brass and copper.

For the past three years, Castle Metals has donated to Benedictine’s career services office in an effort to strengthen the partnership between the two parties. Former Castle corporate staffing manager, Sharon Gilbert, G95, has been instrumental in supporting Benedictine’s mission through donation of her time and presenting at various Benedictine programs.

While at Castle, she participated in the recruiting efforts of Benedictine students.

Career Services thanks Castle Metals and Sharon Gilbert for their ongoing support of Benedictine University and looks forward to a long, productive partnership with them.

Network Your Way to More Career Success

This past September, 30 alumni, students and community members gathered together to network and listen to Lillian Bynoe of DuoForce Enterprises speak on enhancing networking skills.

Bynoe related that cradle to grave security is a thing of the past and that building relationships is the key to controlling one’s destiny. She helped the group to hone and enhance their networking skills to make their interactions meaningful and memorable.

This was the first in a series of three Community Career Workshops sponsored by career services and alumni relations. The second seminar will be held in March 2003. For more information, please contact Julie Comiso, director of career services, at (630) 820-6040 or jcomiso@ben.edu.

Class of ’86

Glen Gabert, Political Science, in September, Gabert celebrated 10 years as the President of Hudson County Community College in New Jersey.

Class of ’73

Jack Beary, Political Science, as of June 2002, is the public information officer for the Public Building Commission of Chicago.

Class of ’77

Carl J. Sabo, Elementary Education, is currently enrolled at Boston College in M.Ed/A.M. program. Sabo is also the assistant coach for the women’s basketball team at Rhode Island College. He resides in Cambridge, MA.

Class of ’86

Vince Notariano, Business and Economics, is the general manager of PIM’s Inc. He and his wife, Angie, are at home in Westmont.

Class of ’89

Heidi Judson, International Business and Economics, is director of international assignments group for Fidelity Investments. Juday and her husband, David, reside in Naperville with their son, Bryan.

Class of ’91

Diane A. Ogilvie, Psychology, has been honored with fellowships through the Fellowship in Education Research. Juday and her husband, David, reside in West Roxbury, MA.

Class of ’91

Joey Wise, Finance, and his wife, Brenda (Kilpatrick) Wise, Physical Education, reside in Naperville with their two children, Ryan and Hannah. He is a consultant with Acquity Group.

Class of ’94

Jean (Siers) McMillen, Finance, has been promoted to manager of special events/projects for Radiological Society of North America (RSNA). She and her husband, Bob, and their son, Bobby, live in Naperville.

specialization in the Interdisciplinary Cognitive Science Program at MSU.

Bob Pieper, Physical Education, is currently the athletic director/front coach for Glenbrook North High School. Pieper and his wife, Jill, have two daughters, Nicole and Brooke. They reside in Vernon Hills.

Class of ’92

Donald J. Gaither, M.B.A., is now with Technical Consumer Products as the sales and marketing administrator. He currently resides in Medina, OH.

Class of ’90

Sandra Marcella Gallaghe, Sociology, completed his Master of Education degree from Loyola University in May 2002. She resides in Naperville.

Michele Money, M.B.A., is a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois. She is also listed in the 1997 edition of Who’s Who Among Young Women of America.

Edward Smith, Ph.D., Psychology and M.C.P ’96, earned his doctorate in psychology and is employed with Regus & Orn, Inc., a consulting firm in Oak Brook. Smith is a psychologist/ organizational consultant. He and his wife, Shannon (Nikkel), Smith, Special Education, live in Plainfield. She is a special education teacher in the Southwest suburbs. They are expecting twins in March 2003.

Joe Wisecup, Finance, and his wife, Brenda (Kilpatrick) Wisecup, Physical Education, reside in Naperville with their two children, Ryan and Hannah. He is a consultant with Acquity Group.

Class of ’94

Kristine (Farinacci) Evans, Elementary Education, and her husband, Joe Evans, Marketing, married in 1996. They now reside in Frisco, TX with their children, Joseph and Kelsey.

Primary Gallagher, History, is a history commission director with Amosatex USA, a federal government volunteer program in service to America. He is currently based in southeastern Utah and is working to preserve and organize their historical documents and writing down local oral history, mainly Native American.

Patricia Thomsongruang, Biochemistry, received her Ph.D. in environmental toxicology at the University of California, Riverside in August 2002. She is currently an environmental scientist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Human Exposure and Atmospheric Sciences Division/ Environmental Characterization and Appointment Branch.

Class of ’90

Lissa Barons, Communications, recently became marketing manager for Whistle Jeweler. She resides in Chicago.

Cherity (Hungary) Reyna, M.C.P., received her M.H.C.S. from Radford University in 2001 and was reappointed in 2002. She is currently a therapist in.

Students On A Mission

This past summer, students from Benedictine traveled to Sacre, Bolivia to work among the poorest of the poor with a group from the Diocese of Jujuy’s University Mission. President William Carroll received a complimentary letter form the Diocese’s University Mission Coordinator, Natalie Bayci, stating, “They (the Benedictine students) were such outstanding young people, that I wanted you and the school community at Benedictine University to know how proud you should be of these fine young people. They worked well as a team and were a blessing to the people they served... Special thanks to you, your staff and faculty who inspire and empower these young people to reach out to those in need.”

While in Bolivia, the students worked in several orphanages, a general hospital, a neurological hospital, a day care center and a home for troubled young boys.

Alumni Awards

Each year we are pleased to honor three alumni at the undergraduate commencement. The categories are: Distinguished Alumni Award, Alumni Service and the Award Benedictine Spirit Award. Please check the Alumni website (www.ben.edu/alumni) for the criteria for these awards and nomination form. Please send your nominations to the alumni office no later than March 28, 2003. Thank you for your recommendations.

Pictured left to right: Lillian Alvarez, Paulette Doyle, Mani Batish, Jonathan Harriand, Melissa Jimenez, Jabeen Ahmed and Sharon Lasich.
Des Moines, IA. She, her husband, Cliff, and their son, Christian, reside in Des Moines and will welcome a new baby in April 2003.

Sikirat A. Yusuf, Health Science, recently opened her own chiropractic office, Sincerely Chiropractic, in Calumet City, IL.

Class of ’99
Feinberg David, Computer Science, is a software developer for Dura and Henderson. He resides in Woodbridge, Ontario.

Joseph Manella, Political Science, is the licensing analyst for Lincoln Financial Group. He resides in Schaumburg.

Jennifer (Crechek) Plemincar, Accounting, recently passed her CPA exam and is the accounting manager for Center Point Properties. She and her husband, John, live in Aurora with their two children, Joshua and Jessica.

Class of ’91
John Kannius, M.B.A., has recently joined Cantius Health Services as vice president and CFO. He and his wife, Rosemary, along with their three children (Emily, Matthew and Alexis) reside in Prospect, KY.

Sherry Linker, Writing/ Publishing, is the assistant editor/web editor for Altered Publishing Corp. She resides in North Aurora.

Amanda Love, MCP, presented two case studies in PreTherapy on a panel representing Chicago Real Mental Health Center at the Annual Symposium in Ghent, Belgium during her tenure at Benedictine University. Her paper is available in the International PreTherapy Review, a publication of the Italian Society for PreTherapy Research and Practice. Love was introduced to the PreTherapy approach in working with severely ill clients during her first year in the master’s program in Clinical Psychology at Benedictine.

Loree served an internship at the Chicago Real Mental Health Center and continues her professional development and interest in psychotherapy of schizophrenia and related disorders.

Class of ’92
Kristin Deanne Hough, Political Science, is currently attending graduate school at DePaul University. She is in finance graduate intern with the city of Naperville. She also resides in Naperville.

Andre J. Sukta, Health Science, is currently attending graduate school at DePaul University. He is a family practice resident at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital. He resides in Mokena, IL.

Births
Elizabeth Ward Collins, Elementary Education ’84, and her husband, Patrick, announce the birth of their daughter, Madeline Elizabeth, in July 2002. She was welcomed into their Naperville home by her big brother, Brendan.

Judith (Bisophp) Connay, Psychology ’87, announces the birth of her third daughter, Emily, in January 2002. She joined the Cambridge team and the family is at home in Cambridge, RI.

Bridge (Fullick) Harris, Elementary Education ’90, and her husband, Richard, announce the birth of their third daughter, Sophia, in January 2002. She was welcomed to their Naperville home by her big brothers, Brendan and Connor.

Sikirat A. Yusuf, Health Science, recently opened her own chiropractic office, Serenity Chiropractic, in Calumet City, IL.

James B. Zimmer, Physical Education ’90, married recently (Melissa Zimmer). Zimmer is a strength and conditioning coach and the varsity football offensive coordinator at Amos Alonzo Stagg High School. She resides in Mokena, IL.

Birth
Derek Wawrzynek, Computer Science, is a software developer for Davis and Henderson. He resides in Woodbridge, Ontario.

Joseph Schrom, Special Education ’80, and his wife, Margaret, announce the birth of David Daniel on September 11, 2002. He was welcomed to their Plainfield home by his sister, Elizabeth, and his brother, Kevin.

Renee (Motto) Podpora, Business Administration ’89, and her husband, Dan, announce the birth of their first child, Danielle, in January 2002. The family resides in Naperville.

Joseph Schrom, Special Education ’80, and his wife, Margaret, announce the birth of David Daniel on September 11, 2002. He was welcomed to their Plainfield home by his sister, Elizabeth, and his brother, Kevin.

It is with the greatest of sadness that we announce the passing of our brother, Michael Kulick, who was killed in Iraq.

Amer (Zarkk) Koga, Business Administration ’97, and his wife, Christi, announce the birth of Rika Francis in September 2001. The family is at home in Hanover Park, IL.

Darren O’Leary, Accounting ’99, and his wife, Margaret, announce the birth of David Daniel on September 11, 2002. He was welcomed to their Plainfield home by his sister, Elizabeth, and his brother, Kevin.


If you know where any of the following alums are, please contact the alumni office at (630) 829-0080 or alumni@ben.edu.

Class of 1999
John Katsianis, Science ’90, passed away on September 20, 2002.

John McGurty, Jerry Angermair; Art Janke; Mike Meier; John Stocknick and Jack Durany.

In attendance were not pictured: Warrington Parker, Jr.; Tom Kent; Gernie Schier; Mike Demm; Jack Hedenger; Joseph Marshall and George Matheson.

Des Moines, IA. She, her husband, Cliff, and their son, Christian, reside in Des Moines and will welcome a new baby in April 2003.

Sikirat A. Yusuf, Health Science, recently opened her own chiropractic office, Sincerely Chiropractic, in Calumet City, IL.

Class of ’99
Feinberg David, Computer Science, is a software developer for Dura and Henderson. He resides in Woodbridge, Ontario.

Joseph Manella, Political Science, is the licensing analyst for Lincoln Financial Group. He resides in Schaumburg.

Jennifer (Crechek) Plemincar, Accounting, recently passed her CPA exam and is the accounting manager for Center Point Properties. She and her husband, John, live in Aurora with their two children, Joshua and Jessica.

Class of ’91
John Kannius, M.B.A., has recently joined Cantius Health Services as vice president and CFO. He and his wife, Rosemary, along with their three children (Emily, Matthew and Alexis) reside in Prospect, KY.

Sherry Linker, Writing/ Publishing, is the assistant editor/web editor for Altered Publishing Corp. She resides in North Aurora.

Amanda Love, MCP, presented two case studies in PreTherapy on a panel representing Chicago Real Mental Health Center at the Annual Symposium in Ghent, Belgium during her tenure at Benedictine University. Her paper is available in the International PreTherapy Review, a publication of the Italian Society for PreTherapy Research and Practice. Love was introduced to the PreTherapy approach in working with severely ill clients during her first year in the master’s program in Clinical Psychology at Benedictine.

Loree served an internship at the Chicago Real Mental Health Center and continues her professional development and interest in psychotherapy of schizophrenia and related disorders.

Class of ’92
Kristin Deanne Hough, Political Science, is currently attending graduate school at DePaul University. She is in finance graduate intern with the city of Naperville. She also resides in Naperville.

Andre J. Sukta, Health Science, is currently attending graduate school at DePaul University. He is a family practice resident at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital. He resides in Mokena, IL.

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Mardelle Force (Rhodesia) had a short story entitled “Saved by Flowers” about a survivor of Nazi terror published in the Fall 2003 issue of Billboard. Her review of the inaugural screening of the film will be published in the BOMM MIIUS issue of that journal.

Nona Jones, Ph.D. (College of Business, Technology, and Professional Programs) wrote a letter that appeared in the October 2002 issue of Psychological Reports: The Journal of Experimental, Clinical, and Applied Psychology. The letter was submitted in response to a letter from a psychology student who questioned the use of statistics in research. Jones wrote that the use of statistics is necessary to ensure the validity and reliability of research findings and that it is important to be familiar with the basic concepts of statistical analysis.

Jim Iaccino (Fine and Performing Arts) performed with the Rockford Symphony as principal oboist on July 6 for their first summer concert. Iaccino has performed with the Rockford Symphony on numerous occasions and has been praised for his interpretations of contemporary and classical works.

Anonymous (Sociology and Psychology) conducted a Screenplay Writing Workshop at the Midwest Popular Culture Association Conference on October 5 in Moline, Illinois. The workshop was designed to help participants develop their screenwriting skills and learn how to effectively communicate their ideas to others.

Fr. Theodore Suchy, O.S.B. (Religious Studies and Philosophy) has co-authored a chapter in the New Fourth Edition of the Encyclopedia of Death and Dying. The chapter is titled “Death and Dying” and provides an overview of the field of death and dying studies, including historical perspectives, contemporary trends, and future directions.

Theresa Yang, Ph.D. (Organization Development) presented a paper on the role of video games in education at the annual International Conference of the International Society for the Learning Sciences in Orlando, Florida. The paper explored the potential of video games as educational tools and discussed best practices for designing effective learning experiences.

Healy and Viator Retirement
The Benedictine University community said goodbye to two longtime faculty members at a reception held for them last May. The celebration honored Gerard Viator, associate professor in the business department and Pat Healey, professor and program chairperson for the exercise physiology program. Viator served the University community for 20 years while Healey’s tenure was 16 years.

Through their outstanding careers and stellar teaching abilities, Viator and Healey have touched many students, staff and faculty. The positive mark they have left on Benedictine University will be felt long after their departure.
The men and women’s cross country teams hosted the 2002 NIIC Championship at Lisle’s Community Park on November 2. The women’s team placed second and the men finished tied for third place.

The highlight of the meet was the performance by senior Tracey Murnane. Murnane, who won last year’s women’s title, repeated as the champion winning the women’s race once again, earning her NIIC Female Cross Country Athlete of the Year honors. Murnane set a time of 21:57, which broke the course record and school record that Murnane set less than a month earlier at the Eagle Invitational. She came across the finish line more than two minutes ahead of the nearest competitor.

Murnane Repeats As NIIC Athlete of the Year

Senior Michael Robinson, the Eagles’ starting quarterback, broke a 26-year old school record set by Benedictine alumna and current Oakland Raiders head coach Bill Callahan.

Men’s Soccer Captures The NIIC Title

The men’s soccer team played host to the 2002 Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) Men’s Soccer tournament on October 25 and 27. The Eagles, who earned a spot in the title game after defeating Rockford College 4-3, defeated Dominican University 4-0 to earn a spot in the championship game.

In the week following the tournament, the NIIC announced it’s 2002 men’s soccer All-Conference team that included five members of the Eagles’ team. Bernard, Nervig, and Ward, sophomore Brandon Merkel and junior Toby Hernandez all received All-Conference recognition.

All-Conference awards are based on stats in NIIC games only. To that end, Bernard and Ward led the Eagles in NIIC action with identical stats both finishing with three goals and two assists. Nervig added two goals and two assists for six points, while Hernandez had two goals and one assist for five points. Merkel recorded 34 saves, while allowing seven goals in 450 minutes of action.

Robinson Breaks 26-year-old Passing Record Held By Raiders Coach, Callahan

Tennis Team Walks Away With Third Place Conference Finish

The women’s tennis team concluded its 2002 season placing third overall in the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) Tennis Championship hosted by Eureka College at Illinois State University on October 11 and 12.

The Lady Eagles’ top performer was sophomore Stacy Ohi who won the championship title at third singles. For her performance, Ohi was named to the NIIC All-Conference team.

In other singles action, junior Ashley Gray placed second at second singles and sophomore Melissa Sakurai placed second at fourth singles. Sophomore Erica Wagner placed third at first singles, while freshman Lisa Reisinger placed fourth at fifth singles.

In doubles action, Ohi and Sakurai teamed up to place second at second doubles, while Gray and Wagner took third place in first doubles.

The Lady Eagles concluded the 2002 season with a 6-4 overall record and a 4-2 NIIC record.

Kowalski Breaks 26-year-old Passing Record Held By Raiders Coach, Callahan

Senior Megan Kowalski and sophomore Lauren Sklaney finished fourth and fifth on the women’s side which earned them NIIC All-Conference recognition. They finished the race with times of 24:08 and 24:34, respectively.

On the men’s side, senior Justin VanGundy and freshman Chris Mansolf were the Eagles’ top performers finishing 10th and 11th respectively.

Murnane Repeats As NIIC Athlete of the Year

Senior Michael Robinson holds up a his signed photograph from LA Raiders coach Bill Callahan.
Tim Keeley
Named New Head Swimming Coach

Tim Keeley enters his first season as head coach for the Benedictine University men and women's swimming program. Keeley, who graduated from Benedictine in 1999, swam for the Eagles achieving All-American status in the 200-yard freestyle and participated in the NCAA Division III National Championships three times. He currently holds school records in the 200-yard freestyle, 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke.

Keeley has worked at Benedictine for the past two years as a counselor in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. He also served as an assistant coach with the swimming program last season.

Keeley will be looking to couple his strong recruiting skills with his extensive knowledge of the sport to return Benedictine swimming back to national respectability.

Women’s Soccer Lands Three On The All-Conference Team

The women’s soccer team played its way into the second round of the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) Women’s Soccer Tournament by defeating Clarke College 4-1 in a first round match-up on October 22. The Lady Eagles, who were the No. 4 seed, hosted the game against Clarke who entered the tournament as the No. 5 seed.

In the game, the Lady Eagles jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first half thanks to a trio of underclassmen. Sophomore Kortney Pope scored an unassisted goal in the 18th minute before dishing out an assist to freshman Michelle Dini, who scored her first goal of the season in the 29th minute. freshman Michelle Prather scored two goals of her own in the 42nd and 89th minutes of the game. Pope recorded an assist on Prather’s second goal.

The victory sent the Lady Eagles into a second round match-up with the No. 1 seed, Aurora University. The Lady Eagles traveled to Aurora for the game on October 24, and fell by a final score of 3-0 securing a fourth place conference finish.

The NIIC 2002 women’s soccer All-Conference team included three Lady Eagles. Prather and Pope along with sophomore Jennifer Germino were named to the team based on their performance in NIIC games only. Prather had a team-high 11 points on four goals and two assists. Germino recorded two goals in conference action for four points.

Niepomnik began his coaching career in 1996 as assistant women’s soccer coach at his alma mater, Northern Illinois University. After two years he departed for the University of Cincinnati where he was an assistant on the women’s soccer staff. From there Niepomnik then went east to take the position of assistant men’s soccer coach at St. Bonaventure University. After a year he returned to his alma mater for his second coaching stint, this time as the assistant men’s coach.

Niepomnik succeeded coach David Lienenberger who left Benedictine with the strongest class of men’s soccer recruits in more than a decade.

Derek Niepomnik
Named New Head Soccer Coach

Derek Niepomnik joined the Eagles coaching staff as the head men’s soccer coach just one week prior to the team reporting for pre-season training. In his first head coaching experience, Niepomnik led the Eagles to their first NIIC Championship in more than six years.

In his first head coaching experience, Derek Niepomnik led the Eagles to their first NIIC Championship in more than six years.

Niepomnik’s coaching career at Benedictine University’s Annual Fund:
Give Hope, Give Success, Give Opportunity.
### 2003 Upcoming events

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