Playing on the global stage.
St. Benedict’s Rule for Monks begins with a powerful imperative: Listen. And at Benedictine University, we believe in the importance of listening to one another. We therefore have named our magazine Benedictine Voices. We pledge that within these pages, members of the Benedictine community will speak with candor about issues facing our University and our world. We cordially invite you to enter into dialogue with us.

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“it is the mark of an educated mind to entertain a thought without accepting it.”

— ARISTOTLE

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— EDMUND BURKE

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— PROVERBS 27:19

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In my 10 years at Benedictine University, I have often looked back on the contributions of each Abbot, rector/president and Benedictine monk as historically the school grew and expanded into a prime higher learning institution. I used to walk the corridors of old Benedictine Hall and could almost hear echoes of seminarians, monks and young men rushing through uneven corridors to learn Catholic and Benedictine values, as well as other learning that prepared them for life.

Every Benedictine monk who taught here and/or worked here contributed to the growth of this institution. It is important that we recognize their contributions, as well as those of the last three living presidents who watched over this institution.

In the Spring 2005 Voices I reflected on retired Archbishop Daniel Kucera, O.S.B., and his contributions in two terms as president. In the Fall 2005 issue, I reflected on the contributions of Fr. Roman Galiardi, O.S.B., appointed president in 1965. Toward the end of his watch, the monks voted to change the name of St. Procopius College to Illinois Benedictine College (IBC). Fr. Roman guided IBC until Spring of 1971, when Fr. Daniel Kucera, O.S.B., returned as a second-term president. Fr. Daniel (now retired Archbishop of Dubuque) stepped aside in 1976 to become chairman of the Board of Trustees and to guide a Capital Campaign.

In June 1976, the Board of Trustees selected Richard C. Becker, Ph.D., a three-year trustee of the college, as the institution’s first lay president. Becker had spent 17 years in an international business career. He was also a scientist, electronics engineer and entrepreneur. In his first year, the College celebrated the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Lisle campus, the 50th year of its basketball season and launched the first varsity swimming team.

In the span of Becker’s 18-year presidency, IBC developed into a comprehensive, private college. Among his many achievements was the 1986 decision to absorb four graduate programs from George Williams College when that college closed. In the first quarter of that new expansion, 225 graduate students enrolled in four programs: Exercise Physiology, Public Health, Counseling Psychology and Management and Organizational Behavior.

For the Fall quarter of 1987-88, IBC added its sixth and seventh graduate programs: Master of Science in Fitness Management and Master of Management Information Systems. Becker emphasized a commitment to teaching and to strong academic standards. This was evident in the national ranking of the undergraduate science programs. “For three years prior to my presidency, I served as a trustee of the College and observed..."
growth, change and progress that occurred over the past two decades," Becker said.

During his presidency, the College nearly doubled its enrollment from 1,400 to 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students. Joseph F. Kindlon, chairman of the Board of Trustees at that time said, “Dr. Becker’s presidency crystallizes the realization of the modern, comprehensive college. His legacy will be a defining moment in the history of Illinois Benedictine College.”

The first Master of Business Administration degree was conferred in December 1978, and the following year, the college added both International Business and Computer Science as new undergraduate majors.

In 1980, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded IBC a challenge grant to stimulate a $1.46 million, three-year effort to support the humanities programs. Later that year, the college received a grant from the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation to further support that challenge.

A Scholars Program was added in 1981-82, aimed at the annual selection of 16 highly motivated freshmen seeking a liberal arts education with a global perspective. That quality program continues today.

A minor in gerontology, called LifeSpan, was established in 1982, the first such program in the area that related to aging. Among lead gifts for the Capital Campaign was a bequest from the estate of the late trustee John Krasa, M.D. Other gifts included a scholarship fund from the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation, and a four-year gift of funds and services from the monks at St. Procopius Abbey.

On October 24, 1986, ground was broken for the Krasa Center, a $4.7 million student center. The current building has been re-configured and now houses almost all student services.

Aside from the broadening and deepening of academic programs, Becker’s presidency was characterized by a marked commitment to community service. “Ladders for Learning” was an award-winning business/education partnership where IBC students tutored disadvantaged junior high school students. The Hughes Scholars program, under a $500,000 grant, united minority students desiring a science career with the College’s nationally recognized science program.

His leadership was also instrumental in establishing several consortia of colleges and universities: the Council of West Suburban Colleges, West Suburban Regional Academic Consortium and the West Suburban Post Secondary Consortium. This placed small, private institutions on an equal playing field with public institutions.

One of Becker’s final contributions as president was the development of the Ph.D. program in Organization Development. The program is now ranked as one of the top in the nation. (See story on page 5).

Upon reflecting on his presidency years, Becker said he is reminded of the many dedicated individuals with whom he worked and all the school has achieved. “Having had some small part in IBC’s achievements has provided me with a wonderful sense of satisfaction and fulfillment, combined with the knowledge that IBC (now Benedictine University) is building a confident future,” he said.

One wonders what would have happened to Benedictine University if the monks had not accepted tremendous challenges, and if the last three living presidents had not made decisions that insured our glorious history.

In the last three issues of Voices, I have shared with you the changes and growth at the University under these remarkable men. I salute the hard work they did while here.

Philosophers speak of “permanence amidst change” while searching for the reality that grounds all things in permanence. Benedictine University is “grounded” in its Catholic and Benedictine tradition. That will never change, because we keep moving forward as we stand on the shoulders of giants. ♦
Evolutionist, Creationist, Theist or What?

Over the past few years, the campus community has, in a number of ways, tried to articulate clearly its mission, its vision and its values. Our Vision Statement is simple, pointed and direct: “Benedictine University is a Catholic university in the Benedictine tradition that provides a values-centered liberal arts education enriched by our excellence in science.” The University prepares its “undergraduate and graduate students from diverse ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds... for a lifetime as active, informed and responsible citizens and leaders in the world community.”

Sometimes people ask what we mean by the “Roman Catholic Tradition.” In our published materials, (especially our booklet Mission, Vision, Values) we explain that this tradition “fosters a dialogue between religious and secular cultures while promoting ecumenical and multicultural understanding.” Within this environment, “religious faith and science are both directed toward the pursuit of truth, and both are strengthened through research and study.” Thus, the Catholic intellectual tradition properly encourages open, informed and intelligent discussions of controversial issues.

A challenge sent our way by the editor of Voices brought the two of us together to focus on a “hot” topic, the current debate going on between creationists and evolutionists and others in between. One need only refer to the October 20, 2005 issue of The New York Review of Books or the August 15, 2005 issue of Time magazine to encounter reports on the status of the various discussions involving both faith and reason. We at Benedictine use both in the pursuit of truth, and both are strengthened through research and study.” Thus, the Catholic intellectual tradition properly encourages open, informed and intelligent discussions of controversial issues.

Since we are frequently asked what might be the “Catholic” approach to this question, it seems important that we clarify at the outset that the Catholic Church has no formal “doctrine” on evolution, any more than the Church has doctrinal decrees on gravity or plate tectonics. Matters of science are beyond the Magisterium (teaching office) and are quite irrelevant to questions related to salvation, which is the Church’s primary focus for humanity.

However, this does not preclude Catholic theologians, scientists and philosophers, or for that matter the Pope himself, from discussing the issue of evolution from their own bases and competencies as scholars. In Pope John Paul II’s now famous letter to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (1966), the late Holy Father stated that evolution could no longer be considered as just “a hypothesis” because so much data have been collected to support and confirm the concept.
For most biologists, evolution is the biological process, common to all living things, by which populations of organisms change and exhibit diversity over time. This way of evolution is based on differential survival and reproduction of genetically variable individuals within a population, caused by environmental influences (natural selection). Generally, Catholic scholars do not see the process of evolution as being in conflict with the concept of a creator God. God created the progenitors of matter and energy from nothing (ex nihilo) and God also created processes (physical laws) — hence the evolving universe.

Examining the cover of the August 15, 2005, issue of Time magazine, we see the cover designer taking a detail from Michelangelo’s “Creation of Adam” from the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican — the scene when the finger of God reaches out in creation — though on this cover it points to a chimpanzee. The quote from the article’s author does challenge our thinking: “The push to teach ‘intelligent design’ raises a question: Does God have a place in science class?”

Bishop McDonald noted that while some Catholics have formed Catholic creationist societies, they are hardly “thinking with the Church,” especially since a variety of decrees (e.g., from the Pontifical Biblical Commission) indicate that it was not the sacred writer’s purpose to teach either science or history.

Generally, Catholic theologians do not find evolution inconsistent with any number of theological approaches, as long as evolution is understood to be within the boundaries of science and does not attempt to address ultimate and non-scientific issues such as the significance of human life or the meaning of the universe. As one Catholic theologian, Fr. Edward T. Oakes, S.J., associate professor of systematic theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois puts it, “If evolution simply means ‘descent with modification,’ then I would agree that evolution must be regarded as confirmed by scientific fact.”

Fr. Oakes points out that attempts to apply Darwinian principles outside the sphere of science has been “massively disconfirmed by history.” Regarding the often heated debate over evolution, Fr. Oakes recommends “everyone just take a deep breath and cool off for a while.”

From the viewpoint of the “ordinary Magisterium” of the Church, we always need to remember that we humans are intelligent, free and graced, and are the recipients of God’s revelation that is given to no other creatures on the earth. Pope Pius XII, in his encyclical letter Humani Generis, stated that “the teaching authority of the Church does not forbid that, in conformity with the present state of human sciences and sacred theology, research and discussion on the part of men, experienced in both fields take place with regard to the doctrine of evolution.” [H. Denzinger, Enchiridion symbolorum, 3896] The Pope spoke of the human body as having originated from “preexistent and living matter,” and that the Genesis account is a “popular description of the origin of the human race in simple and figurative language adaptable to the mentality of a people” living in a non-technological culture.

Pope John Paul II, in a discourse to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (October 22, 1996), reiterated the teaching from Humani Generis on the direct creation of the human soul by God. We must always take into account what we know about human nature: we are made in the image and likeness of God. The late Pope John Paul II taught so clearly: “the theories of evolution which, because of the philosophies which inspire them, regard the spirit either as emerging from the forces of living matter, or as simply epiphenomenon of that matter, are incompatible with the truth about man. They are therefore unable to serve as the basis for the dignity of the human person.” (“Discourse,” 5).

As people who are dedicated to this pursuit of truth, we must always be very careful not to believe at first glance reports that we may read in the newspapers. In many instances of reporting, we will find that journalists frequently distort stories about the Church’s teachings and will cause misunderstandings among biologists, atheists and others who may hold a variety of theological views. For example, Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, the archbishop of Vienna, wrote an opinion page article that was published in the July 7, 2005 issue of the New York Times.

Two days after his opinion piece appeared, the Times published a front-page article with the headline: “Leading Cardinal Redefines Church’s View on Evolution.” One need only read the original article carefully to understand that this is something the cardinal clearly did not do. So much depends on definitions, and it is here that we cannot be simplistic in our approaches.

As many of us learned when trying to answer questions posed by our philosophy professors of the past, so often we must say, “Well, it depends.” Science and faith cannot conflict when each, with its methodology and goals, is properly understood. Fr. Oakes pointed out “if a neurologist were to say that, because consciousness depends on brain activity, there is no such thing as a soul — that would be an invalid conclusion.”

As we all look to our University as a place where controversial questions can be examined and discussed, we do hope that we can, as Fr. Oakes suggested, “approach this controversial subject with the same serenity and robust confidence that Pope John Paul II adopted when he took up the topic of evolution.”

One fundamental problem with the current popular use of the term “intelligent design (ID)” is that it is often simply a new epithet for positing a literal six-day creation belief, discounted by science, and an approach that Bishop Andrew McDonald of the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, while a witness at a state hearing on evolution, claimed that there was no chance that the Catholic Church would join this cause (creationism).

As we all look to our University as a place where controversial questions can be examined and discussed, we do hope that we can, as Fr. Oakes suggested, “approach this controversial subject with the same serenity and robust confidence that Pope John Paul II adopted when he took up the topic of evolution.”
This fall, the Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior Program (M.S.M.O.B.) and the Ph.D. Program in Organization Development (O.D.) began a celebration of 40-, 30-, 20- and 10-year milestones. These milestones included:

- 40 years since the start of the M.S.M.O.B. Program headed by Peter Sorensen, Ph.D.
- 30 years of Contemporary Trends in Change Management Lecture Series
- 20 years of the M.S.M.O.B. Program at Benedictine University
- 10 years since the start of the Ph.D. Program

These programs are among the top programs of their kind in the world. This has given Benedictine University a global influence that can be easily measured by the many accolades from top universities such as Harvard, Stanford and Case Western Reserve University, by the more than 100 professional awards and special recognitions both nationally and internationally, and by having one of the largest national and international alumni networks involving executive leadership at major organizations, such as Motorola, McDonalds and GE Capitol.

According to a September 10, 2005 article in The Economist, “Today, ‘excellence’ is taking over from ‘expansion’ as the mantra of higher education.” Higher education systems of today may be very different from those of tomorrow. In addition, there is an increased demand for higher education throughout the world, as not only a source of economic growth, but as the building blocks of corporate growth in a global marketplace. Benedictine is on the leading edge of this new University look by offering excellence over girth, and by understanding that being global means being on top.

This special section takes a look at these amazing programs, how they came to be at Benedictine, what drives their powerful success and where they hope to take the University in the future.
A History of The M.S.M.O.B./Ph.D. Programs

40 years Ago:
A Revolutionary Idea —
The Beginning of the M.S.M.O.B. Program

Approximately 40 years ago, with only five students, the M.S.M.O.B. program, under the direction of Peter Sorensen, Ph.D., (now director of the M.S.M.O.B./Ph.D. program at Benedictine) began at George Williams College.

The program was based on a relatively new idea that 40 years later would see every major business in the world take notice. Its success was characterized by a number of innovations:

• The initiation of weekend programming and the concept of compressed-time education
• One of the first international studies of organization development and power within organizations
• Award-winning studies of organizational change and turnaround at major corporations
• The establishment of a relationship with the Copenhagen Business School (CBS), one of the largest business schools in Europe and Scandinavia — a relationship which continues on today

The early years of this revolutionary program also included the initiation of international seminars in collaboration with CBS which involved visits and work with some of the leading organizations in the world including Ericsson (telecommunication), the Danish Federal Reserve Bank (government), Saab-Scania (automotive), Scandinavian Air Systems (airlines) and many others, all representing innovative work in the field of O.D. and change management.

30 Years Ago:
Something To Talk About — The Contemporary Trends in Change Management Lecture Series

Thirty years ago the Contemporary Trends in Change Management Lecture Series was initiated. By this time the M.S.M.O.B. had become an established program with substantial enrollment and was frequently referred to as a “mecca for O.D.” The first series featured Robert Blake and Jane Mouton, founders of the Managerial Grid, one of the most popular and widely used approaches to change in the management and O.D. arena. This approach is an applied academic discipline related to positive constructive organizational change involving the creation of high performance organizations, individuals and groups.

The Lecture Series continues today as a vehicle for bringing the best minds in the field to Benedictine University and the Chicago O.D. community. The series has hosted more than 50 of the major O.D. contributors in the world, including Clayton Alderfer, Rutgers/Yale University; Dick Beckhard, MIT; Michael Beer, Harvard Business School; W. Warner Burke, Columbia University; and David Bradford, Stanford University.

20 Years Ago:
A New Home — The Program Moves to Benedictine University

During the initial years at Benedictine University, the program worked closely with professional and academic associations in bringing the best in the field to the Chicago O.D. community. These opportunities included conferences on “Chaos Theory” with Nobel Prize-Award Winner Murray Gellman, and the O.D. Institute Conference with Donald Cole, Ph.D., in 1987. During this decade, the program continued to become a major contributor to the fields of Organizational Behavior and Organization Development.

Several years after moving the M.S.M.O.B. program to Benedictine, the program underwent its first external review. Members of the review team included faculty and administrators from Northwestern University, Case Western Reserve University, the O.D. Institute and Benedictine undergraduate faculty.

Based on its reputation at the time as one of the top six O.D. programs in the country and its extensive

I am most proud of our students and alumni who are shaping the future of organizations globally.

Peter Sorensen, Ph.D., director, M.S.M.O.B./Ph.D. programs

experience in providing major O.D. education, the review team proposed that the major contribution that Benedictine University could make to the field of O.D. was to establish a doctoral program.

10 years Ago:
The Start of Something Big — Benedictine’s First Doctoral Program

In August 1996, the first cohort of 17 students began work on their doctorate degrees. This group would become the first doctoral graduates in 1999.

Part of the continued growth of the program included award-winning action research projects and the development and implementation of on-site executive development programs for major Chicago corporations including John Deere, Motorola and McDonald’s.

Graduates of the M.S.M.O.B. and Ph.D. programs hold major O.D. positions in some of the largest Chicago-based global organizations, such as Abbott, Boeing, Kraft, Motorola, McDonald’s and other Fortune 500 organizations such as Texas Instruments, GE and General Motors.

These early graduates helped to set the stage for the Ph.D. program that thrives today, including a sixth cohort beginning in 2006.
A Look at the Programs Today and in the Future

Today — One of the Top Programs in the World

Benedictine’s Ph.D. program has created major new opportunities for contributions in the field. It continues to work closely with major academic and professional associations including the Academy of Management, the Regional Associations of the Academy of Management, the O.D. Institute, the O.D. Network and ProChange International.

The quality of the program is reflected in awards and special recognition. The program, faculty and students have received more than 100 awards including Best Student Project Awards from the O.D. Network, O.D. Consultant of the Year Awards and several Best Projects and Paper Awards from the O.D. Institute, among others.

Academic contributions include several hundred articles and more than 12 books by the programs’ faculty and students. These publications are used at such major colleges and universities as Harvard, Stanford, Berkley, Case Western and others.

The programs offer professionals the opportunity to study with literally the best faculty in the world, including top O.D. leaders, award-winning Ph.D.s with major leadership positions, and leading international scholar-practitioners from MIT, Harvard and Stanford, among others.

These awards, published works, studies and prime faculty all play a major role in establishing the quality of the program as one of the leaders in the field. They place Benedictine on a global stage as a leader, an innovator and a resource for universities and businesses worldwide.

The Future — Where Does An International Leader Go From Here?

Today the program is preparing for, and providing, initiative in collaboration with the Organization Development & Change Division of the Academy of Management, and the Research Center associated with the University Jean Moulin Lyon 3 in France, to create the first international meeting of doctoral students in fields of O.D. and management for the start of a community of current and future scholars.

The programs are already a major research/practice center for cutting-edge concepts in the field, such as Appreciative Inquiry and International Organization Development. They will continue this leadership role into the future.

With more than 1,000 graduates from the M.S.M.O.B. program and nearing 100 Ph.D. alumni, these programs at Benedictine play a major role in the field and the world. Benedictine has positioned itself for a growing role in the future of global business. The future trends in O.D. have been predicted and Benedictine is prepared to lead them.
The Future — Where Does an International Leader Go From Here?

Social Construction
With the increase in social construction as a major new model for organizational change and the growth of Appreciative Inquiry (A.I.) applications, Benedictine University, along with Case Western Reserve University, will become one of the major centers for A.I. research and application in the world.

Global/International Context
The program is currently working to publish pioneering work involving organizational change in Japan, China, Thailand, Brazil, England and Scandinavia. The Ph.D. program continues to increase its role in the understanding of organizational change within a global and international context.

Strategic O.D.
A third area where O.D. will play a continually increasing role is in the development and implementation of strategic change. Here again Benedictine alumni and students will play an important role through their positions in executive management and O.D. in lead corporate and not-for-profit organizations.

The O.D. field will play an increasingly important role in international and global change and the creation of a future community of organizational scholars. It will continue work on major global issues of our time, such as the United Religions Project, and work with many socially and environmentally responsible corporations.

Being part of the global future places Benedictine University in the forefront of positive corporate and global change. It provides an international network of influential alumni in positions that provide a network for future Benedictine students, and provides significant resources for continued organizational research. ✪
Deborah Ariel Pagel, M.S.M.O.B. ’92
World Headquarters Senior Organization Development Advisor, Boeing Corporation

I realized early on in the program that this information was just what my corporation (Commonwealth Edison, at the time) needed. The theories, the assessment tools and the insights were going to make the organization a better place to work.

I am now involved in O.D. projects at Boeing for both the commercial aviation and the defense divisions. I am presently doing international O.D. work in Asia/China, Australia and the Middle East.

One of my recent transformation cases, that was presented at a world conference this past year in Cyprus, has been nominated for the O.D. Institute’s Silver Bowl award by the audience in attendance.

Creating partnerships, working relationships, and creating and earning trust are the foundations of doing any O.D. work. I was able to bring all the knowledge, skills and experiences that I had accumulated at Benedictine to my career.

Philip T. Anderson, Ph.D., Organization Development ’05
Director, Organization Development for Abbott Laboratories

The degree helped me advance to my current position. Not only was the education invaluable and relevant, it exposed me to other successful professionals that freely shared their experiences in a number of areas. Later in the program, I had an opportunity to teach others, helping me gain an even deeper understanding of my profession. The chance to learn from noted scholars from all over the world was extremely valuable. On top of that, the professors really seemed to care about me as a person. They created an atmosphere that I now try to emulate in my career.

Linda D. Sharkey, Ph.D., Organization Development ’99
Vice President of Organization Development and Staffing, GE Capitol Solutions

The ability to earn a Ph.D. while working full-time was invaluable to me. The cohort nature of the program built relationships. The business focus, academic rigor and key leadership encounters all made this an outstanding experience for me.

The global impact of the program had a significant impact on me and on my career. GE employs more than 15,000 people and has a net income of $1.76 billion a year. It is the largest commercial financial services company in the world. I have been able to apply learned concepts on the job in a positive, tangible way. It helped me develop an Executive Development and Process Program at GE that won a Best Practice award, as well as other change culture initiatives.

Ulf Bengtsson, M.S.M.O.B. ’03
Organization Development Manager for Europe, Middle East and Africa, Motorola

When I was an undergraduate student I knew I wanted a job in O.D., but knew it would be difficult to achieve without a master’s degree and with no job experience. I knew Benedictine’s program offered the best solution for me.

I worked closely with the faculty throughout my time at Benedictine (in fact, Peter Sorensen — one of the most respected individuals in the field — took the time to mentor me — a 20-something year old kid from Sweden). This taught me a tremendous amount of relevant information and opened up countless opportunities to gain practical experience in organizations. The relationships I developed with my fellow students were also invaluable.

I’m proud that at the age of 27, I have achieved an O.D. management position for a Fortune 100 company. +

Information on these programs is available online at ben.edu/odhome and ben.edu/mobhome.
On Saturday, November 5, the Benedictine University campus came to life to celebrate “Fields of Dreams,” the 40th anniversary of the Educare Scholarship Ball. The Krasa Center had searchlights flaring and the Sports Complex was aglow in lights. While inside the Krasa Center, two levels of transformation took place to welcome the Ball attendees with luxury and festivities.

During the cocktail hour in the Fireside Lounge, the “Benedictones” (comprised of Benedictine community members Alicia Cordoba Tait, Ph.D., Tim Marin, Craig Broeder, Chris Hutchinson and Gus Gomez) played the smooth sounds of jazz. Scattered throughout the area were displays of alumni over the past four decades who have “achieved their dreams” through the education and financial support of Benedictine University and student scholarships. These displays included their testimonials, photos and other events that occurred on campus during that time.

The second floor dining area was filled with beautiful flower displays and decorative lighting to enhance the experience for approximately 400 guests. The evening consisted of a live auction, led by auctioneer Peter Burchard, with six wonderful and sought-after items, including: a wine tour in California; sunset yacht cruise in Naples, Florida; dinner for four at Charlie Trotter’s Restaurant in Chicago; golf at Rich Harvest Farms; three nights at a luxury condo in Vail, Colorado; and the ever popular monks dinner, served by Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., and Fr. Becket Franks, O.S.B.

The silent auction consisted of more than 75 items including: a Michael Jordan jersey; a baseball signed by the World Series champion Chicago White Sox player Joe Crede; many golf packages; holiday items, including Waterford ornaments; and much more. New this year was the grand prize raffle of three items — a hot air balloon ride, party for eight at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville and an iPod®. In addition to the raffles, the Marshall Vente Band provided dancing and entertainment at this popular event.

Benedictine President William Carroll, Ph.D., and his wife, Marietta, were honored during the festivities for their 10 years of service to the University. Also honored were past Benedictine president, Richard Becker, Ph.D., and his wife, Lynn, as well as Lorayne Flynn and Archbishop Daniel Kucera, O.S.B. C45, for helping start the Educare Scholarship Ball 40 years ago in an effort to raise scholarship money for students.
Approximately $150,000 was raised at this event for student scholarships. This will help many students achieve their dreams in the Benedictine spirit of giving back.

Special thanks go out to all the attendees of the Ball as well as the Platinum sponsors of the event: Calamos Investments; First DuPage Bank; Chairman of the Board of Trustees Will Gillett and his wife, Dayle; Dan and Carol Goodwin; Mike and Marian Hobbs; Joseph and Bess Kindlon and Paul and Colleen Lehman.

The University also wishes to thank all the Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors of the event as well as Sodexho Food Services and Decorative Accents. Without each and every one of these participants, this event would not be the great success that it was.

To learn how you can help student’s achieve their dreams through the Educare Scholarship Ball, please contact Julie Nelligan, alumni relations director, at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu.
PhoneStrong
Striving for
$100,000 Goal

Benedictine University’s annual fund raising via phone event is underway. Phonathon students began calling alumni in September 2005. This year, there is a large group of enthusiastic and motivated student callers on staff to help the University reach its goal of $100,000 in donations by the end of Spring.

In the first three weeks the callers raised more than $17,000 for the general scholarship fund, President’s 21st Century fund and academic programs as specified by the donor. In addition to the pledge success from loyal alumni, numerous information packets and unspecified pledge requests have been sent out with the hope that they will be returned with a gift.

William Crawford was the top student caller this fall, raising more than $3,000 of much needed funds. He was followed closely by the ambition of student Dominique Wilbon.

The theme of the 2005-06 Phonathon is PhoneStrong to represent the courageous life of Lance Armstrong and his Tour de France wins. The phonathon staff has incorporated his “Live Strong” motto into the program to provide inspiration to help achieve this ambitious annual goal.

This is an important fund raising event that gives students the chance to help raise money for fellow students and University programs in the Benedictine spirit of giving back. Consider making a contribution this year. More information is available by calling the Office of Advancement at (630) 829-6072.

Scholarship Appreciation Dinner
Thanks for the Opportunities

“Thanks” to the generous donors who make scholarships possible and “congratulations” to the students who received them. These were the themes for the Annual Scholarship Donors’ Recognition Dinner this past September. Eighty-two guests attended the dinner, including donors, students and parents.

The event enabled donors who fund scholarships to meet the students who benefit from them. It is an experience enjoyed by all, as the donors are able to get acquainted with the students and learn more about the students’ interests and aspirations.

For the students, meeting the donors is quite an opportunity. Many times the students receiving scholarships do not realize that their scholarship is named for an individual who is still very much alive and very interested in the student’s success. The students are very interested to learn about the donors’ reasons for creating the scholarships and what Benedictine was like when they were students here.

Benedictine President William Carroll welcomed the guests, emphasizing the importance of the scholarships to the students both in terms of recognition, financial assistance and the generosity of those who made the scholarships possible.

Jeff Ptacek, a senior with a double major in social science and philosophy, gave a formal presentation, describing the personal and financial significance of receiving the Arthur J. Schmitt scholarship and his growth as an individual while at Benedictine University.

To learn more about starting a scholarship to aid students, contact the Office of Advancement at (630) 829-6362.
Scholarships Make a Big Difference in the Lives, Careers of Recipients

Christina Zelek, C95

“Receiving the scholarship money each year helped me achieve my goal of obtaining a bachelor’s degree and helped to ease my mind about meeting my yearly tuition expenses,” said Christina Zelek, E-Payment services manager for The Pampered Chef, Ltd. The Pampered Chef, Ltd., headquartered in Addison, is a direct seller of essential kitchen tools and serves more than 12 million customers annually.

“Benedictine University enabled me to achieve some of my dreams by helping me to become a more confident individual and helping me realize my true academic potential,” she added. “Supporting the scholarship fund is a great way to make it possible for future generations to achieve their dreams.”

“The personal attention I received in my classes and the friendships I formed with some of my professors while at Benedictine greatly enriched my college experience,” she said. “Benedictine also offers a ‘close-knit’ community that I would encourage others to experience.”

Aheed Siddiqi, M.D., C98

“As a past scholarship recipient and now as a current scholarship donor, I realize that the aid students receive is invaluable,” said Aheed Siddiqi, M.D. “Many times, it is the difference between a good student continuing his or her studies, transferring to another institution or dropping out of school altogether.

Siddiqi benefited from the generosity of alumni and friends who contribute to Benedictine University’s scholarship fund. He received approximately $7,500 each year toward his tuition through the University’s Scholar’s Program.

“The scholarship was immeasurable,” Siddiqi said. “Without it, I would not have been able to afford tuition. The scholarship removed any stress regarding financing my education, and allowed me to concentrate on my studies.”

Following graduation from Benedictine, Siddiqi was accepted by Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine. He is now a radiology resident at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

“Benedictine provided me with an excellent education, this allowed me to do well as a medical student,” he said. “Benedictine is committed to the student and helping him or her achieve their goals.”

President’s Associates Recognition Day Event

August 19 was a wonderful day for a ballgame — and for recognizing the generous President's Associates at a special event at Benedictine University’s new Sports Complex. Guests were greeted by, and received expressions of appreciation, from Benedictine University’s President William Carroll and Chancellor Abbot Dismas Kalicik, O.S.B.

President’s Associates are donors who gave at least $1,000 during the 2004-05 academic year. They were treated to drinks and dinner in the Skybox, followed by a professional women’s National Pro Fastpitch softball game featuring the Chicago Bandits and the Arizona Heat.

“We have never held a President’s Associates recognition event in a manner such as this before,” said Brad Carlson, chief development officer. “The event was more low-key. But the donors really came out and enjoyed themselves. We had twice the number of guests as usual for this annual recognition event.”

Carlson said planning for next year’s event is underway.

If you would like to learn how you can become a President’s Associate, please contact Brad Carlson at (630) 829-6362 or bcarlson@ben.edu.

The Educare Scholarship Ball is the University’s largest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from the event go directly to the University’s scholarship fund.

For more information on the Ball, contact the alumni office at (630) 829-6080. For more information on starting a student scholarship, contact the advancement office at (630) 829-6362.
A Walk in the Clouds

This year’s Homecoming theme, “A Walk in the Clouds,” was not far off from the inclement weather on October 22, but that did not dampen alumni spirits at the event.

Things were off to a good start with the men’s soccer alumni winning their game. Tailgaters, including alumni, students and friends, gathered in the Krasa Center parking lot before the football game for food, kids activities, games and fun.

At 3:00 p.m., the Benedictine Eagles took the football field at the new Sports Complex to meet the MacMurray College Highlanders. It was an exciting game from beginning to end and landed the Eagles a 49-22 victory. During halftime, student-athletes who carry a grade point average of 3.0 or higher were honored.

The alumni tent was busy all afternoon with many friends stopping by to meet fellow alumni for food, games and laughs. After the game, the classes of 1965, 1975, 1985 and 1995 gathered in the Fireside Lounge in the Krasa Center to renew old friendships and to watch the Chicago White Sox in the first game of the World Series.

Planning for next year’s Homecoming activities is underway. To get involved, contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu. ♦

Stay connected to your alma mater.
Homecoming 2005 — Alumni Fun

Welcome to the new Millennium. The Department of Advancement’s new database software, Millennium, has been upgraded to offer better capacity and efficiency for record keeping of alumni, fund raising and mailing efforts.

This is the perfect opportunity to update your information. If you have a new address, e-mail account or employment information you would like to pass on, please call (630) 829-6099.

Time To Change Your Mailing Or E-mail Address?

Stay Connected

Upcoming University Events

February 4
Alumni Sweetheart Club Dinner/Dance

March 7
Alumni “After-Hours” Fitz’s Pub — Elmhurst

April 18
Downtown Loop Alumni “After-Hours” Event

May 11
General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.)
For ticket information call (866) 468-3401 or www.ticketweb.com.

May 21
Golden Eagles Reunion

May 21
Commencement

July 17
President’s Invitational Golf Outing

September 23
Homecoming

November 4
Educare Scholarship Ball

Attention Parents: There is a fast and easy way to find out what is going on around campus.

Go to the parent page of the University’s Web site at:
http://www.ben.edu/parents

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Alumni Yellow Pages

Last spring, all Illinois alumni received a request for updated work information including business name, address, city, phone, e-mail and type of business. The alumni relations office compiled all the data to create the first edition of the Alumni Yellow Pages. The yellow pages will contain area alumni contact information, including work and home numbers, their business name and type of work they do. This information will be listed in a directory by three categories; name, location and occupation.

“The idea is for Benedictine University alumni to utilize the services of fellow alumni rather than just finding a random name in the phone book. It helps both alumni offering the service as well as alumni looking for help,” said University President William Carroll.

For more information on the Alumni Yellow Pages, contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu. ♦

Benedictine Heritage 2003

Vintage Wine Has Arrived

It’s here — the 2003 Vintage of the Benedictine Heritage Wine has arrived and is available for sale. This sangiovese varietal is famous in Italy for providing the backbone for wines from Chianti, Tuscany and Brunello. The elegant wine has a smooth texture and medium spice, raspberry, cherry and anise flavors. It pairs well with most any dish.

This limited addition wine is $30 per bottle or $350 per case and is available by contacting Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu. Toast yourself for supporting Benedictine fund raising efforts. ♦

Alumni Day at the Cubs Game

Alumni and friends boarded a luxury bus at the Krasa Center parking lot on July 31 for a trip to Wrigley Field. Once at the park, the group met up with other alumni to total 100 attendees. The group watched the Chicago Cubs play the Arizona Diamondbacks. It was a very hot day, but the seats were great and everyone had a good time.

Although the Cubs lost, the game was exciting until the end. During the bus ride back to campus, plans were made to set up another alumni trip next summer. Check your Spring Voices for more details or contact the alumni office. ♦

New Freshman BBQ

The Office of Alumni Relations hosted a new freshman BBQ welcoming the Fall 2005 freshman to the University. The event was held on August 28 on the north lawn of the Krasa Center. Burgers, brats, chips and ice cream sundaes were enjoyed by more than 30 freshmen. Although they were a bit nervous to start their first day of school, the students were also very excited and looked forward to their new challenges. ♦

Even After You Graduate, You Are Still Connected Here

There are many ways to get involved, and stay involved, in the Benedictine community. Contact Alumni Relations Director Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 to learn more.

continued on page 17
Swim/Dive Alumni Reunion

On October 28, approximately 80 alumni, friends and family members of Benedictine University swim team gathered for the Swim and Dive Reunion sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations.

Prior to the reunion, everyone watched the team beat North Central College in an exciting meet. Afterward, all gathered for pizza and a renewal of friendships.

Katie Phelps, C97, said, “Thanks for another great event. It gives me a chance to see a lot of people that I don’t normally get to see on a regular basis because I live in St. Louis. Please continue to have this event... everyone enjoys it.”

The next Swim and Dive Reunion will be held this fall. †

Douglas R. Hoffman, C79
Benedictine University Trustee

For alumnus Douglas Hoffman, coming back to Benedictine University to serve on the Board of Trustees in May 2004 was something he knew he needed to do. He became a Trustee because he wanted to be involved with something exciting and dynamic and he wanted to make a difference at his alma mater.

“I was a fallen-away alumnus,” Hoffman explained. “My support of the University was minimal and the little support that I gave was given grudgingly at best. In fact, I only gave out of a sense of obligation because I knew that tuition covered only about 66 percent of the true cost of my college education. The rest was subsidized through gifts and grants made by others to the institution. So, I ‘gave back’ by giving little. It helped ease my conscience.

“At first, I did not want to be all that closely connected to Benedictine. I thought the place had changed and abandoned me. In retrospect, it may have been me that abandoned Benedictine.

“The school is much the same as when I attended. The Benedictine monks are still here and their values remain the values of the University. In fact, maintaining a Benedictine identity is something the Trustees take very seriously. I don’t see that ever changing. It is true that the place looks different from when most of us were here, but it is fundamentally the same. It promotes the same values it promoted when I was a student; it has a dedicated faculty, it has smart, friendly students who will actually speak with an old guy like me; and it is still the place where a student can get a great education. When I finally came to that realization, I just knew I had to get involved with the place again and in a big way,” explained Hoffman.

Hoffman believes being an alumnus and a Trustee puts him in a unique and worthwhile position.

“As a Trustee, I am constantly meeting men and women who are dedicated to the mission of the institution. They serve Benedictine in a variety of ways. I see the same level of engagement coming from my fellow Trustees. I have seldom seen a group of people...be as engaged as they are. Their enthusiasm is infectious,” he said.

“Benedictine has a legacy of very gifted alumni, my guess is that many of their gifts were honed at Benedictine. It would be great if the University could be the beneficiary of a small part of these gifts by having more than one of its alumni serve as a Trustee. When an alumnus serves as a Trustee, Benedictine directly benefits from its own outstanding work. For the alumnus, it is a great way to pay back others for their investment in his or her education at Benedictine,” concluded Hoffman.

Hoffman has many good memories of his time as a student at Benedictine. “I remember that I worked hard and had a great time along the way. I particularly remember commencement. It was not a completely happy occasion because it meant leaving my home and friends. I understand that many of today’s students have this same experience,” he said.

Currently, Hoffman lives in Chicago and practices corporate and commercial international law.

“Benedictine has had a profound impact on my life; but it did not make me who I am. This is a good thing. Education is not about making something of someone. It is about informing. It is about teaching someone how to learn and how to think critically. Benedictine did a good job of that as far as I am concerned,” he said.

“While I was at Benedictine, I learned that life is messy. Benedictine helped me hone the skills that are required to evaluate the stuff that makes life real and to put some order to the messiness.

“The long and the short of it is that my experience at Benedictine is something that has never left me. It is part of me and it is invaluable,” Hoffman concluded. †
Joseph Broda’s path to Benedictine began in 1978. He was being passed over for promotions into management mainly because he didn’t have a college degree. The higher up he got, the less his experience seemed to count. His manager advised him to go back to college (he had an associate’s degree from DeVry) and his company suggested he attend the Institute For Management program at then Illinois Benedictine College.

“I started in the fall of 1978, and six months later I was promoted to management. Just knowing that I had made a commitment to the four-year program to further my education spoke volumes. By the time I graduated in 1982, my career had continued to advance. The program also helped me with my burgeoning venture in local politics,” said Broda.

“My experience at Benedictine helped in my life. Benedictine has had a tremendous impact on me. I value the education I received there. My overall experience at the school has enlightened my understanding, instilled a more perceptive comprehension and imparted an insight beyond the scope of books and lesson plans,” said Krajewski.

Krajewski’s current position as mayor of Downers Grove is the result of a culmination of events, experiences and encounters. After graduating from Benedictine, he entered law school. Upon graduation, he worked for one of the big eight international accounting firms, Deloitte & Touche. While at Deloitte, he continued his education at night and earned a master’s in law (L.L.M.) in taxation.

“I’m very proud of Benedictine University, both as mayor of its hometown, and as an alumnus. Benedictine has been a part of Lisle for more than 118 years, and it was an honor to be a part of that kind of tradition. An even prouder moment was seeing my oldest daughter graduate from the University in 1989,” said Broda.

His journey to become the mayor of Lisle began in the late 1970s as well, when he was involved with his homeowner’s association as a committee member and later as president.

In 1986, he was approached by then Mayor George Varney, asking if he would be willing to accept an appointment to the Village Board as a Village Trustee for one year. Broda was hesitant at first, but the mayor explained that he needed someone who really cared about the community. He thought about his work with the homeowner’s association and how important it was to him, and decided that he could extend that to the village at large.

He was elected as a Village Trustee in 1987 and reelected in 1991, 1995 and 1999. In 2001, residents were calling for new leadership in Lisle and encouraged him to run for mayor against a 12-year incumbent. He was elected in 2001 and re-elected for a second term in April 2005.

The office of the mayor in the Village of Lisle is usually a part-time job, but since retiring from his 31-year career with Lucent in July 2001, Broda has been able to make it a full-time job.

“After working eight years for Deloitte, he started his own law and accounting practice in Downers Grove.

In addition, he became actively involved in several civic organizations. As a lifelong resident of Downers Grove, he became concerned with the state of the village. “My concern took shape as I realized that I could make a difference by seeking public office. Once the opportunity presented itself, I did not hesitate to accept the challenge. My community and civic involvement were factors in this decision, as I always believed in giving back to the community,” said Krajewski.

“One of the reasons I ran for office was my concern about the current state of the village I had lived in my entire life. Our downtown was a ghost town and the overall village seemed stagnant. Some of the other western suburbs like Naperville and Elmhurst were enjoying a much more progressive level. Over the seven years I’ve spent as mayor, I have enjoyed the challenges presented and the many accomplishments Downers Grove has achieved,” he said.

With a complete rebuilding of the downtown infrastructure, the area is now vibrant with many new businesses and a new parking deck. A couple of years ago, the Chicago Tribune ranked Downers Grove as one of the top 10 downtowns in the Chicago area. The reconstruction of the downtown also won the national award from the...
“One of the things I enjoy most about being a full-time mayor is that I can be available for the many village activities that happen during the day. I’ve had an opportunity to meet so many residents at these and other events, and I also find it easier to interact with the business community. I started “Coffee with the Mayor” on the first Tuesday of every month, which has been a great success. Being able to sit down with residents and the business community and talk about the issues affecting us is what it’s all about. Opening up the village government like this has been a big focus for me. Lisle is my home too, so as mayor, it means so much to me to be a part of shaping the future,” said Broda.

As mayor, Broda has been involved with many Benedictine events. “I’m honored to be involved with Benedictine. I have a great working relationship with the president and his staff. Being a part of the team that brought the new Lisle/Benedictine Sport Complex to fruition, which was a proud moment for me, and seeing my alma mater and hometown come together [has been very fulfilling],” he said.

He and his wife, Joanne, have lived in Lisle for more than 27 years. They have three daughters and several grandchildren. “Throughout my time in Lisle, I have been an active member of St. Margaret Mary Church, serving as a greeter and as a committee chairman for parish Men’s Club events. My history in Lisle and involvement with the community, along with the experience from my career and education, have made being mayor an enriching and fulfilling experience,” concluded Broda. ✨

American Public Works Association for Historical Preservation.

“As mayor, I strive to make our village desirable for both residential and business interests. Over the last several years, the property values of residential homes have skyrocketed due to the revitalization and progress of our community, in addition to the high quality of our schools. I’m proud that we have developed a very strong business mix which in turn keeps our village residential tax rate one of the lowest in DuPage County,” Krajewski said.

“One of the most enjoyable things in my job is getting invited by students to attend their classes and speak about the job of the mayor. I always speak about the importance of education and working hard in school. I always include a discussion about my education at Benedictine,” he added.

While at Benedictine, Krajewski was involved in athletics as a member of the basketball team. Today, he tries to return to campus to watch men’s basketball games when he can, in addition to every couple of years returning to play in an alumni basketball game. He resides with his wife, Mary, and he enjoys coaching youth sports including, boy’s baseball and girl’s basketball at St. Mary’s.

“I am definitely proud to be a graduate of Benedictine University. It prompted my journey into the real world and revealed endless possibilities for the future,” he concluded. ✨

Barbara Leiber did not have to temporarily leave her job at Benedictine University and uproot her life to head to Mississippi in the aftermath of one of the worst hurricane’s to hit American shores…she chose to. She chooses to be called on to help others whenever it is deemed necessary, whenever her education and experience can make a difference during a difficult time.

Before joining Benedictine, Leiber was the director of the Department of Social and Health Services for the Village of Downers Grove for 18 years. Upon retiring in 2004, she was invited to join a team of mental health response specialists who are a part of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). NDMS consists of Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), whose role it is to be among the first responders to disasters, either natural or terror.

NDMS is an agency that functions under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and ultimately under the Department of Homeland Security. In order to qualify to be a part of an NDMS team one must be licensed in his or her specialty by the state in which they practice.

The team Leiber belongs to provides “force protection” to those first responders on the scene of any disaster. Force protection, as defined for the mental health specialist, is to assist first responders in the awareness of their needs and challenges to their well-being physically, emotionally and mentally. First responders include medical, fire and police personnel. It is the goal of Leiber’s team to contribute to the health of the first responders in a manner that allows them to function optimally for as long as it takes to do their job.

Leiber was deployed twice in 2004 to the hurricanes in Florida, where her team supported the FEMA employees in the Disaster Relief Centers as well as other DMAT’s. ✨
“I was deployed to Mississippi after Hurricane Rita to support a DMAT and a Disaster Mortuary Team (DMORT). In this capacity I worked with the team that was identifying victims of the hurricane and working to recover corrupted cemeteries. My role primarily was to provide stress management support and assist the DMAT team in monitoring safety standards. My deployment lasted two weeks and I was rotated out. This experience was challenging,” said Leiber.

“I believe the most important contribution I made was my ability to provide a safe place for disaster workers to tell the story of their experiences, while maintaining the commitment of respect and dignity in which they accomplish their work,” Leiber concluded.

As a member of NDMS, Leiber trains at least once a year with DMAT’s from all over the country.

“I believe that my life-long career in the not-for-profit world of social service prepared me very well for the work in NDMS. The Master of Science in Clinical Psychology (M.C.P.) program at Benedictine continues to carry on the tradition of high standards in the training of new clinicians. I am very proud to be a part of that tradition by helping to prepare a new generation to serve those in need,” said Leiber.

If you know of someone who has given of him or herself to help others in the Benedictine spirit of giving back, please e-mail lhale@ben.edu.

Meet Your Alumni Board

Continuing profiles of those who serve on the Alumni Board.

Aheed Siddiqi, M.D., Biology, C89

Aheed Siddiqi was born in Hyderabad, India and moved to the United States just before beginning high school. He chose to attend Benedictine University for many reasons. First and foremost was the education. He knew he wanted to get a strong education in the premedical sciences. He also wanted to attend a university where there were small classes taught by professors and not teacher assistants.

“The feeling of being in a community at Benedictine was unmatched by other schools I visited. Finally, I got into Benedictine’s Scholars (Honors) Program, and as a result received a sizable scholarship. That sealed my decision to attend the University,” said Siddiqi.

Upon graduating, Siddiqi attended Northwestern University medical school. He is currently in residency in radiology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, to be followed by a one-year fellowship in MRI. He and his wife, Shama Ahmed, live in Chicago.

“Upon starting medical school, I realized that I fared very well as far as my premedical education was concerned when compared to colleagues who had attended Harvard, MIT and Northwestern for their undergraduate education,” said Siddiqi. “Since Benedictine has done so much for me and my career, I have been looking for ways to give back to the University. Medical school didn’t offer much free time, but I managed to come out to Benedictine for the health care fair to talk to pre-med students about medical school. My friend, Omer Sultan, and I also started the Muslim Alumni Endowed Scholarship for deserving Muslim students at Benedictine. I also joined the Alumni Board to be involved and informed of the activities going on in the University, and at some level have an input in the direction of the University,” he said.

“In the future, I will continue to look forward to getting more involved, especially in the College of Science, where someday I would like to visit as a guest lecturer and talk to students about medical school and show them interesting radiology images,” concluded Siddiqi.

Joan Carberry-Rizzi
Social Sciences, C73

“I had grown up hearing about then St. Procopius College’s high academic standards, wonderful campus atmosphere and the successful reputation of its graduates. Unfortunately, the school was all-male at the time, making my enrollment there an impossible dream. When the school did open up to women, I applied immediately. I ended up attending during my junior year,” said Rizzi.

Rizzi worked with Br. Sebastian Kuhn, O.S.B., in the mailroom and got to know the faculty and staff as well as fellow students. She felt the school had a community spirit that was truly special.

After graduating, she worked in the insurance industry and is now a sales account manager with Insurance Services Office in Lisle.

“Working on the Alumni Board is my way of giving back to the University for the gifts of a wonderful education, wonderful friends and a sense of community and connectedness that I would never have received at a larger school,” concluded Rizzi.
The Jim Ryan Symposium On Public Affairs:

China: Awakening Superpower, Influential Ally, Potential Adversary?

The latest symposium in Jim Ryan’s public affairs series was held on the Benedictine campus in October. The featured speaker was U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-10th), who brought his insight on the current political situation with China.

China’s growing economy and military buildup present opportunities and challenges for the United States in the 21st century. China’s economy has doubled in the last decade and is expected to do so again in the next 10 years. They are also an influential ally, with the ability to stem North Korea’s growing nuclear ambitions.

The symposium panel analyzed the United States trade imbalance with China, the outsourcing of American jobs, competition over energy resources and China’s threat to U.S. security.

During the event, Kirk made the case for establishing a primary diplomatic relationship with China that will protect both American interests and avoid future conflict.

To learn more about this speaker series, contact the Department of Political Science at (630) 829-6460.

Democracy In A Diverse Society:
Benedictine Hosts Students From The Middle East

Benedictine University was one of three universities in the United States that hosted student-leaders from the Middle East for a six-week “Study of the U.S. Institute” this past July and August. The program, funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, focused on the theme, “The Challenges of Democracy in a Diverse Society.”

The program included class sessions on political, economic and societal issues in the United States as well as public service and citizen involvement.

The program’s academic director, Roger Rose, Ph.D., associate professor of political science, called the program “a terrific opportunity for the future leaders of the Middle East to develop an understanding of our society, politics and culture. It also presented an opportunity for the Chicago metropolitan community to share American culture and the challenges that America faces as a diverse society.”

The 21 students, selected from a large number of applicants, came from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the West Bank and Yemen.

The program also emphasizes developing the students’ leadership skills. Jim Ludema, Ph.D., associate professor of organization development, designed the leadership training component of the institute. Students heard from several Chicago-area leaders during visits to McDonald’s, General Motors, the University of Chicago Hospitals and World Vision.

Tammy Sarver, Ph.D, assistant professor of political science, accompanied the students to San Francisco for one week. The students’ trip also included a visit to the eastern United States before they returned to the Middle East.

Several Benedictine students also assisted as program escorts and cultural partners.

“I like seeing things from other people’s point of view,” said cultural partner Sharif Hassanein, CO7, a political science major. “By seeing other people’s point of view, you see where they are coming from.”

“It was an intensive six weeks, but one that we believe will have left a positive impression of our area and country,” Rose said.
Responding to the Hurricane Katrina Disaster

True to the Benedictine value of concern for each person, Benedictine University community members responded quickly to aid those people whose lives and livelihoods were devastated when Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005.

In the first week after the disaster, Benedictine faculty and staff contributed $2,300 to Catholic Charities USA. Benedictine also partnered with the DuPage Chapter of the NAACP to collect soap, bandages, personal hygiene products and other needed items that were shipped to Baton Rouge, La.

In more personal terms, six students displaced by the hurricane enrolled at Benedictine University under an offer by President William Carroll to allow students who have paid tuition at their original institutions to attend Benedictine at no cost.

“The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) put out a request for help,” Carroll said. “The situation in many schools was dire. The disaster caused me to wonder what would happen to us if we were faced with such a tragedy.”

Several firefighters enrolled in the “First Responders” program (see story below) at the University, a program that provides a free education for firefighters and public safety employees in DuPage, Kane and Kendall counties, were among those deployed to New Orleans immediately following Hurricane Katrina. They returned with stories of unbelievable devastation.

“It was a lot worse than you could imagine,” said Naperville fireman Chuck Gros, a bachelor of arts in management student at Benedictine. “Television does not do it justice. It was like standing in the middle of a neighborhood 20 blocks by 20 blocks and every house was destroyed.

“You would drive for a couple of miles and think to yourself that it would have to get better as you went along, but it got worse,” he added. “I have never seen anything like it. Miles and miles of devastation. It’s amazing how much area the devastation covered.”

“The first 24 hours we’d fight any fires that occurred, the next 24 hours we did humanitarian work,” Gros said.

Benedictine University has received a $2 million grant from the federal government to extend its First Responder Program, an unparalleled educational degree program that provides affordable and quality higher education to all eligible police and fire personnel in DuPage, Kendall and Kane counties.

The grant was secured in part through the efforts of U.S. representative Judy Biggert (R-13th). Biggert was on hand for ceremonies marking the grant award on October 13 at the Krasa Center.

“We are ecstatic that we will be able to extend our firefighter education program to fire and police departments throughout the western suburbs,” said Benedictine University President William Carroll. “These men and women deserve our gratitude and our help, and this grant will allow us to demonstrate both.”

Under Carroll’s direction, the University originally instituted a $15,000 firefighter scholarship to cover the cost of one year’s tuition or several part-time enrollments.

Benedictine developed associate of arts and bachelor of management programs that are offered at the firehouse. A master of business administration program is offered on campus. More than half of the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District’s 103 employees applied to the program.

The first classes commenced in February 2002. There are no tuition costs. Firefighters pay only for their textbooks.

“In today’s world, a degree is becoming essential. [The degree allows] you to learn problem-solving and organizational skills you cannot always learn on the job,” said Lisle-Woodridge Fire District Bureau Chief Terry Vavra. “Also, by the time most firefighters reach their 40s, the job becomes very difficult physically. A degree opens other career options when that becomes necessary.”

Three additional fire departments — Naperville, Downers Grove and St. Charles — as well as the Lisle Police Department...
University, local and state leaders gathered for a collection drive sponsored by the DuPage chapter of the NAACP.

said. “The New Orleans firefighters who responded right after the hurricane hit didn’t have a chance to go home. So we helped them do whatever we could whether it was cleaning up their homes, removing furniture or repairing roofs.”

Gros was forced to withdraw from one of his classes at Benedictine when he was deployed, but will be able to make it up. Dwyer and Leiber were given the approval of the Benedictine administration to temporarily leave their jobs to help others in need.

Rebuilding the lives shattered by Hurricane Katrina will not be easy, but helping to give back to others is a good start.

were added following the program’s inception. The grant will allow the University to extend the program even further.

Benedictine has also made a cohort program in management and organizational behavior, one of eight master’s programs offered by the school, available to fire chiefs in DuPage and Kendall counties. The University hopes to eventually extend the master’s program to department chiefs throughout Illinois.

The largest freshman class in school history and a significant increase in the number of transfer students have contributed to a record enrollment at Benedictine University.

There are 1,670 students enrolled in traditional undergraduate programs at Benedictine University this fall, according to David Sonnenberger, associate provost for Academic Affairs. That is approximately a 5 percent increase from a year ago.

There are 315 freshmen registered at Benedictine this fall, more than the previous record number of freshmen who registered in 2003 and a 2 percent increase over the number of freshmen enrolled in 2004. The University also welcomed 246 new students who transferred from other academic institutions.

“An essential part of Benedictine’s growth can be attributed to its academic program... an academic program that appeals to both traditional and non-traditional age students,” said Benedictine University Executive Vice President Charles Gregory.

Gregory also attributed the rise in Benedictine University’s traditional undergraduate population to the University’s reputation as a place where students of all faiths, colors and creeds are able to meet in a universal pursuit of truth and knowledge.

Overall, enrollment in traditional, part-time, adult and graduate programs is 3,400.

David Cochran, Ph.D., professor of politics at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, was the latest speaker in Benedictine University’s Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought series this past October. He addressed the challenges posed by the encounter between Catholicism and contemporary American politics and spoke about how Catholicism can develop and articulate a more effective critical voice in American politics.

The main challenge, according to Cochran, is to apply the Catholic faith to politics or to resolve the tension between religion and political action. He suggested that the solution was to maintain a balance in the Catholic tradition during our lives on earth.

Cochran advised young adults who wish to play an active role in resolving the conflict between religion and politics to take both of them seriously and “let your conscience be your guide.” He stressed the importance of playing a religious role as well as fulfilling obligations as citizens, admitting that it is always a tension to find a balance.

“You can’t take religion out of politics and politics out of religion... religion can be a source of political wisdom,” said Cochran. Although he firmly believes in the separation of church and state, Cochran believes that you cannot take the morality out of politics.

Cochran also stated that people could not address problems like hunger and poverty without politics or a political structure.

“The role of religion is not to run the government, but to be a conscience to the people,” he said.

Cochran’s book Catholics, Politics & Public Policy: Beyond Right and Left can be found at http://www.ben.edu/LibraryClub.

For further information on the Visiting Scholar series, contact Fr. Philip Timko, O.S.B., at (630) 829-6266.
$350,000 Grant Received to Upgrade Science Laboratory Facilities

Benedictine University has been awarded $350,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy to acquire science laboratory and research equipment. U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) came to campus this past fall to make the official announcement to faculty, staff and students.

The grant was part of $210 million in funding for Illinois projects approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

“These funds will allow our faculty and students to keep pace with the profound changes occurring in the biomedical sciences as a result of the completion of the Human Genome Project by providing new instrumentation and other laboratory enhancements,” said Benedictine President William Carroll.

The science curriculum at Benedictine features a strong collaborative, interdisciplinary student and faculty research program that builds upon shared interests in biology, chemistry, physics and computer science. This program enables students from a range of scientific disciplines to work with faculty on collaborative research problems.

The grant will make new instrumentation available that will be required for common core laboratory experiences and undergraduate research programs related to the structural information encoded in the human genome, and the advancements that are being made daily in applying that information toward solving medical problems.

Benedictine University is also planning to seek funding to establish a Center for Biophysics, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BBMB). The money will be used for additional equipment and staff development.

“People in the field have likened the explosion in genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics in the biomedical sciences to the information technology boom of the late 20th century,” said Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Science at Benedictine University. “Right now there is a revolution in biotechnology and medicine, and this grant will help our students catch the wave of that technology.”

The Illinois Board of Higher Education recently approved a proposal by Benedictine University to begin offering a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) in Management and Organizational Behavior at Richland Community College in Decatur, Illinois.

The B.B.A. in Management and Organizational Behavior is designed to provide students with a thorough grounding in business and economic principles as well as direct application of these principles to the national economy and business world.

“We are committed to developing quality academic programs in the heartland of Illinois,” said William Carroll, president of Benedictine University and Springfield College in Illinois (SCI). The two schools formed a strategic alliance in January 2003 to bring Benedictine programs to the Springfield area.

Benedictine University already offers a number of four-year degrees in Springfield including bachelor’s degrees in Elementary Education, Business and Economics, Psychology and Management and Organizational Behavior. Benedictine also offers a master’s program in Management and Organizational Behavior at the SCI campus.

For more information about the program, contact the SCI admissions office at (217) 525-1420, ext. 210.
ED.D. PROGRAM PREPARES EDUCATORS TO MEET DIVERSE CHALLENGES

Higher education faces a number of challenges --- funding shortfalls, government mandates, rising health care costs, labor-management issues, emerging technologies and changing student demographics.

Benedictine University is committed to preparing professionals to meet those challenges.

The new Ed.D. in Higher Education and Organizational Change is designed to equip administrators with the knowledge and skills needed to play a leadership role in this complex higher education environment.

Training Practitioners

The program provides a solid academic grounding in core topics such as organizational theory and research methodology and design. But the program’s principal purpose is to train practitioners.

As such, it emphasizes the development of practical skills to meet real-world challenges in human resource management, budgeting, communications, cost containment, admissions, revenue growth, government and community relations, labor relations, conflict resolution and litigation.

“The program is primarily intended for those who plan to be mid- and senior-level university, college or community college administrators,” said Donald E. Fouts, Ph.D., professor and director of the Center for Higher Education and Organizational Change.

Designed For Working Professionals

The Ed.D. program at Benedictine is a three-year program, consisting of professional core courses, research methodologies, independent research and the completion of a dissertation.

Designed for the working professional, the Ed.D. program is taught in an executive format featuring a cohort group consisting of no more than 25 students that meets for approximately 16 weekends per year.

Upon completion of the program, graduates will have acquired a strong foundation in and command of knowledge reflective of research and theory in the field; understanding about the governance or organization of institutions of higher education; and the skills to manage such organizations.

Special opportunities for collaboration, research, internships and courses will be available at Stanford University and the University of California system office.

For more information about the program, call (630) 829-6280.

A GROWING TREND: RISING M.B.A. ENROLLMENTS AND ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES

Numbers On The Rise

The 30th anniversary of Benedictine University’s Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program ushered in the highest enrollment figures since fall of 1998, with total enrollments up 20 percent from a year ago. The program attributes the high enrollment to many factors, including: the successful launch of cohorts two and three in Shenyang, China; more students choosing dual M.B.A. degrees (M.B.A./M.I.S.; M.B.A./M.S.M.O.B.; and M.B.A./M.P.H.); more

U.S. M.B.A. accelerated cohorts starting in Fall 2005; and the new cohort at the Springfield campus anticipated in January 2006.

Perhaps the most dramatic increase in enrollment can be seen in Benedictine’s fully online M.B.A. program, WebFlex. One year ago, it comprised barely 20 percent of enrollments. Today WebFlex makes up more than 42 percent of the enrollments, experiencing a growth of 74 percent.

WebFlex is a highly interactive online format. One of the most exciting aspects of the program is the ability for students to network with colleagues from all over the world.

Four New Certificate Programs

The M.B.A. department realizes it is important for working professionals and alumni to maintain their competitive edge, so some new opportunities have been brought to the table.

Four new certificate programs are now being offered in addition to the popular accounting and business administration certificates. Entrepreneurship, Financial Management, Marketing and Operations Management certificates allow professionals to stand out from the pack. Courses can be taken in the traditional evening/weekend, on-campus format or online.

Women’s Leadership Breakfast

This past September, the department hosted the first Women’s Leadership Breakfast Series (WLB). WLB brings Benedictine alumni together with graduate students and professional women from local businesses to share ideas and experiences, as well as celebrate each other’s accomplishments. Featured speakers are some of the most prominent women in business today.

The faculty of the M.B.A. department is dedicated to offering students and alumni educational opportunities so they can maintain their competitive advantage, achieve personal excellence and become effective leaders.

For more information on opportunities with the M.B.A. department, call Sharon Borowicz at (630) 829-6219.
Class of ’65
Michael Hickey, Engineering Science, is retired and enjoying life in Florida with his wife, Renata. He sails Tampa Bay on “Leah,” a Com-Pac 23 sloop. He also races on a friend’s sailboat once a week from Davis Island Yacht Club in Tampa. Currently, he’s learning the Internet auction business by using eBay®.

Daniel Kuhn, Political Science and Pre-Law, is a partner in the law firm Kuhn, Mitchell Moss, Mork and Lechoqicz, LLC. He has lived in Naperville with his wife, Jo Anne, since 1968. He has four children and two stepchildren, plus five grandchildren. His oldest son, Ted, is married and in the Special Forces. He served two tours in Afghanistan and three in Iraq so far. His other son served in the U.S. Navy. His daughters served in the Peace Corps in Madagascar and both are married. Meg attends Yale University and Kate resides in London and has been accepted to King’s College of Medicine.

Class of ’80
Michael A. Overstreet, History, works as the food service manager for Chicago Baseball LLC. He writes that he is “in charge of feeding 40,000 Chicago White Sox fans.” He is also a volunteer for Vital Bridges food bank in Chicago.

Class of ’82
Kirk Silver, Sociology, recently retired from the Army after 21 years of service and is currently working for Boeing in Chicago.

Class of ’86
Laura (Cusack) Spathies, Business and Economics, and her husband, George, have recently started their own company — Spathies Family Insurance Agency. They have two children, Daniel and Rebekah. The family resides in Elmwood Park.

Class of ’88
Richard Anderson, M.D., Biochemistry, has made the “40 Leaders under 40 List” of IBI Interbusiness magazine of the greater Peoria area for the Class of 2005. Anderson is assistant professor of clinical surgery at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria/Peoria Surgical Group Ltd. The list is a celebration of the best and the brightest young talents who contribute their skills to the region’s businesses and communities.

Class of ’91
Joe Binter, Computer Science, earned his M.S. in Computer Science from DePaul University in March 2005. Binter resides in Batavia.

Class of ’93
John T. Reavleyer, Political Science, was promoted from director of sales to business manager in 2005 at Unisource Worldwide. Reavleyer and his wife, Audra, have two children, John III and Madeline. They reside in Oswego.

Bill Callahan Receives Hall of Fame Award
Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska this past fall to present alumnus Bill Callahan, C78, with the Benedictine University Hall of Fame Award. (Callahan was unable to attend the original ceremony on campus due to an illness.)

As head coach, Callahan took the NFL’s Oakland Raiders to the Super Bowl in 2002 and is currently the head football coach for the University of Nebraska.

The “happy students” pictured in the Fall 2005 issue of Voices are the 1981-82 Resident Hall Association (RHA) Board.

They are Paul Hannan, Nancy Bonczyk, Peggy Whalen and Kathy Converse.

I think this picture was taken in the lobby of NeuU Hall.

Thanks for giving me a reason to go through my old yearbooks. What a flashback!

Sincerely,
Nancy (BONCZyk) Coyne, C84
Class of ’95
Si Pun Lau, Marketing, is the director of Million Concept Technical Development Ltd. in Hong Kong. He lives with his wife, Wai May Lam, and their two children.

Class of ’96
Kate Loritz, Communication Arts, M.S.M.O.B. ’00, recently returned to Chicago for a promotion at Praxair, Inc. after living in Minneapolis for three years. Her current role is using Six Sigma and change management methods to optimize select key centralized processes. She’s also a distance triathlete and rides in endurance road cycling events across the Midwest.

Bridget (O’Reilly) Winz, Elementary Education, is currently a testing center assessment specialist at Waubonsee Community College. She and her husband, Jim, reside in Cortland, IL.

Class of ’98
Timothy D. Birky, M.B.A., was promoted to director of the New York District for Graybar Electric Co. Inc. in October 2004. Birky and his wife, LeAnn, reside in Newtown, PA with their children, Austin and Melinda.

Class of ’99
Mary (Costello) Cardo, Sociology, currently works for Modus Marketing Groups as a contracted writer focusing on interesting, entertaining and thought-provoking news. She and her husband, Jonathan, reside in Augusta, GA.

Class of ’04
Lindsey Michelle Keigley McMahan, Elementary Education, is currently a second grade teacher at Serena Elementary School. She is married to Bryan McMahan, Business and Economics ’04. They reside in Serena, IL.

Births
Heather (Matusiak) Baranivsky, Marketing ’96 and her husband, Greg Baranivsky, Finance ’94, welcomed their daughter, Ivanna Sophia, in August 2005. She was welcomed by her big sister, Anastasia. The family resides in Shorewood, MN. Greg is managing director of key accounts with First American Funds. Heather works part-time from home for Prewett Hosiery Sales.

Paul Baranivsky, Marketing ’95, and his wife, Michelle, welcomed their first child, Andrew Paul, in May 2005. Baranivsky is currently a vice president at Morgan Stanley Investment Management. The family is healthy and happy in the St. Louis area.

Annie (Pipal) Bohutinska, Literature and Communications ’92, and her husband, Vilem, had a baby boy, James Robert Bohutinsky in June 2005. She currently resides in the Czech Republic and is on maternity leave. Her husband is a distributor for Kremlin-Rexon.

Melody Connors-Murphy, Business and Economics ’91, and her husband, Bill, welcomed Gavin Quinn in August 2004. He joins big sister Gabrielle Shannon at home. She is currently an eighth grade math teacher at Kinzie Elementary School in Chicago.

Class Notes Winners From Fall 2005 Issue

If your name is listed here, then you have won a prize from the Office of Alumni Relations. Congratulations!

In each issue three people who appear in the class notes section of the alumni magazine will be randomly chosen to win an alumni prize. (See inside back cover for more details.)

If you are one of the lucky winners, please contact Julie Nelligan BEFORE March 1 to collect your prize.*

Bridget Cale, C98
Jill Pelka-Wilger, C83
Wayne Chlumecky, C01

Good luck and keep sending in those class notes!

*one prize per person during duration of this promotion.

Accepting Nominations

The Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Recognition Awards for 2006. The awards are Distinguished Alumni Award, Alumni Service Award and the Benedictine Spirit Award. Submit nominations to the Office of Alumni Relations, Benedictine University, 5700 College Rd., Lisle, IL 60532 or at www.ben.edu/alumni/awards.

If you know these alumni, contact us at alumni@ben.edu.

What was your favorite Benedictine University activity while on campus?
Submit your memories to lhale@ben.edu.

Vitality

Winter 2006
Get Your Benedictine Alumni Items Today.

Select items are available on the bookstore Web site at ben.bkstore.com. For a greater selection visit the store in the Krasa Student Center.

Show Your School Spirit

b e n . b k s t o r e . c o m

a look at the past


Sheri (Kratochvil) Fioresi, Biology '95, M.S. Exercise Physiology '03, and her husband, Brian Fioresi, Marketing '95, welcomed twin girls, Hallie Marie and Riley Ann, in August 2005. The girls join siblings Abby and Joey in their Oswego home.

John Puetz, Philosophy '88, and his wife, Michele, welcomed Allene (Allie) in June 2005. She was welcomed to their Leawood, KS home by siblings John, Chloe and Joseph. Puetz is a senior vice president and chief operations officer for Benfield North America where he runs operations for North America for a global reinsurance broker.

C.J. Smith, D.O., Biology '94, is currently a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Ft. Leonard, MO. His wife, Lara, is a family physician at St. John's/Mercy Clinic. Their second child, Emery Cora, was born in August 2005.

Erin (Hartman) Weber, Sociology '97, and her husband, John Weber, M.O.B. '96, welcomed their second daughter, Katherine Joan, in August 2005. Erin is a juvenile probation officer for Porter County. John is the director of athletics and head baseball coach at Purdue University North Central in Westville, IN.

Warren Alferez, Music '97, passed away on November 9, 2005.
Tony Manfre, '69, passed away in October 2005.
Julie McCauley, '76, passed away.
Rev. Francis J. Oborny, Philosophy '25, passed away.
Frances Stefanski, M.O.B. '03 and M.P.H. '04, passed away in October 2005. +

Memory Box

Do you have a favorite memory of your time on campus? A funny story? A great experience? Would you like to share it with fellow alumni? Help bring back memories of your time at Benedictine.

Send one of your favorite memories to lhale@ben.edu.
faculty notes

Preston Aldrich (Biology) attended the annual meeting of the Botanical Society of America in Austin, Texas in August. He presented the poster “Molecular genetic variation in U.S. populations of the invasive tree Alanthus altissima (Simaroubaceae).” This ongoing research funded by the U.S. Forest Service has involved several Benedictine University students including summer researchers Caitlin Ondracek (HHMI fellow) and Derek Shiao (Forest Service support).

Roosevelt Chappel (Campus Services) was named a regional winner of the “2005 Spirit of Sodexo” award. The award recognizes Sodexo employees who excel in the areas of “Customer Satisfaction” and “Client Retention.”

Tim Comar, Ph.D. (Mathematics) and Al Martin, Ph.D. (Biology) participated in the computational biology workshop from June 31 to August 6 at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California. The workshop emphasized the integration of biology and mathematics curricula and was a joint project of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and the National Computational Science Institute (NCSI), sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Kevin Doyle (Business Administration) presented “Software Development Process Changes in the Telecommunications Industry” to the International Symposium on Management, Engineering and Informatics in July in Austin, Texas. The paper, a joint work with Rob Janek of Lucent Technologies and Dave Long of Tekelce, was selected as best in the session.

Patrick Flynn (Philosophy), Al Martin (Biology) and Jean-Marie Kauth (Humanities) participated in the last installment of the three-year, NEH-ACTC “Bridging the Gap” seminars held at St. Mary’s College in Moraga, California from June. The theme of this year’s workshop was “Technology, Art, Values and the Problems of Technoscience.”

Jack Fritts (Library) began a one-year term as Chair of the Distance Learning Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries in July.

Mardelle Fortier (Literature) won three poetry prizes in the Poets and Patrons of Chicago annual contest. Fortier received an award in the following categories: Formal Verse, Religious and Social Conscience. The winning poets attended a banquet and awards ceremony in Chicago at the Harold Washington Library in October. Fortier also recently reviewed three poetry books. Her review appears in a recent issue of the literary journal “Bibliophilos.”

Vincent Gaddis (History) participated in Boston University’s Center for Congregational Research and Development’s “Sustaining Urban Pastoral Excellence” program. Gaddis presented on “The Impact of Violence on Communities: A Supernatural Perspective” in September at Boston University.

Chuck Gahala (Business and Management) made two presentations at the Gateway Credit Conference in September in St. Louis, Missouri. The presentations were titled: “Beta? Lambda? Sigma? Zeta? It’s All Greek to Me!” and “What Do Credit Managers Do for Job Advancement?” Gahala also published “What Do Credit Managers Do for Initial Employment?” in the August issue of Business Credit. The data for this study was gathered at Benedictine at a spring Association of Credit Managers conference. The study compares the opinions of students enrolled in advanced managerial finance to the opinions of corporate credit managers from several industries. Gahala published an article titled “The Lambda Index: A Better Measure of Liquidity” in the October issue of Management Today.

Sandra Gill (College of Business), Sharon Borowicz (M.B.A. Program), Cindy Atchley (Webflex) and Jane Crabtree (Business Administration) attended the 13th annual conference of the Institute of Behavioral and Applied Management in October in Scottsdale, Arizona. Gill and Borowicz presented a paper titled “Achieving Organizational Change in Professional Organizations: Lessons from Scholars-Practitioners.” Borowicz, Archley and Richard Magner (National Louis University) presented a panel discussion titled “What are online courses doing to develop virtual team skills in tomorrow’s workforce.” Crabtree presented two papers: “Building a Global Community Using Third Country Nationals” and “A Sporting Adventure: How to Retire in Style.” Gill, Crabtree and Borowicz also presided as chairs for several of the sessions.

Cheryl A. Heinz (Biology) attended the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America jointly held with the IX International Congress of Ecology (ENTECOL) in August in Montreal, Quebec. Heinz presented a poster titled, “Suitability and acceptability of native hosts to a native butterfly” based on work done at Benedictine University.

Philanthropic Leadership Award for Gillett

Will Gillett, chairman of Benedictine’s Board of Trustees, (pictured here with Benedictine President William Carroll) was recognized with the Philanthropic Leadership Award at the West Suburban Philanthropic Networks Award luncheon in May 2005.

He was honored for his leadership, funding and time promoting not-for-profit organizations such as Benedictine University and Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital and Clinic, where is also the chairman of the board. 

Nona Jones (Marketing) presented a paper “Integrating Local Small Businesses into the Marketing Strategy Class” at the Marketing Management Association (MMA) Fall Educators’ Conference in September in Kansas City, Missouri. Jones’ paper gave an account of a project she devised for her Spring 2005 Marketing Strategy class in which groups of students developed comprehensive marketing plans for three small businesses in the Lisle/Naperville area. Applying concepts learned in the class, the students conducted extensive analyses of the companies’ situations and then recommended strategies and tactics that two of the companies have already made plans to implement. Jones also served as chair of the session during which she presented.
Voluntary Subscriptions Support Magazine

The cost of publishing and mailing Benedictine Voices, the alumni magazine, continues to increase. Your tax-deductible gift of $15 helps defray these mounting costs during difficult budget times. This is strictly voluntarily. You can enclose your donation in the attached contribution envelope.

Spotlight On Faculty

If you know of a faculty member who deserves a moment in the spotlight, please let us know. E-mail suggestions to lhale@ben.edu.

In Memory

It is with deep sympathy that the University announces the passing of faculty member Charlotte Ross, Ph.D. She was a long-standing member of the College of Education and Health Services. Ross died this past October.

Sharon Nelson (Library) has been appointed to Endeavor Information Systems’ “Bon Voyage Grants Selection Committee.” The committee, composed of librarians from the United States and Australia, is charged with selecting individuals and/or institutions eligible to receive a total of $10,000 in grants to be applied towards the cost of attending Endeavor’s annual conference in Chicago in 2006.

Sue Peterson (Library) is a participant and Benedictine is a recipient in a statewide collection development grant focused on strengthening Illinois’ access to materials in the area of global business. Ten schools collaborated on this grant, and each participant received $2,500. Benedictine’s area of collection for the grant will be materials on transnational and Middle Eastern business. Access to all materials purchased under this grant is being shared across the state through the Voyager database. A complete list of titles purchased will be published at the conclusion of the grant period.

Fannie Rushing (History) organized a conference in October at Roosevelt University in Chicago on the origin and development of the Chicago Area Friends of the Student Non Violent Coordinating Committee and the role it played in the Chicago civil rights movement between 1960 and 1965. One of the goals of Rushing’s project is to provide current and future generations with the knowledge of the significance of the contemporary Civil Rights Movement and its impact on the political and socio-economic landscape in Chicago. A Web site has been established at www.chicagosncc.org.

Margaret Salyer (Clinical Psychology) gave a presentation on creating healthy relationships at Peace Lutheran Church in Glen Ellyn in September. Salyer speaks frequently to community groups and is a favorite speaker at parent education programs throughout DuPage County. She was featured as the keynote speaker at the Community Unit School District 200 Parent University in Wheaton in October. She addressed parents in Hinsdale in November. She has previously presented a program at Lyons Township on managing anger to an audience of more than 400 people. She has been invited back for the fourth year to present workshops at Downers Grove South’s Parent University in February.

Lisa Townsley (Mathematics) attended the focused research conference “Workshop: Cohomology of Finite Groups: Interactions and Applications” in September at the Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut in Oberwohlbach, Germany. The invitation-only conference in the Black Forest featured 55 of the top mathematicians in the discipline of group cohomology and related interactions. Townsley also delivered three presentations at the national “Mathfest” in Albuquerque in August. She was a invited presenter on the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus and also spoke on the success of the Benedictine University Mathematics Department in recruiting mathematics majors. In addition, Townsley presented information on the new College Level Examination Program precalculus exam, which she helped to create.

Daniel J. Julius (Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs), John Kevin Doyle (Business Administration) and Alicia Cordoba Tait (Fine and Performing Arts) led a panel discussion during the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture 2005 Annual Fall Conference, “Joy in the Truth: The Catholic University in the New Millennium” on September 29-October 1 at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. The conference brought together hundreds of Catholic, Christian and secular scholars representing all the main academic fields to discuss a broad range of issues relating to the way that a Catholic university can best respond to the call by the late Pope John Paul II for a renewal of Catholic institutions of higher learning. The session, titled “The Active Embrace of Ex Corde Ecclesiae: The Case Study of a Small Liberal Arts University,” explored how the dialogue between faith and reason is being approached at Benedictine University, ongoing challenges associated with the embrace of Ex Corde Ecclesiae, and how those lessons might be applied elsewhere.

Larry Kamin (Biological Sciences) gave a speech in October to the DuPage Chapter of the Wild Ones at the Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn. The speech was on the Jurica Talgrass Prairie project on the Benedictine University campus. Kamin’s three gardens on campus were also part of the yard tour for the DuPage Chapter of the Wild Ones organization in July.

Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B. (Curator of University art collection) visited the Slovak Republic on a group tour in September in celebration of his Golden Jubilee of Profession of Vows as a Benedictine monk of St. Procopius Abbey. Fr. Michael was also honored by the Folk Art Society of America during the group’s four-day conference in Chicago by the presentation of a painted metal, eight-foot rooster by Kentucky artist Minnie Adkins in September. The gift, facilitated by folk art collectors Bill and Ruth Glennon of Huntley, was made in recognition of Fr. Michael’s interest in American folk art. The artwork is displayed in the Joseph and Bess Kindlon Hall of Learning.

Ralph Meeker (Computer Science and Information Systems), Kevin Doyle (Business Administration) and Dan Nohl (Computer Science and Information Systems) attended the annual Midwest regional meeting of the Consortium for Computer Sciences in Colleges, in September at Millikin University in Decatur. Doyle presented “Improving Performance and Retention in CS1,” and Meeker presented “Comparative System Performance for a Beowulf Cluster.” Both papers were based on work done at Benedictine University and were published in the October issue of The Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges. Nohl participated in a panel presentation on “Computing for the Non-CS Major” along with faculty from Olivet Nazarene and Dominican Universities. Undergraduates Phillip Rymek, Geoffrey Schnorr and Russell Zagorski accompanied the faculty and participated in the Student Programming Contest.
Benedictine at the New Lincoln Museum in Springfield

Dan Nohl (Computer Science) visited the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield this summer and noticed that Benedictine University was listed on the donors wall under the heading “Rail-Splitter.” Benedictine donated the historically accurate “Lincoln Funeral Train” exhibit that was once on display at the University and was created by former faculty member Wayne Wesolowski.

Nohl also took some time from his hectic tourist schedule to pose with a former Illinois political figure (a wax figure of Abraham Lincoln) who is said to have achieved some fame on the national level.

Benedictine, Village of Lisle to Host Women’s Lacrosse Finals and NCAA III Track and Field Championships in 2006

You can add two more events to the burgeoning resume of the Sports Complex at Benedictine University in Lisle: the NCAA Division II Women’s Lacrosse Championship on May 13 and 14 and the NCAA III Track and Field Championships on May 25-27.

The consortium of the Village of Lisle, Benedictine University and the Lisle Convention and Visitors Bureau earned the right to host the sixth annual championship in NCAA II women’s lacrosse — as well as the NCAA Division III track and field meet — by offering a combination of outstanding facilities, hospitality and a commitment to a quality experience for the participants.

“We are in a unique position to bring a diverse slate of activities to Lisle simply by utilizing The Sports Complex as the centerpiece of these efforts,” said William Carroll, president of the University. “This, in turn, can have many other benefits to our community in terms of social and economic value, as well as generating a tremendous amount of exposure for both our campus and the Village. We are committed to doing everything within our power to make this a memorable and fun experience for all of the participants.”

Lisle Mayor Joe Broda echoed Carroll’s sentiments. “I have no doubt that the community will embrace these athletes during their championship visit to Lisle.”

This will be the first time that the NCAA Division II Women’s Lacrosse Championship has been played anywhere but at an East Coast site.

Lacrosse is now the fastest growing high school sport for girls in the United States, with a large percentage of that growth occurring with the addition of new high school lacrosse programs in the Midwest and West. This tremendous growth and popularity of the sport has carried into Division II women’s lacrosse, which is the fastest growing NCAA division in terms of athletic programs offering the sport.
**Volleyball Team Wins NIIC Championship; Tuchowski Named “Player Of The Year”**

The Benedictine University volleyball team claimed the 2005 Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) championship by going 5-0 in the NIIC regular season and finishing second in the league’s tournament. The NIIC combines the regular season league matches and post-season tournament results to determine its champion.

The Eagles (24-14) edged Aurora by one half point (11 to 10 1/2) in the overall final NIIC standings. The NIIC championship was the 23rd conference crown — and seventh in the past eight seasons — for the Eagles’ program. Benedictine also won the NIIC title in 2004.

Two-thirds of Benedictine’s starting lineups — four players in all — were also honored by the NIIC on its all-conference teams.

The quartet of honorees was led by senior outside hitter Jessica Tuchowski (Orland Park, Ill.). Not only did Tuchowski earn her second All-NIIC award in as many years at Benedictine, but she was also selected as the NIIC’s “Player of the Year” for the 2005 season.

Tuchowski did a little bit of everything for the Eagles during their championship run of 2005. She ranked fifth in the NIIC in both service aces (0.58 a.p.g.) and digs (6.08 d.p.g.), while also finishing sixth in the league for kills per game (3.62 k.p.g).

Joining Tuchowski on the All-NIIC first team were sophomore Danielle Mikos (Burbank, Ill.) and junior Liz Fredlund (Warren, Mich.). Senior Jill Burton (Lemont, Ill.) capped her Benedictine career by being tabbed as NIIC honorable mention.

**Bandits Will Return To Sports Complex In 2006**

The Chicago Bandits will be back at the Sports Complex at Benedictine University in Lisle for the 2006 season.

The Bandits led the National Pro Fastpitch (NPF) softball league in attendance while compiling a league-best 41-7 record during the regular season. The Bandits lost 6-5 in eight innings to the Akron Racers in the NPF championship game August 28 in Lisle that was televised nationally on ESPN2.

Locally, the Bandits’ 40 league home games and exhibitions attracted more than 55,000 fans.

The team has received a verbal commitment from star hurler Jennie Finch for the 2006 season.

“This sets the tone for a bright future of professional softball in Lisle and the surrounding community,” said Charles Gregory, executive vice president at Benedictine University.

**Former WIU Player New Women’s Tennis Coach**

Megan Weemer, a former standout player at NCAA Division I Western Illinois University, was named as the head coach of the Benedictine University women’s tennis team in time for the Fall 2005 season. Weemer, a native of Sterling Ill., previously served as an assistant coach at Eastern Illinois University.

During the 2005 season, Weemer led the Eagles to a runner-up finish in the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference.

“I’m very excited to have the opportunity to coach tennis at Benedictine,” Weemer said. “I’m looking forward to working with an outstanding group of student-athletes at a great university in a small school environment.”

As a player, the former Megan Baker was a three-time Most Valuable Player and a two-time first team All-Mid-Continent Conference performer at Western Illinois University, helping the Westerwinds to four straight runner-up finishes in the Mid-Con Tournament. She compiled a singles record of 55-42 and a doubles mark of 50-35 in her four-year career (1995-99).

Weemer, her husband, Steve, and their son, Payton, live in Oswego.
Your Class Notes Can Win You A Prize

The Office of Alumni Relations and your fellow alumni want to know what is new in your life. **Tell us what you have been up to;** what you do in your career; interesting travel; a new job, promotion or award; family news; and more.

**Remember, even after you graduate, you are still connected here.**

For a limited time, we will randomly choose three winners out of the class notes section in each issue of *Voices* magazine. Share your news with us and you are eligible to win a Benedictine alumni prize. (Please note one win per person.)

Look for your name to appear in a special notice within the magazine and contact alumni relations within the set amount of time to claim your prize.

What's new in your life? A marriage or a child? A new job or promotion? Have you been published or honored? Let us know!

Tell my classmates that . . .

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<td>e-mail <a href="mailto:alumni@ben.edu">alumni@ben.edu</a></td>
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Join the Benedictine community on May 11, 2006 in welcoming General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.) as the next speaker in the Great Issues–Great Ideas Lecture Series. The former Secretary of State (2001-2004) will give a presentation at 7:30 p.m. and all are welcome to attend.

For ticket information please call (866) 468-4301 or www.ticketweb.com.

This event is presented in association with Calamos Investments and media sponsor Sun Publications.

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