Despite tough economic times, how has the Benedictine community come through for the University and its students?

Our internationally recognized Model UN program has received the benefit of the University covering the costs of registration and hotel during the week-long conference in New York, but the costs of airfare and incidentals are an increasing burden to students. The success of Model UN is due in part to the dedicated group of alumni who support the program and those who have generously contributed to cover student costs. Our goal is to provide full-funding of the event to students in financial need through the Diplomacy in Action Sponsorship Program, which was created with the help of monies from Tim Greene and John Greene Realtors. We now issue awards to our students from the stories I hear about their difficult family situations and the gratitude they share with us about how we have helped them continue their education. Achieving another year of record enrollment is very satisfying this year more than ever because of the challenges we faced. This proved we were successful in our efforts to assist our students remain in school. Many generous donors who support the University contributed to these efforts. Working together, we were able to make a difference in many lives.

Mercy Robb, M.B.A. ’02
Marketing and Communications

I know Benedictine’s economic support initiatives are meaningful to our students from the stories I hear about their difficult family situations and the gratitude they share with us about how we have helped them continue their education. Achieving another year of record enrollment is very satisfying this year more than ever because of the challenges we faced. This proved we were successful in our efforts to assist our students remain in school. Many generous donors who support the University contributed to these efforts. Working together, we were able to make a difference in many lives.

Jessica Stillo
Office of Stewardship

The alumni and donors have come through for Benedictine by continually doing all they can to support the University during these tough times whether it’s through time, talent or treasure. Alumni are reaching out to students, introducing them to their contacts and doing all they can to help them find jobs. Donors are continuing to support student scholarships and are genuinely concerned for the well-being of those following their dreams at the school. As always, support from our donors and alumni is necessary to ensure that Benedictine remains the stellar institution it is.

Jessica Stillo
Office of Stewardship

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.
A PURPOSEFUL WALK

BY WILLIAM J. CARROLL, PRESIDENT

The wind rustles through the trees while the sun flickers in and out of a magnificent display of fall colors in the failing leaves of summer. This is a purposeful walk through St. Procopius Abbey Cemetery, one I take periodically to be alone and to remember why we are here at this place, at this time.

The last few years have been difficult for Benedictine University and St. Procopius Abbey. The loss of so many monks to death seems to have quickened. Men like Frs. Stanley, Kevin, Roman, Michael and Br. Sebastian have gone to their reward. We are left to wonder how to move ahead without them.

These men, however, like their predecessors, did not leave us alone and abandoned. They left us a community of Benedictines dedicated to the ideal of a College and now University that was and is Catholic, Benedictine and striving to be the best it can be. In the early days, the community was made up of the monks of St. Procopius Abbey. Today, it continues to be the monks enjoined by a sea of lay people dedicated to the continuing goal of building this Catholic and Benedictine University into the best it can be.

When I served as academic dean and acting president of a Dominican college, we had a large retreat on the topic: “How Can We Continue To Be Dominican With A Declining Number of Dominican Sisters?” While the topic may seem daunting, the retreat was over rather quickly. The resounding answer to the seemingly difficult question was that the sisters had taught us well—they taught lay people how to be Dominicans.

Our Benedictine predecessors were no different. While they were farmers, land stewards, builders and scholars, they were also teachers of the tradition and transmitters of the culture. Through their lived example, they taught growing numbers of lay people to be Benedictine and to pass the Benedictine charism to successive generations.

As we now emerge at the end of the first decade of the 21st Century, the institution they founded and nurtured has blossomed into an international university—still Catholic and Benedictine. While the total number of monks on campus may be fewer than in the past, their spirit looms as large as ever. The Benedictine value of hospitality is evident in every corner of the institution. The University’s renown for diversity has its foundation in this fundamental value.

So as I walk among the seemingly dead, we know they live—in God, in us and in the institution they founded. In our continuing drive to be the best we can be, sometimes it is important to stop and count our blessings. Sometimes it is important to return to this holy ground and to remember who they were, who we are and who we must be to continue to realize their dream for this beloved institution. Truly in this place, the present is the past in anticipation of the future.

We dedicate this annual report issue of Voices to the many monks whose lives and work continue to fuel the University. In honor of all the monks who ever walked this campus, in the pages that follow we celebrate in a special way the monks who continue to work at Benedictine University. While their numbers have dwindled over the years, their work has never been more important. †
The Rule of St. Benedict

From the beginning of Christianity, there have been people who were eager for the closest possible connection with God while on Earth. Those who have chosen to follow in St. Benedict’s footsteps live a monastic life through his Rule for Monasteries. In this document, St. Benedict shows his love for Christ, his love for his brothers and his desire that his monks, and all Christians, follow Christ’s way to eternal life.

Let us open our eyes to the light that comes from God, and our ears to the voice from heaven that every day calls out this charge: If you hear his voice today, do not harden your hearts.

Abbot Dismas Kalcic was born in Joliet, Ill., and attended Joliet Catholic High School. Shortly after completing a tour of duty with the U.S. Air Force, he attended a Sunday Mass celebrated by a priest of St. Procopius Abbey. In conversation after the Mass, the priest recommended that he continue his education at St. Procopius College and offered to show him around the campus. He drove the priest back to the Abbey, where as he puts it, “Maple Avenue was an oil-covered gravel road, College Road was a dirt road filled with potholes, Jaeger Hall was in its first full year of operation and a small beat-up St. Procopius College sign sat atop the corner fence post.”

“Whatever limitations I may have sensed in the first impression, all was changed when I entered the chapel where many monks were praying in the dark,” Abbot Dismas said. “I found this quiet, spiritual place very attractive for re-entry into the academic life.” Abbot Dismas eventually asked for entrance into the community and professed vows in 1955. He went on to teach English at Benet Academy and was a residence hall director at the College.

After ordination in 1961, Abbot Dismas earned a master’s degree in economics at the University of Notre Dame; studied mathematics, econometrics and the history of economic thought at the Johns Hopkins University; completed his doctoral studies at
The Benedictine motto: ora et labora (pray and work)

St. Benedict’s Rule requires two main things: prayer and labor. Prayer rightly comes first because it is at the heart of the monk’s life. He has devoted his life to seek God and to do the work of God. Work is the next important step toward holiness. Monks are to be “wearied with labors for God’s sake.” The monks of St. Procopius Abbey have strived throughout their history to use their labor to educate, strengthen and champion all who seek it, for it is their ambition to “glorify God in all things.”

Benedictine Hospitality

Benedictine hospitality is as old as the Order of St. Benedict, which began in 500 A.D., and is the hallmark of Western monasticism. The monks have always opened their doors to all who seek an education and spiritual guidance. In the Rule, Chapter 53 on The Reception of Guests, it reads: “All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say: I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matt. 25:35). In Chapter 4 on The Tools for Good Works, it explains hospitality further by saying, “You must honor everyone.” (1 Pet 2:17)

Ut in omnibus glorificetur Deus: That in all things God may be glorified

In his Rule for Monasteries, St. Benedict cites 1 Peter 4:11: “That in all things God may be glorified” (ut in omnibus glorificetur Deus). The monks of St. Procopius Abbey have always been involved in duties inside and outside the monastery walls. They have worked in education as well as in local parishes. Some monks teach classes, some work in campus ministry, others work in administration at either Benet Academy or Benedictine University. Ordained monks help at local parishes in the Diocese of Joliet, especially by providing assistance for Sunday Masses.

Work is meant to use the materials and gifts that God has given each person and to form them into something pleasing to God. God is therefore praised and glorified. But more than this, the monks themselves are to be formed into something pleasing to God by the monastic life itself. This is their sacred journey.

HONORING THE BENEDICTINE MONKS

Washington University in St. Louis; and taught economics at the University while writing the dissertation for his 1974 graduation.

Later, he served as executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs at the College of St. Francis in Joliet, leaving there to become business manager and later the director of electronic learning systems at Benet Academy. Abbot Dismas then moved on to concentrate on things more spiritual as a pastor of three different parishes in Wisconsin.

Returning to St. Procopius Abbey in 2001, he taught economics at both Benedictine University and Benet Academy. In 2002, he was elected Abbot of St. Procopius Abbey. As Abbot, he is Chancellor of both the University and Benet Academy.

With a vision of its history as background, he is pleased that Benedictine University is recognized for quality education developed from challenging academic programs by excellent faculty and staff, and a campus life enriched by a diverse student body.

MEANINGFUL

Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do with your evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.

PEDRO ARRUPE, S.J., FORMER JESUIT SUPERIOR GENERAL

“In my judgment, the quality of the University’s leadership and management has been most important,” said Abbot Dismas. “Dr. William J. Carroll, supported by an outstanding Board of Trustees and strong University managers, has guided the University to its present level of excellence with a vision that now includes an extension of select programs into China and Vietnam. The University promotes Catholic and Benedictine values in both the curriculum and campus life, and is positioned to bring excellent education to just about anyone, anywhere.”
Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B.

In the small town of Ohio, Ill., Abbot Hugh Anderson signed up for a Latin class in his junior year of high school, and in order to get a passing grade from his teacher announced he wanted to be a priest. When conversations turned to colleges, his parents encouraged him to consider a Catholic college and brought him to visit St. Procopius College on a recommendation.

Once at the College, he eagerly joined many activities. He signed up for the drama club and played the role of Finnian in “Finnian’s Rainbow,” played clarinet in the orchestra and was on the football team. He broke his ankle while playing football and was moved from Jaeger Hall to the school’s infirmary that overlooked the back entrance of the monastery. He was deeply moved by watching the Brothers go to work on the farm across the street, tuck-pointing the building and repairing tables and chairs. He felt a real sense of peace among them.

After his sophomore year, he entered the Benedictine community, advancing from novitiate simple profession to final profession and ordination in 1965. Before attending graduate school at Indiana University, Abbot Hugh worked as assistant to the registrar and then director of admissions while serving at the same time as prefect/director in Jaeger Hall. Every monk in those early years will tell you that he served in five or six different positions, filling in wherever needed.

He was elected Abbot in 1985 and remained in that position for 18 years. When he celebrated his 65th birthday—according to the laws of the American Cassinese Congregation—he submitted his resignation. He took a sabbatical for a year to study at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Mo., where he lived in a Benedictine monastery. The time was spent in study, prayer and reflection, with a concentration on spiritual direction.

In January 2003, he was appointed director of University Ministry at Benedictine. You know he is a man on a mission when watching him stride across the campus each morning from the Abbey to his office in the Krasa Center in his black habit, red Benedictine athletic jacket and baseball cap. He has done many things to make University Ministry visible on campus, including implementing an open-door policy and showing interest in anything involving students. Interreligious dialogue is very important at Benedictine because of the variety of ethnic students on campus, and Abbot Hugh welcomes everyone into the conversation. He is truly a spiritual resource for the entire campus community.

“I’m always excited about coming to work each day. The choice to have a good day or a bad day is up to me and I choose to have great days,” Abbot Hugh said. “I want to be there 100 percent for the students and campus community, so the choice is easy for me.”

Br. Augustine Mallak, O.S.B.

Br. Augustine Mallak knew in sixth grade that he wanted to join a religious order. After graduation from high school in 1976, he attended Illinois Benedictine College (IBC). After two years, he asked for entrance into the Benedictine community. He was motivated by one of the Sisters he had in grade school who talked extensively about the important work the Benedictines did in the Middle Ages preserving the culture through copying manuscripts and teaching in schools.

When he became interested in service to the Church, he tried to learn more about the Benedictines and found their community life with its emphasis on the liturgy appealing. The liturgical aspect was particularly interesting to him and he knew he could contribute musically since he had studied piano and organ since he was 8 years old.

Br. Augustine earned a bachelor’s degree in Music from IBC and a Master of Music from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. He continued studies in organ and composition and eventually studied other music topics at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, and Gregorian chant in the United States and France.

Br. Augustine began teaching as an adjunct professor at IBC in 1984 and has taught Music Theory I, II, III and IV, Counterpoint, Harmony, Aural Skills and Piano.

The high academic standards at Benedictine are important to him, as well as the acute awareness of Benedictine and Catholic values on campus and in the classroom.

“The diversity of students plays a strong part in our values and it becomes a legacy that students pass on to each other and to every class after them,” Br. Augustine said.
Br. Richard Poro, O.S.B.

Br. Richard Poro entered the Benedictine community in August 1992 while in his early 30s. He had always been interested in a community and prayer life and was referred to St. Procopius Abbey by his spiritual director. Br. Rick serves in University Ministry. This gives him an opportunity to work on outreach programs with students and to get to know them as young adults. It also keeps him involved with faculty and staff, therefore allowing him to be a spiritual resource for the entire campus community.

Benedictine’s outreach programs involve students who assist Br. Rick monthly when he performs service work, such as volunteering at the Woodridge Community Pantry or Loaves and Fishes in Naperville. Over the years, he has taken many groups of students to do volunteer work in economically deprived areas, including Appalachia in West Virginia. These groups put in long days of hard work, but are encouraged to get to know the people they are helping.

Br. Rick also takes students twice a year to Sacred Heart Mission in Hopkins Park, Ill., outside Kankakee, one of the poorest areas in the United States. They visit the senior citizens in the nursing home, do yard work, and paint and clean houses. This work lets residents know they are not forgotten.

Through these activities, Br. Rick feels that students are strengthened in the rich tradition that is the Benedictine legacy. “Through outreach activities, students can experience it rather than just learn about it,” he said. “They can feel what it is like to help others in need, and hopefully it will guide them to always give back in their lives.”

Fr. James Flint, O.S.B.

Fr. James Flint entered St. Procopius College in 1970 as a History major. Two years later, he started to consider a vocation in the priesthood and connected with the Diocese of Joliet. He commuted from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Romeoville but also had great contact with the Benedictine monks, and soon decided that the monastic life was where his vocation lay. He joined the Abbey community in June 1974 after earning his degree.

Fr. James is currently director of corporate/foundation/government grants at Benedictine, securing additional funds for the University through his efforts at writing grants. For many years, he contributed to the University as a teacher of History. Fr. James also has a number of duties at the Abbey, including historian, archivist, librarian, treasurer and member of the Council of Seniors (an advisory body at the Abbey), and for 16 years has assisted at St. Joseph Parish in Downers Grove.

“I had fine monks and lay teachers while I was a student, and I have worked with many grand people at Benedictine who have given me some interesting challenges,” said Fr. James. “The University is strong in its Catholic faith and Benedictine tradition, and I hope that it will continue to treasure and develop its Catholic identity.”

Fr. James serves on the Board of Directors at Benet Academy and is recording secretary of the President’s Council of the American Cassinese Congregation (a Catholic association of Benedictine monasteries that traces its origin back to Monte Cassino, the first monastery founded by St. Benedict in the sixth century). He also serves on the editorial board of the American Benedictine Review, a journal published four times a year with articles written on Benedictine topics.


**MEANINGFUL**

**QUOTE**

Jesus, shine through me and be so in me that every person I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul.

HENRY CARDINAL NEWMAN

Another way Br. Rick helps students understand the Benedictine way of life is through the program Dinner and Vespers at St. Procopius Abbey. Once a month, he invites a group of students to experience the monastic way of life. The program starts with dinner in the Guest Refectory where Br. Rick talks to the students about the monastic community and the Benedictine values, then invites them to ask questions. After dinner, he gives them a tour of the Abbey and invites them to evening prayer, Vespers.

**MEANINGFUL**

**QUOTE**

Change, change, change. All this talk about change. Aren’t things bad enough already?

VISCOUNT PALMERSTON
**Fr. David Turner, O.S.B.**

Fr. David Turner has been the Assistant to the Provost for Institutional Mission since 2001. He has also been an associate professor at Benedictine for many years. However, neither of these titles says it all. Fr. David has served the University in many ways since the 1960s. True to the motto of so many of the Benedictine monks, he has never said “no” to whenever or wherever he was needed.

Fr. David attended Archbishop Joseph Weber High School in Chicago before enrolling at St. Procopius College. He was deeply moved by the prayerful attitude of his monk-teachers who stressed that they always glorified God by being good students. He entered the novitiate of the Benedictines in 1956, made profession in 1957 and was ordained in 1963.

He earned a Master of Arts degree in 1963 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1970, both from the University of Minnesota. Fr. David then taught psychology and teacher education at the University and was also the chair of the Department of Education. He then went on to become vice president of academic affairs at St. Martin College in Washington from 1977-1979. During this time, he earned a Master of Divinity degree from Mt. Angel Seminary in Oregon. From 1988-2001, he was director of Institutional Mission and University Ministry and an adjunct professor of Humanities at Benedictine University.

Over the years, Fr. David has contributed to the University community in numerous ways. He was the director of public relations and publications and later served as dean of academic services. He has presided over numerous retreats for priests, religious and the laity, and has been a frequent presenter for parish lecture programs in areas of theology and psychology.

In addition, Fr. David was the national editor of the Catholic Campus Ministry journal for six years, and has published materials in national journals. He holds professional certificates as a Certified School Psychologist in Illinois and a Certified Catholic Campus Minister in the United States Catholic Conference-Catholic Campus Ministry Association. From 1981-1988, he was associate campus minister and adjunct professor of Religion at the Newman Foundation at the University of Illinois in Champaign, where he also taught theology.

In 1991, Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B., reminded Fr. David that he had not had a sabbatical in 15 years and asked him to find something that would interest him. Fr. David had read “The Transforming Moment” by James Lodur, a professor of practical theology at Princeton Seminary, while at the University of Illinois. He wrote to the author and asked if he would accept him as a summer scholar. Lodur wrote back and told him that the seminary had a Doctor of Ministry Program that was exactly what he was seeking.


Always looking to expand the University’s scope, Fr. David founded a Knights of Columbus Council at Benedictine many years ago which continues to flourish today. In October 2007, he was invested as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Fr. David has been a consistent contributor to the University’s alumni magazine, Voices, writing on pertinent religious subjects or monastic matters. He is also an invaluable source of history for the entire Benedictine community. 

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**Fr. Philip Timko, O.S.B.**

Born in Joliet, Fr. Philip Timko looked at local colleges for inspiration on what career to follow. After visiting St. Procopius College, he decided that he wanted to be a teacher or a priest. Fr. Clement Sobr, O.S.B., suggested that he become a Divinity student, which was a group of young men who were thinking of the priesthood and/or religious life. The Divinity students attended Mass and night prayer together.

He made profession in 1962, was ordained in 1969 and soon became a member of the faculty. Over the years, he has taught many classes and served on several faculty committees.

Fr. Philip studied theology in Rome for four years and earned a License in Sacred Theology. He was fortunate to be in Rome the last year of the Second Vatican Council and attended as many public sessions as possible, for he realized that history was taking place.

He was one of a group of Benedictine faculty who designed the Core Curriculum, a mandated program for all students. He was also very involved in leadership programs and was the first director of the Scholar’s Program. He was a strong supporter of the Muslim Student Association, led faculty seminars on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and Ex Corde Ecclesiae, and coordinated the Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought program since its inception.

Fr. Philip also educates local parishes with lectures and talks on religious histories, theology and other matters.

In February 2009, members of the Benedictine community, including students, awarded Fr. Philip the Distinguished
Fr. Robert Sum, O.S.B.

Fr. Robert Sum is Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Retreats at Benedictine University. While he was a graduate student in Computer Science at the University of Illinois in Champaign, he met Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., at the Newman Center on campus.

Fr. Bob envisioned himself as a priest, but not a parish priest, so he began exploring monastic life while working for seven years as a computer scientist for General Electric.

After he entered St. Procopius Abbey in 1997, Fr. Bob made first profession in November 1998, final vows in 2001 and was ordained a priest in 2005. Living in community comes first for him. Living with the Benedictine monks of St. John’s Abbey was one of the advantages for him while studying for ordination at St. John’s University School of Theology and Seminary in Minnesota.

Fr. Bob remembers the many good teachers he had while studying at Benedictine, and likes taking the time to interact with students and enhance their experience at the school. He introduced and directs the Koinonia retreat program at Benedictine. He believes this program, which is almost entirely peer-to-peer ministry, offers students a chance to deepen their relationships with God through heart-to-heart interactions with faithful students like themselves. He also assists with Mass and other liturgical prayers on campus.

“The development of students in the retreat program and through liturgical prayer has been most fulfilling to me,” Fr. Bob said. “I believe they are the future leaders in the church, and participation as leaders in retreats and liturgy at Benedictine gives them a more profound view of their faith. It is a different way to build community on campus.”

In addition to his work at the University, Fr. Bob directs campus ministry at Benet Academy, functions as St. Procopius Abbey’s associate for liturgy and Seminary in Minnesota. He also assists with Mass and other liturgical prayers on campus. Fr. Bob’s fall assignment was a defense of his aesthetic and artistic statement titled “Incarnation of Matter.” His statement was an echo of Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Standing on the bare ground—my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space—all means of egotism vanish…I am nothing, I see all. The currents of the Universe circulate through me. I am part and parcel of God.”

Fr. Kevin Coffey's fall assignment from the Abbey was to initiate the first art program at Benet Academy. One hundred students signed up for classes. He continues to share his talents in many ways with the Benedictine community to enrich the arts.
Fr. Theodore Suchy, O.S.B.

Fr. Theodore Suchy thought of being a priest while growing up in the small town of Cary, Ill., but it was not until a Benedictine monk visited his town that he took the step that led him to his vocation. When Fr. Ted decided to attend St. Procopius College in 1958, the only buildings on campus were Benedictine Hall, Jaeger Hall, the gym and the Science Building. A religion class taught by Fr. Clement Sobr, O.S.B., was the catalyst for Fr. Ted’s ultimate decision. He was so impressed by Fr. Clement’s sincerity and teaching skill that he wanted to know more about the Benedictines.

After becoming a Benedictine, Fr. Ted served as director in Jaeger Hall for a year and in Kohlbeck Hall for 10 years. “I met a lot of great people with whom I still have some contact,” Fr. Ted said. “I had a good staff of residence assistants and counselors. We had fun, along with serious studying, and I have good memories of that time of my life.”

Fr. Ted feels that the time he spent teaching is his greatest achievement. “I enjoy teaching and hopefully made a good impression on students, both sharing my values with them and teaching them to find fulfillment in their life’s work and as Christian human beings,” he said. “It is rewarding when students come back and tell you how influential you were in their lives, particularly what they learned in your classes and in their choice of a professional school."

Fr. Ted was also closely involved with students while serving as director of University Ministry. “I had a great staff in Br. Bernard Glos, O.S.B., and Sr. Benita Jasurda, O.S.B., from Sacred Heart Monastery,” he said. “We had good outreach programs, great liturgies and were a very visible presence on campus. University Ministry gave me an opportunity to do my priestly work.”

Fr. Ted believes that Benedictine’s strength is its dedicated faculty. As a student, he remembers Fr. William Shonka, O.S.B., walking to the Science Building after monastic evening prayer with rosary in hand to prepare for the next day classes. Teachers then, like now, were insistent that students learn the material—not just gloss over it—but learn and understand it.

He believes that the Catholic and Benedictine teaching legacy is a strong Benedictine tradition. St. Procopius Abbey produced well-educated teaching monks who attended top universities. That tradition continues today with a well-educated lay faculty that matriculated from great universities. Fr. Ted points to the science faculty as an example because they seem to live in Birck Hall doing original research and finding better ways to instruct students. He believes that is the University’s teaching legacy.

“I hope that administration, faculty and staff continue with strong religious values,” Fr. Ted said. “They should also love what they do. We all make mistakes, but we must be able to stand back and occasionally laugh at ourselves, put ourselves into God’s hands and try again.”

In March 2009, Benedictine University honored Fr. Ted for his many years of service by re-dedicating the Jurica Nature Museum as the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum. As the long-time director of the Museum, Fr. Ted has nurtured and grown the exhibits and improved community outreach.

Fr. Julian von Duerbeck, O.S.B.

As a descendent of Austrian and Bavarian nobility, Fr. Julian von Duerbeck had an innate understanding of military life. However, he was also interested in becoming a priest. The decision formed in 1967 after he entered St. Procopius College as a freshman. He was impressed with the monks’ spiritual dimension. When he told his parents he wanted to enter the Benedictines, his father responded, “You’re joining the best army.”

Fr. Julian has long been interested in dialogue among religions. Among his Vatican II directives, Pope Paul VI asked the Benedictines to open the door to such dialogue. Fr. Julian read everything he could find on the subject and began to encourage conferences and discussions among diverse religious groups. As Liturgist at St. Procopius Abbey, he has welcomed these groups for an annual Thanksgiving interfaith service.

But Fr. Julian has also taken the quest for dialogue to a broader stage. He formerly served on the Board of the Monastic Interreligious Dialogue and was the Marshall for the Parliament of World Religions that met in Chicago in 1993. He planned two major dialogues with the Dalai Lama and participated in the 2004 Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona, Spain.

A true scholar and an avid reader, Fr. Julian has studied Islam, Hinduism and New Religious Movements at Harvard University. He also spent a semester at the Institute of Buddhist Studies at the University of California-Berkeley. He is an adjunct professor at Benedictine and has taught classes in Mediterranean World and The Baptism of Europe for several years.

Fr. Julian says quite frankly that other religions have reinforced practices within
Fr. Becket Franks, O.S.B.

Fr. Becket Franks was born on the South Side of Chicago and knew from a young age that he had a calling. “Since the age of 7, church was important to me, and I always knew that I wanted to be a priest,” said Fr. Becket. “I joined the Benedictines because of the sense of stability and community present here.”

Fr. Becket came to St. Procopius Abbey in 1977. He was professed a Benedictine monk in 1978 and ordained a priest in 1986. He then taught religion and was director of Campus Ministry at Benet Academy.

While he was a young monk, he was inspired by the work of campus ministers Br. Bernard Glos, O.S.B., and Sr. Benita Jasurda, O.S.B., who offered strong liturgies and outreach programs to people on campus. It was a precursor to the “Theology on Tap” lecture series Fr. Becket recently established at Benedictine.

Fr. Becket plays an important part in University Ministry, and feels enriched by the kaleidoscope of different religions and cultures that comprise Benedictine’s student body. This atmosphere is a reflection of Pope Paul’s VI’s Vatican II mandate that Benedictine monks open doors to discussions on interreligious dialogue.

Last year, in an ongoing effort to bring religious programs to the community, Fr. Becket teamed with Christine Fletcher, Ph.D., assistant professor of Theology, to bring internal and external community members to the Abbey for seasonal reflections. This academic year, he also began teaching a theology class at Benedictine on Catholic Spirituality.

Fr. Becket believes that the Benedictine and Catholic teaching legacy is carried on at the University because of the strong education tradition started by Benedictine monks in the sixth century. “They protected the Catholic culture then as we do now,” said Fr. Becket.

In 1977, Fr. Becket earned a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He later earned a Master of Divinity from the School of Theology at St. John’s University in Minnesota.

He earned a Doctorate of Ministry in 2004 from Princeton Theological Seminary and published his dissertation titled “Consulting the People of God on the Virtue of Monastic Ministry in the 21st Century.” In 2005, he was a Charles E. Merrill Fellow in Ministerial Studies at the Divinity School at Harvard University. Fr. Becket brings all this knowledge to his classroom and to his programs.

his own faith. “Buddhist monks affirm the need for contemplative prayer, Buddhists and Hindus display the beauty of ceremony, Islam inspires the need for solidarity of faith and Judaism fosters respect for scripture,” Fr. Julian said.

He believes that as a Catholic there is a fullness of revelation in Jesus Christ, and God has given different truths in different ways to all the world’s religions.

During fall 2009, Fr. Julian received a papal appointment and was invested as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre for his work in promoting interreligious dialogue. He believes that dialogue—better understanding of other faiths and religions working together—can help provide answers for many of the world’s questions. He finds Benedictine students very open to learning about other faiths. He is well-known and respected for his work and knowledge among other religious denominations in the Chicago area.

I call you my friends, for I have made known to you all that the Father told me.

JOHN 15:15B

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

PAUL’S LETTER TO PHILIPPIANS

That in all things may God be glorified
“If we wish to dwell in the tent of his Kingdom, we will never arrive unless we run there by doing good deeds.”

RB, PROL:22

Get WILD With PRIDE

Homecoming Video

If you missed Homecoming this year, you won’t want to miss this great video that gives you a tour of the day. If you did attend the festivities, this is a great way to relive it and hear from other alumni who were there. Watch the video at: www.ben.edu/homecomingvideo.
Men’s and Women’s Soccer Reunion

On August 22, athletic reunions were hosted for both men’s and women’s soccer alumni. The women’s team started off the morning at 10:00 a.m. with soccer alumni versus current team members. The outcome of this competitive game was 6-4 in favor of the current squad.

After the conclusion of the women’s game, the men’s teams took to the field. The alumni soccer team held their own against the current team with 31 alumni in attendance (three times as many as the previous year). Players were having as much fun on the sidelines catching-up and talking about their time at Benedictine as they did on the field. The alumni squad brought their “A” game as they held off the student athletes with a 2-1 victory.

The Offices of Alumni Relations and Athletics thank everyone who participated in this connection opportunity and we look forward to seeing you next year. For more information on the upcoming soccer reunion and other athletic reunions, contact Eric Guthrie at eguthrie@ben.edu or call (630) 829-6081.

See more photos from this year’s event at www.ben.edu/homecoming.
Kansas City Alumni Chapter Holds Kick-Off Event

The Office of Alumni Relations is happy to announce the first Alumni Chapter meeting for the Kansas City area was held in October. Hosted by Harold, C66, and Terri Nicholson, everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening of getting to know one another, planning for future events and sharing stories of their time at Benedictine. It was a great evening and a wonderful connection opportunity. We would like to thank the Nicholson’s and Dan, C65, and Mary Tira for assisting in organizing the event.

Watch for future chapter events in your area via notice by mail, by visiting www.ben.edu/alumni or the e-newsletter, CU @ BU.

Undergraduate College of Business Advisory Board Kick-Off Event

On September 16, the newly created Undergraduate College of Business (COB) Advisory Board held their kick-off event at the Fireside Lounge in the Krasa Center. This advisory board was the “brainchild” of alumnus Patrice Kucia, C91, M.B.A. ’96, to connect alumni and COB students. The objectives of the Board are to:

- Develop and improve partnerships and communication between alumni, faculty, staff and students
- Implement programs and events that will enhance students’ career preparedness
- Deliver current marketplace information into the classroom

With more than 30 combined alumni and students in attendance, the task for the evening was “speed networking.” The group had 45 minutes to try and meet everyone and gather as much professional information as they could. Both students and alumni learned a lot from one another and made important connections that will benefit them both personally and professionally.

For more information on this Board and about future events, go to www.ben.edu/alumni or call Julie Nelligan, alumni relations director, at (630) 829-6077.

Developing your Employment Toolbox Workshop

The kick-off for the 2009-10 series of the Employment Toolbox Workshops was held on September 30. A panel of human resource (HR) professionals and job seekers spoke to an audience of more than 130 participants. The panel of HR professionals consisted of Scott Kane, founder of Gray Hair Management, Paula Mannon of Morey Corporation, Cathy Peterson of Quantum Staffing, and Denny Moorman of Kellogg Specialty Channels. The job seekers on the panel were Tony Kripas of Associated Business Consultants and Tom Fitzpatrick.

Many questions were asked and discussed, including knowing how to get past the HR gatekeeper, asking tough questions of interviewers and tips on what the interviewer is looking for both on the resume and in the individual to get to the next level. The audience was a mix of community members, students and alumni. One alumnus stated that they were getting so much out of this series of workshops, they would like to come back and help other people once employed again.

Make sure you are taking advantage of these important workshops to enhance your job search. Watch for upcoming dates on our Web site.
Football Reunion Honoring Hall of Fame Member Coach Tom Beck

As part of the 2009 Homecoming festivities, the Eagle Club and the Office of Alumni Relations hosted and honored former football head coach and Hall of Fame member Tom Beck. About 90 football alumni from the 1970s joined the tailgate party which was held in the Athletic Tent. Participants moved to the Sports Complex skybox to watch a great game between the Benedictine Eagles and North Park Vikings, where Benedictine celebrated its first win of the season, 27-17. At halftime, Coach Beck was honored, and he and the alumni had a team photo taken. After the game, everyone enjoyed a reception in the Trophy Room at the Rice Center and eventually moved to the Coal Ben to enjoy more Homecoming activities and entertainment. Congratulations to Coach Beck for the positive influence he had on so many students during his time at the University.

Football Reunion Honoring Coaches Bill Barz and Dave Egofske

On September 5, the Eagle Club and the Office of Alumni Relations hosted a gathering for football alumni from the 1980s to honor former head coach Bill Barz and his defensive coordinator Dave Egofske (see photo above). With more than 100 in attendance, the tailgate party began in the Krasa Center parking lot at 4:30 p.m. At 7:00 p.m., everyone moved to the Sports Complex skybox to watch the Benedictine Eagles play the Elmhurst Blue Jays in their first home game of the season. It was an exciting game, but the Eagles lost to the Bluejays 24-14. At halftime, the football alumni and coaches were honored and recognized for their accomplishments. After the game, everyone headed over to the Coal Ben and shared stories of their time on campus. It was a great night, and we thank Coaches Barz and Egofske for their years of service to the University.

alumni alerts

We’re Looking for a Few Good Leaders

- **Alumni Chapter Presidents Needed**
  We are looking to add to our Alumni Chapter presidents. Are you ready to take the lead? If you are able to commit some time to this effort, especially if you live in Phoenix, Ariz., or Atlanta, GA., please contact the alumni relations office. This is a great way to network and bring Benedictine alumni together from all over the country.

  We will continue to encourage the development of Chapters of the Alumni Association. Our plans are to have representation from each of these Chapters seated on the Alumni Board. These alumni Chapters will bring the University closer to you and bring alumni closer together.

- **Alumni Board Members Needed**
  The Alumni Board is looking to add to its membership. With four board meetings per year, the time commitment is minimal and you will contribute to the success of the University and have a voice to better serve our alumni. With active participation from the Board, we can help influence the direction of the University.

  These are great opportunities to donate your time to the University and your fellow alumni. If you would like more information or are interested in joining, contact Julie Nelligan, alumni relations director, at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu.

Information Update

Please make sure the Office of Alumni Relations has your address, phone number and e-mail address so there are multiple ways of contacting you regarding updates and events. Send new and/or updated information to jnelligan@ben.edu.

Eagle Club Membership

In this inaugural year of the Eagle Club, the response from alumni, parents, friends and family has been tremendous. The funds generated have allowed our athletic teams to travel to California, Colorado, Florida and Arizona to compete against national opponents. Additionally, the Eagle Club has supported the renovation of the Rice Center through membership donations. Please consider joining the Eagle Club and making a difference in the lives of our student-athletes. For more information, contact John Morris, assistant director of athletics, at (630) 829-1812 or jmorris@ben.edu.
A MESSAGE FROM . . .

The Alumni Board President

On September 18-19, our campus was transformed into a fun, family atmosphere as Benedictine University celebrated the 2009 Homecoming Weekend, “Get Wild with Pride.” On Friday, the campus held its first Homecoming parade and then alumni enjoyed time at the Friday Afternoon Club in the Coal Ben. Saturday started out with an alumni baseball game (I was lucky enough to participate), tailgating in the Krasa Center parking lot, a great football game where the Benedictine Eagles beat the North Park Vikings, and a pig roast with entertainment from Hi Infidelity. For the kids, there was a petting zoo, face painting, moon jump and crafts. All in all, it was a great day, and all in attendance seemed to be having a great time. I was very happy to see so many alumni coming back home to the University.

For those that didn’t make it to Homecoming, I hope you can join us next year. I guarantee you and your family and friends will have a great time. As I walked around the festivities, I saw old classmates and favorite professors, and enjoyed great food. It’s a perfect event for alumni to meet with current students and get a “feel” for what is happening on campus today. It’s also a great time to meet up with college friends that you haven’t seen for a while. Show your Eagle Pride and mark your calendar for next year’s Homecoming on October 2.

It’s always the right time to think about the many ways you can support the University. One great idea is to join the Alumni Board. With four meetings a year, the time commitment is minimal and you will contribute to successful avenues that will help to serve our alumni better. If you would like more information or are interested in joining, my contact information is listed below, or contact Julie Nelligan, alumni relations director, at (630) 829-6077.

Other ways you can support the school and reconnect is by assisting in organizing an alumni event, class reunion or chapter gathering. It doesn’t take much time, but makes a big difference in alumni involvement and connection opportunities. You can also financially support the University through the Benedictine Fund when you are called upon, donate to a scholarship or area of your choice, or contribute to the capital improvement campaign for the Rice Center, Renovating Rice.

No matter what type of support you choose, you are assisting a current student to finish their education and realize a dream, connecting with an alumnus that you may have lost touch with, making important personal and business connections, or just giving support to the University that helped you.

Feel free to contact me with any thoughts or concerns, because I represent you, the alumni.

John Parker, C01
Alumni Board President
john_parker05@yahoo.com

One School • One Spirit • One Tradition
Kimyenna (Kimmy) Abron was an active student-athlete while at Benedictine. She was the president of the African American Student Union (AASU), a participant in the Gospel Choir, a member of the Benedictine University Unity Foundation (BUUF), a student representative for the Funding Review Board, and played soccer and ran track.

Graduating from Benedictine has not stopped her active involvement at the University. She finds time to help out in many areas on campus, in addition to her full-time work with autistic children and working on a master’s degree.

In 2008, Abron volunteered as one of the women’s assistant soccer coaches, volunteered her services as one of the advisors for the AASU, and planned and organized the first annual Heritage Ball. In 2009, she helped coordinate the annual fashion show held by the AASU, volunteered as a coach/recruiter for the track and field team, and served as the acting advisor of the AASU for the 2009-2010 school year. Showing no signs of slowing down, her plans for 2010 include coordinating the annual fashion show and the Heritage Ball.

Why do you stay connected to Benedictine?
I believe staying connected to Benedictine is important because the role of the alumni is to show support and give back to the school as much as possible, whether it’s through financial contributions, volunteer services or even school spirit. Staying connected means carrying the light of Benedictine even after graduation. Coming back is a way of showing my appreciation to the staff members and faculty who helped me grow and mature into a better person. It also displays the importance of being a leader and role model for those who need, want and desire inspiration, encouragement and motivation. Benedictine did its part in helping me through school, so helping and giving back makes me feel like I’ve put forth the extra effort and hopefully created a path that will encourage others to follow.

What benefits do you believe you receive from the relationship?
I don’t look for anything in return. My grandfather always told me, “It’s better to give than it is to receive.” The only thing that I would look for in the relationship with the University is support in situations where I am trying to do something that would be beneficial for the school. Keeping my relationships strong at the University is really the greatest benefit of all.

What helped you form a long-lasting relationship with the school?
The care shown by faculty and staff built strong relationships for me. I was also allowed to experience an opportunity of a lifetime. In 2008 I was invited to represent the U.S.A. for soccer in Peru and without the support of the faculty members, staff and especially Dr. Carroll, the trip would not have been possible. I received donations from everywhere. In addition, I helped build upon the foundation of the AASU and helped organize the group in order for African-American students to have that extra support system from each other. This was very important to me and I want to continue to keep it strong.

Why would you recommend others stay connected?
I would recommend others stay connected because there is always someone you can share a story with, share a laugh with or even share a moment of time with at Benedictine that could possibly change a person’s life. Staying connected will also allow Benedictine to grow as a more diverse University and community.

Do you have a favorite memory you would like to share?
I remember being pressured by my peers, football coaches, my soccer coach and Coach Jon Wolcott to run track. So, to get everyone to leave me alone about it, I finally decided to run my senior year for the first time at the college level. I broke a lot of records and became an All-American in the 100-meter dash as a first-time collegiate runner. That was a great moment. I’m pretty proud of that.

Abron works at Krejci Academy Center for Autism (Little Friends, Inc.) teaching children on the autism spectrum basic life skills. She is also earning a master’s degree in Forensic Psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She will graduate this year. Her plans are to work for the Drug Enforcement Agency or attend law school.

Carry the Light: Alma Matters features alumni who have chosen to donate their time, talent and/or treasure to Benedictine in order to support the school’s goals and needs.
Giving back

Albert (Kemo) Mysliwiec, C62
B.A. Economics

S
ometimes you never know where life is going to take you. You plan one thing and end up doing another. You think your happiness lies in one career but you find it in another. If you are really lucky, your hobbies and career coincide to make for an enjoyable life, and you realize that by giving back to others your life is complete. That is the case for alumnus Albert (Kemo) Mysliwiec.

He met his wife, Carolyn Jelinek, at St. Procopius College when they both were performing in musical shows on campus. They wed in 1963 and have been happily married for 46 years. They have four children—Paul, Linda, John and Joseph—nine grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. Mysliwiec’s first job was in Chicago as an accounting supervisor for Central Farmers Fertilizer Company. In 1965, he decided to move and purchase land in a rural area, so he accepted a teaching position in Freeport, Ill. A year later he bought a farm in Stockton, Ill., and he began teaching in the Stockton school system. At the time, Mysliwiec thought teaching would just be a temporary career until he found something else. He retired from the school in 2005.

The Mysliwiec’s country life has agreed with them over the years and they have raised many different types of animals, including horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. They love their farm lifestyle and find ways to let others share in all its wonder. They look for ways to use their gifts to raise funds and spirits of those in need. This generosity of self has given them more joy in their lives than they ever could have imagined.

How do you give back in your life?
We participated in the Amity Follies fundraisers in Freeport for more than two decades. A director was provided by a theatrical agency from New York and he filled in all the variety acts with the local talent who volunteered. With only two weeks of practice, the show was put on and the proceeds ran designated charities for two years.

Currently, we enjoy inviting the local nursing home to annual outings at our backfield Amish log cabin (photo above). We sing country and western songs to entertain them. We enjoy having them and they enjoy coming here. They can see our horses grazing in the pasture right from the front porch of the cabin. Many of them lived on a farm before going into the nursing home, so they really enjoy getting back to nature. We also go to the nursing home and entertain with our singing several times a year. We use the cabin to invite local senior groups to celebrate reunions, picnics and various activities here.

Why do you give back?
We get a lot of enjoyment out of entertaining the seniors. They are so appreciative of our efforts that we always leave feeling wonderful. When you give to someone else, you get a lot more back than you realize. It just feels good to make people happy. There is nothing else like it.

How would you recommend people find a way to ‘give back’ in their lives?
Think of what you can do for others and do it. Time is more valuable than anything else, so give your time. If you can’t give time, then go for money. It is always needed. Pick somewhere that has a need. One of our charities is the local food bank. When we have funds to spare we purchase food for them. We know that all of what we donate goes to those who need it.

Did your time at the University affect your decision to give back?
I enjoyed the group of people I went to school with. They were kind-hearted, generous and had great values. I am sure that attending St. Procopius benefited my character development. The faculty was also outstanding and I have many great memories of them.

Tell us about your life today.
We have lived in the Northwest corner of Illinois (Jo Daviess County) for most of our lives now. It is a naturally beautiful area with hills and valleys not typical in Illinois. We have been fortunate to live most of our life where others hope to spend their retirement. I keep busy on the ranch that my wife and I developed after many years of work, adaptation and more work. We raised registered quarterhorses for the first 10 years, and then we changed to registered Arabian horses with a few quarterhorse and Arabian crosses. We currently have a herd of retired Arabian horses on our farm.

In 1980, my wife started a business making Arabian horse native costumes for horse shows. She is one of the top designers in the country and has produced costumes that won national championships in the United States, Canada and several other foreign countries like South Africa and Brazil.

We both feel very blessed with our lives. Giving back to others has added to our happiness and at the end of the day, makes us feel very fulfilled.

It is hoped that these stories of those who give back help inspire others to go forward and help those in need. If you know someone who is “Carrying the Light” in the Benedictine spirit of giving back, please let us know about them. E-mail lhale@ben.edu.
**Alumni Events**

If you would like to spearhead a gathering or project for your alumni class or volunteer your time to help out on campus, please contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu. If you want to plan a gathering, we will help you contact class members and aid in communication and organization efforts.

**Upcoming Events that would be ideal for class involvement:**
- College of Science Reunion on February 26
- Baseball Reunion and Game on April 30
- Caribbean Night at the Coal Ben on April 30
- Annual Alumni Picnic on June 27
- President’s Invitational Golf Outing on June 28
- Host your own reunion weekend using University facilities

**Fundraising Projects**

If you have an idea for a fundraiser, would like suggestions for a gift, or have already gathered together an interested group of classmates, please contact Jessica Stillo at (630) 829-1811 or jstillo@ben.edu. Let us help you by aiding with announcements and fundraising efforts.

**Fundraisers that need sponsorships, donations and participation:**
- The Rice Center Renovation project: Renovating Rice
- President’s Invitational Golf Outing
- Student Scholarships (learn more at www.ben.edu/scholarships)
- The University general fund
- Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B., Art Gallery

**Student-focused Events That Need Alumni Volunteers**

**February 2010**
- Eagles of Excellence: This event will invite distinguished alumni back to campus to enjoy dinner with STAT: Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow members. This dinner will allow students to meet and learn from dynamic and successful alumni with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

**March 2010**
- Etiquette Dinner: STAT members will learn and enhance their networking and communications skills to prepare for life after college. Members will be taught proper dinner etiquette, and will then have the opportunity to put what they learn to use during a dinner with alumni. Members from the Office of Career Development, as well as alumni professionals from different fields, will be present to network and mingle with students.

If you are interested in serving as an alumni volunteer, please contact Jessica Stillo at jstillo@ben.edu.

**Other Ways to Volunteer Your Time:**
- Become a mentor to current students
- Help out at Commencement
- Help work the Golf Outing
- Get involved with STAT
- Attend upcoming Welcome Wednesdays
- Become a Chapter president for the Alumni Association
- Apply to become an Alumni Board Member

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**Remember: Even after you graduate, you are still connected here!**

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**Alumni notes**

**Alumni Couple Celebrate Anniversary In Classroom Where They Met**

Leslie “Les”, C87, and Cathy (Walsh), C87, Williams celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary with a family photo shoot in the classroom where they first met (Scholl Hall, room 101).

They wanted to go back to where it all began and show their children that special part of their lives. The couple started dating while students at Benedictine in October 1984 and were married in October 1989. They live in Naperville and have three children: Matt, 16; Joey, 13; and twins Tommy and Mikey, 10. ✦
In recognition of outstanding achievement in a career field or personal endeavor, the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Francis (Frank) Agnoli, M.D.

Agnoli was a member of the first group of scholars to graduate in 1985. After earning his degree from Benedictine, Agnoli graduated in 1989 from the University of Illinois College of Medicine with a specialty in family practice. In his practice, he served in several developing countries and also in the Appalachian regions of West Virginia and North Carolina. Agnoli desired to get back to his Catholic roots and went to St. John’s University School of Theology and Seminary, earning a master’s degree in Divinity in 2000. Currently, he serves as the director of liturgy for the Diocese of Davenport in Iowa.

Agnoli easily transitioned into ministry and followed God’s call to serve. As the director of liturgy in a large diocese, he is an accomplished writer, speaker and organizer. He feels his talents and skills where honed and acquired during his undergraduate years at Benedictine.

Agnoli lives in Davenport with his wife, Marianne, C86, M.P.H.’92, and they have two children, Francis M. and Mary.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Francis L. Agnoli, M.D., D.Min., B.S. Health Science, C85

Given to alumni who serve and have served the University with their time and talent, the 2009 Alumni Service Award was presented to William (Bill) Carroll.

Carroll exemplifies the Benedictine value of service and has done so every day since he received the Procopian of the Year Service Award at graduation in 1973. He joined the Alumni Association Board in 1988 and was an active member until 2008, serving as president from 1991-1993. He has supported the University’s fundraising efforts through athletics, various capital campaigns and building projects.

Carroll’s other service achievements include being the Southwest Regional Board Chair for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago since 2003. He has volunteered at St. Blasé Parish by coordinating hot suppers every week, working with the food pantry, nutrition program and health fair, and early childhood development and fundraising activities. He is the 2005 recipient of the Vicariate V Bishop Quarter Award, a volunteer at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Orland Park, and has served as a volunteer to many other organizations and parishes.

He is the owner of Blue Island Travel and C & H Development Company. Carroll lives in Orland Park with his wife, Ann Norton Carroll, C74, and they have two children, John, C03, and Caitlin.

ALUMNI SPIRIT AWARD
Mary Jo Hazard, M.S.M.O.B.’95

The Benedictine Spirit Award is given to an alumnus who has exemplified the Benedictine values of service, hospitality and dedication to their personal and/or professional life. The 2009 award was given to Mary Jo Hazard. Hazard founded and is president of Carpe Diem Coaching, where she provides consultant services to executive leaders on organizational development and leadership. She is active in the International Coach Federation, the Organization Development Network of Chicago and Coachville.com.

Founding members of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Naperville, Hazard has participated in international service project trips to Bolivia and Haiti. She is also an associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph of LaGrange. Hazard presented “Three Powerful Strategies to Re-energize Yourself in Ministry” for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2007.

Hazard primarily supports the Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior (M.S.M.O.B.) program as well as other continuing education programs. She has also offered her services to support career development and alumni relations initiatives at the University.

Hazard lives in Naperville with her husband and they have two children, Jean and Katie, and three grandchildren.
Can You Help Us Make 11 Percent?

Universities depend on financial support and participation from their alumni. The national average for alumni participation fluctuates around 11 percent. Alumni participation is defined as financial contributions made in support of the University. Contributions keep the school functioning on a daily basis, help current students receive an education, improve the campus, facilities and equipment, and keep the University at its best for future generations of students.

There are currently 21,344* alumni of Benedictine University. Of those, 1,367, or 6.4 percent, made a donation to the University last year. We are hoping you can help us reach our goal of 11 percent participation. Below you will find a chart that shows how each class year is contributing to fundraising efforts. 

*Number of alumni before December 2009

How Is Your Class Year Doing?

Help keep your alma mater producing the best alumni around. Use the donation envelope in this issue of Voices to make your contribution today.

Give the Gift of an Education

Scholarships in need of funding:

The Christine Francis Rocco Memorial Endowed Scholarship—For adult, Italian-American female students beginning or returning to school.

The Dr. Bernard Toussaint Endowed Benedictine Scholarship—For a full-time student seeking a major or minor in Philosophy.

The John Ostrowski Leadership Endowed Scholarship—For students participating in extra-curricular activities.

The Raize Software Endowed Scholarship in Computer Science—For undergraduate students who have declared a major in Computer Science.

James L. and Anna Nemecek Scholarship—For any Benedictine student with financial need.

Dr. Al J. Havlik Memorial Scholarship—For a senior who is planning on entering medical school after graduation.

Kolar Scholarship—For any student who demonstrates financial need.

The Luz and Malcolm Berd Endowed Scholarship—For students who have demonstrated a commitment to becoming a teacher of the Spanish Language.

For more information on these and other scholarships in need of funding, please contact Meagan Daniel at (630) 829-1813, mdaniel@ben.edu or go to www.ben.edu/ScholarshipsToFund. Make a difference in a student’s life.

Benedictine Phonathon

Hello! We are the student callers from the Benedictine phonathon. We are calling to update your information, talk about upcoming events and ask for your financial support of the University. We’d love for you to take the time to talk with us. We are counting on your support this year. Thank you for staying connected to us!

Answer the call
Fr. Michael Komechak’s, O.S.B., lifelong passion for art has put Benedictine University in the unique position of owning a diverse and comprehensive collection of art and artifacts that rival that of larger institutions with museums to house their collections. The entire Benedictine campus has become a repository for Fr. Michael’s beloved art from all over the world, and yet much of it is still not on display. It was always his dream to have the collection under one roof, so it is only fitting that the University honors Fr. Michael by continuing his fundraising efforts to build an art gallery on campus.

The Fr. Michael Komechak Art Gallery will provide:

- **A Center of Excellence for the Visual Arts at the University**
  The art gallery will preserve Fr. Michael’s art collection for generations to come. It will be a premier venue for exhibitions and a showcase for student, faculty and neighboring artists. It will be a place for students and artists to study and grow their knowledge and understanding of artists from around the world.

- **A Revitalizing Force for the University**
  The art gallery will be a major new attraction and destination for visitors and guests of the University. It will be a cornerstone for continuing the legacy of Fr. Michael and advancing the visual arts at the University. It will be a motivating factor for attracting and retaining valuable visual art faculty and students.

- **A Foundation for Quality Education and Community Access**
  The art gallery will enhance Benedictine’s reputation as a leading liberal arts institution with a fine arts academic program. It will respond to the growing multicultural communities at Benedictine by providing greater educational opportunities. It will provide the surrounding community access to a prestigious art collection and exhibits by artists from around the world.

The University has set a campaign goal of $5,000,000. If you would like to help build a home for the Fr. Michael Komechak Art Collection, please contact Jason Leppin, associate director for corporate and donor relations, at (630) 829-1814 or jleppin@ben.edu.

The Evelyn R. Simmers Charitable Trust has donated $600,000 to the Department of Nursing at Benedictine University to endow scholarships for students pursuing either a bachelor’s or master’s degree in nursing.

“This generous gift will make a tremendous difference in the lives of our students who are working adults juggling multiple priorities,” said Ethel C. Ragland, Ed.D., MN, RN, professor and chair of the Department of Nursing and Health at Benedictine. “By furthering the education of nurses, the Simmers Trust is endowing the health of our community.”

Prior to their deaths, Evelyn Simmers and her husband, Wallace, who owned a small manufacturing company in Chicago, were well-known for their support of hospital activities and programs.

“Evelyn Simmers was a woman who truly believed in the philosophy of teaching one person and having them pass their education on to many more people,” said Meagan Daniel, associate director for development and institutional grants at Benedictine. “She had a passion for education, and especially for nurses, who have the opportunity to touch so many lives every day.”

Benedictine’s R.N. to B.S.N. (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) completion program provides registered nurses with the skills and knowledge necessary to undertake leadership positions where they work and further their education at the graduate level. The fully online Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) program at Benedictine is designed to prepare registered nurses at the master’s degree level for the rapidly changing face of health care.

The donation will make the programs available to more nurses during a time when there is a critical shortage of qualified health care workers.

“The significance of this donation is in the number of lives touched by such a gift,” said Charles Gregory, executive vice president of the University. “When a donor contributes to the University, he or she is investing in the future of a student who will use their knowledge and skills to make a contribution to society. A Benedictine graduate is special because they have learned the importance of giving back.”
Congratulations to alumna Gail Purpura, C84, for being the winner of the drawing for a flat screen television from the Spring Benedictine Fund direct mail campaign. (Pictured here with Executive Vice President Charlie Gregory.)

Still an Eagle
Gail Purpura, C84

You have given a donation to the University every year since 1987. Why do you feel it is important to donate to the University?
I donate because I want students to have the same opportunities that I had—a small Catholic college atmosphere where you have a close relationship with faculty and other students. In addition, donations helped me to attend Benedictine, so I want to do the same for someone else.

Why is it important to donate your time and stay connected to your alma mater?
I stay connected because I am very interested in what is going on here. I have had a great experience being a member of the Alumni Board, in helping with an alumni phonathon and with events like the alumni picnic. I still see other alumni in the area frequently and I enjoy having this connection.

How did your degree from Benedictine prepare you for life after college?
Getting my degree from IBC helped me immensely in life. It opened doors for me when I applied for jobs, and advancement opportunities in my career in banking. In addition, I had some wonderful teachers like Dr. Marguerite Roth and Dr. Soyon Lee.

Through this generosity of spirit, we fulfill our own lives. Give back to a place that has given to you, and reach out to a place that welcomes you back with open arms.

FIND THE EAGLE INSIDE YOU:
Make a commitment, make a difference.

UPDATE:

Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow

STAT is a student organization dedicated to establishing and promoting a closer bond among alumni, students, faculty and staff. STAT seeks to foster a stronger alumni culture at the University. Members of STAT carry the Benedictine pride and spirit at all times.

This past semester, STAT was busy hosting events and service programs. There are now more than 150 student members and they have been working hard planning events and getting involved on campus and in the community. Below are some highlights.

AUGUST
Freshman Orientation—Members helped the incoming freshman class through orientation. It was a great chance for members to pass on advice to incoming students and help them feel comfortable at the University.

SEPTEMBER
Quad Day—Members hosted a table during Quad Day and recruited more than 80 new members.
Corn Cob Challenge—Members kicked-off Homecoming week with the silly fun of a “fastest corn-eating” event. All participants received a STAT Homecoming T-shirt.
Sophomore “Mugging Day”—As a sophomore, you are officially an alumnus, so this event celebrated the sophomore class and welcomed them into the Alumni Association. Each sophomore received a keepsake mug filled with a root beer float, and the opportunity to mingle with John Parker, C01, Alumni Association president.
Eagles of Excellence Dinner—Students were excited to learn more about the alumni at their table during this event, and they had the opportunity to hear from alumni guests during a panel discussion. Distinguished guests included: Joseph Baldino, Ph.D., C99; W. Brand Bobosky, C61; Maryellen Giger, Ph.D., C78; Mary Jo Hazard, M.S.M.O.B.’95; Cheryl B. Richardson, Ph.D., C01; and the honorable Jim Ryan, C68. Each guest had a diverse background and unique experiences to share with the students, along with some fun memories of their time on campus.

OCTOBER
University Ministry Blood Drive—Members helped out at the blood drive and encouraged students to participate in this important event.

NOVEMBER
Give Thanks by Giving Back Food Drive—Members hosted a campus-wide food drive for Thanksgiving and were able to donate many needed items to the Lisle Township Food Pantry.

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? If you are interested in becoming an alumni volunteer for STAT, please contact Jessica Stillo at (630) 829-1811 or jstillo@ben.edu.
Charles Argianas has found a wonderful way to carry the Benedictine light in his life. His commitment to the University began when his children started attending school here. He saw the level of teaching excellence, the care shown to each student, and the interest in the individual exhibited by the Benedictine community. This positive experience inspired him to become a mentor to University students. Over the years, Argianas has worked with the University to hire students as interns and alumni as employees.

Argianas is a designated Member of the Appraisal Institute (MAI). The MAI designation is held by appraisers who are experienced in the valuation and evaluation of commercial, industrial, residential and other types of properties, and who advise clients on real estate investment decisions. His company, Argianas & Associates, Inc., has appraised a wide variety of properties throughout the United States, including nuclear power plants, monastic/religious facilities, city office buildings, regional shopping malls, truck terminals, hospitals and university campuses.

Argianas believes that every college student needs to intern in their selected discipline. “Students need to gain experience, they need good role models and they need mentoring. Our firm has interned Benedictine students in hopes that, upon graduation, that person develops into a professional, long-term colleague,” said Argianas.

“We also show preference to almost any BU alumni that approaches us in good faith, especially the ones that come from tough backgrounds. Those that have had it the hardest really make superb colleagues and they have excelled with us in great part due to the meaningful things they learn and experience at BU,” he concluded.

Although it takes years to achieve competency in any profession, he believes that a Benedictine education is the first building block of the foundation needed to succeed in business. Helping a student learn a profession as an intern gives them a head start.

“I don’t care what profession you choose, one thing is for sure: the most successful people I have ever met started out as interns. In our practice, the interns perform grueling research needed to produce meaningful narrative reports. Interns start at basic levels, learn valuable skills and then success comes with experience,” Argianas said.

“Some examples of extraordinary Benedictine alumni at our firm include Nicholas Cipriano, C05. Nick just finished appraising a private ski mountain in Wisconsin. Ulyana Smolyak, C07. Uly has recently appraised a television broadcasting station. Mayra Ambriz, C09. Mayra recently completed an appraisal of a residential condominium unit at Trump Tower in Chicago. They know we care about them and someday they will be industry leaders if they remain with our firm,” he concluded.

Argianas finds Benedictine interns to be unique because they have morals, ethics and standards not always displayed by those pursuing careers. He finds most of them have remained with the company over the years and he sees them helping others. One of his Benedictine alumni hires took it upon herself to tutor one of her colleagues in passing his license exam. She never mentioned anything about this to boost herself. “This is true, unselfish stewardship at its best,” said Argianas.

Giving back is important to Argianas. He believes strongly in helping and promoting younger colleagues to make the world better. “If we don’t push and challenge them, things might remain the same and never advance. Giving back professionally isn’t that hard if one understands what there is to offer. The recipients need to concentrate and be consistent, but first they must be given a chance,” Argianas said.

“No matter how intelligent and good a person is, to be successful in any profession, they need a mentor. Nobody should have to go it alone. I can’t stress how crucial it is for young colleagues to align themselves with somebody older and more experienced. And a big plus is that mentors can easily open doors to extraordinary networking opportunities,” he concluded.

Argianas feels blessed with a wonderful family, good health, a successful career and an incredible network of professional colleagues. Over the years, he has had the good fortune to meet extraordinary people who have helped make him successful. Now he hopes that his experience can help others.

The family’s relationship with Benedictine began several years ago when they were looking for a quality institution for their daughter, Christina, C08, Education (Golden Apple Scholar), to attend. Their son, Alexander, C11, Biology, Spanish and Theology, is currently a student at Benedictine and plans to be a surgeon.
Mayra Ambriz, C09, International Business and Economics
I was hired by Argianas & Associates to be a real estate appraiser a month before my graduation. I was so thankful because I did not have to keep searching for a job or worrying about not finding one. This was a great opportunity for me because I truly believe that I have all the tools I need at this company to be very successful in life. Mr. Argianas is taking the time to give me the best training possible to be successful in my profession.

In my opinion, giving back to the community is very important. If business owners have the opportunity to help, this is a great way to do it. Furthermore, Benedictine has the best students that can make a difference in the world. We have good ethics and morals, and have been exposed to working hard. I believe companies need more people like that.

Nick Cipriano, C05, Business and Economics
I was first brought in to the company to do some computer work and clerical assignments. Not long afterward, I was hired to do appraisal work. I am now a managing director at the company. After graduation, I did not seriously entertain any other employment opportunities because I was happy working here.

This job has broadened my knowledge of nearly every type of industry. It has allowed me to exercise the skills that I have acquired and continually learn new ones. I have had the opportunity to travel all over the country and interact with all sorts of people. I find the job to be rewarding because you are always learning and working on new assignments.

Offering internships and career opportunities is an important way to give back to the Benedictine community. It is very rewarding to mentor someone and watch them grow. It’s also beneficial for the company because graduates and students are being taught new skills and techniques which can help a corporation stay current and think outside of the box.

Ulyana Smolyak, M.B.A.’07
I started as an intern and was offered a full-time position shortly before graduation. I was given the opportunity to not only learn the basics of the real estate market and the steps pertinent to the market research analysis, but also to observe the structure of the firm and study the duties and responsibilities throughout.

I not only gained work experience and expanded new skills and knowledge during my internship, but also built contacts and applied the theory learned at school to practice. It enabled me to make a more informed decision about my career path and equipped me with valuable skills, industry exposure and a professional network. It also helped me grow into a more confident individual.

Supporters of Benedictine can certainly make a difference in a student’s life. Employers who provide a positive growing experience for graduating students may in turn experience a lower employee turnover ratio. Benedictine effectively prepares its students for the professional world, which can benefit the employers who hire them. The employers are given a chance to fill their “talent pipeline” by finding employees that fit. At the same time, the employers can receive good help without the time and cash commitment of a regular hire.†
Benedictine University at Springfield has its roots in the founding of Springfield Junior College (which became Springfield College in Illinois) in 1929 by the Ursuline Sisters. Their schools reflected five centuries of Ursuline tradition expressed in a commitment to truth; respect for the uniqueness of each individual; providing programs that reflect the importance of the development of the whole person; recognizing the importance of every person’s talents and gifts; fostering a spirit of willing service and generous hospitality; and supporting every person’s search for God and chosen faith tradition. Benedictine University’s Roman Catholic tradition and Benedictine heritage closely mirror the values of Springfield College’s Ursuline founders.

Benedictine entered into a cooperative partnership venture with Springfield College in Illinois (SCI) in 2003. The partnership offered students Benedictine baccalaureate and graduate degrees on the Springfield campus. In 2004, the venture became a permanent partnership. This partnership between the schools evolved and expanded, culminating in the decision to establish Benedictine University at Springfield as a four-year institution offering a full-range of academic programs.

This December the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved a proposal by Benedictine to offer six new programs at the Springfield campus.

The newly-approved undergraduate programs will lead to the following degrees: a Bachelor of Arts in History; a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology; a Bachelor of Arts in Theology; and a Bachelor of Arts in Writing and Publishing. Also approved were undergraduate programs leading to a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing. Benedictine University at Springfield is now approved to offer 12 undergraduate degree programs.

The Benedictine programs and experience are now available to an even broader audience.

“If you desire true and eternal life, keep your tongue free from vicious talk and your lips from all deceit; turn away from evil and do good; let peace be your quest and aim.”

RECORD FRESHMAN CLASS FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Four hundred forty-five freshmen began fall classes at the University, compared to 427 who started the fall term one year ago and the 261 who started the fall term as recently as 1999. The average grade point average of this year’s freshmen class is 3.3 (on a 4.0 scale), and the average incoming composite ACT score is 23 (up from 22 one year ago).

Fifty-two percent of the freshmen enrolled are male and 40 percent of the freshmen are minorities. Seventy-six percent are from the suburbs of Chicago and the number of students (38) from out of state increased by 9 percent from one year ago.

Forty-four percent of the freshmen intend to pursue a major in the sciences (up 5 percent from last year), and the number expressing interest in a business major also increased (14 percent, up from 11 percent last year).

“I believe the tuition freeze put in place by Benedictine President William Carroll and our Board of Trustees played a significant role in our enrollment increase,” Kari Gibbons, associate vice president of enrollment, said. “The freeze indicated our administration’s concern for students and its willingness to make school affordable and accessible. Despite current economic conditions, we are attracting some of the brightest minds in record numbers.”

The University also welcomed 267 students who transferred from community colleges and other four-year institutions. Fifty-one percent of the transfer students indicated science as their No. 1 field of interest, followed by social science (13 percent) and the humanities (8 percent).
The Community Garden

The Community Garden, tucked away on a plot of land just south of the Coal Ben, was started in 2009 by a group of students along with their faculty advisor, Jean-Marie Kauth. A wide range of faculty, staff and students planted the first round of vegetables in May. The effort was led by the new student environmental group, Club 350. Club 350 is based on 350: International Day of Climate Action: a meta-environmental group whose name is based on the 350 ppm of CO2 in the atmosphere that scientists now predict is the safe level to maintain a climate similar to that in which life evolved.

The theme of the garden is “Pull a weed; Pick a tomato: Growing Sustainability at Benedictine since 2009.” The desire is to include the whole community in the garden. The bountiful tomatoes and basil produced this year figured in the Homecoming parade as part of the Club 350 float, and enticed passersby to taste juicy fruits unlike those found in grocery stores. One of the main purposes of the garden is to give students a place to dig in the dirt, taste produce warm from the sun, and experience the cycle of life as leaves turn to dirt and dirt turns into Brussels sprouts.

Some of the bounty was shared with Dining Services, while some was snatched fresh from the vine by whoever chanced to pass by.

Sunflowers also brightened this corner of campus. Plans for next year include sheet composting with chopped leaves from campus trees and food waste from the cafeteria. Due to its success, Campus Services has agreed to enlarge the garden for the 2010 season.

The University, which embraces the values of St. Benedict including stewardship of the earth, established Years for the Environment last fall as part of an effort to move the campus from education and conversation into action. The three-year effort incorporates curriculum, speakers, events and community outreach.

For more information contact Kauth at (630) 829-6272 or jkauth@ben.edu.†
Education abroad is now becoming more of a reality and less like a frivolous trip to an exciting locale. As we continue to realize the globalization of all areas of our lives, we have to be cognizant of what it really means to have a global perspective. How is the University preparing its students for their careers? How do we educate global citizens? What lessons are we teaching on intercultural competency in our academic curriculum?

The last phrase in the University’s mission statement states, “we prepare our students for a lifetime as active, informed and responsible citizens and leaders in the world community.”

One of the ways that we are preparing students in their careers is exemplified in an International Business course, Global Interdependence, taught by Timothy Goines, Ph.D. This course culminated into a “Doing Business in China Reality Tour.” During class time, the students studied globalization from economic, political and social dimensions. They participated in learning about the language, food and other cultural norms. They also were put through pre-trip orientations and multicultural simulation games designed to create awareness of cultural differences, bias and self-reflection of experiencing being out of their normal “comfort zones.”

The experience transformed the students. As they traveled through the cities of China, they were able to meet people from non-governmental organizations and taste the variations of culinary differences within the country from north to south. Some of their best conversations with Chinese nationals occurred on the 12-hour cross-country train rides going from city to city. They also experienced business from the China perspective after visiting American-based corporations operating from Shanghai, and talking with a graduate from our partnership university in Montpellier, France, who now works there.

A remarkable thing happened during their trip to the Great Wall of China when the students took a photo wearing their Benedictine T-shirts. They drew the attention of Dorothy Donner, C72. They were all the way around the world and they met someone who had graduated from Benedictine. Those moments make you realize how small the world really is and how our graduates are such a big part of it.

The true assessment of whether we are preparing our students to be global citizens is when they return not only transformed and charmed by the exotic experiences, but saying things such as, “This trip was life-changing for me,” or “I am now a different person.” We also have students wanting to learn more, and recognizing that this short trip was only the tip of the iceberg. We are always encouraging students to learn what it takes to truly be a global citizen.
ENVIROMENTAL DEGREES & CERTIFICATE

Do you want to be a part of the ‘green’ movement?

Benedictine’s Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science program prepares students for careers in local, state and federal government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Department of Natural Resources, environmental education, environmental consulting, pollution mitigation and public health.

Students who have an interest in the environment but do not want to major in Environmental Science can now earn a Certificate in Environmental Studies. This is the first time Benedictine has offered a certificate program for traditional undergraduate students. The program gives students the option of choosing environmental-focused courses from a number of disciplines.

However, the campus and the classroom are not the only battlegrounds for climate change. Businesses can take a lead role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution by implementing actions that save money, improve productivity, protect the environment and increase the nation’s energy security.

To prepare students for leadership roles in an environmentally conscious business world, Benedictine offers two concentrations in its Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program—“Sustainable Business” and “Sustainable Leadership.”

Sustainability—the pursuit of economic prosperity, environmental stewardship and social justice in today’s global business economy—drives Benedictine’s “Sustainable Business” concentration, while the “Sustainable Leadership” concentration prepares managers to be values-driven leaders and to integrate broader societal change into business opportunities.

For more information, contact the Enrollment Center at (630) 829-6300 or admissions@ben.edu.

Fast facts

Joel M. Ostrow, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science

Global Climate Change

Global climate change is both the most important and the most intractable issue on the global agenda today. Climate change is affected by, and will increasingly undermine, both human and state security and economic development and stability.

However, because no one state or group of states bears primary responsibility for the causes, the consequences or the solutions to the problem, and because all states are similarly threatened, it is extremely difficult to address despite universal recognition that the problem exists and is severe.

The evidence is indisputable. The scientific community has long ago concluded that human activity is warming global temperatures, melting the polar caps and altering ocean currents, and 10 minutes using Google Earth’s satellite overlays of Greenland or the polar caps makes it impossible to deny not merely the severity, but the accelerating severity, of the problem. We face unprecedented calamity, yet seem to be doing precious little to address it.

It is in our individual interest, in the national interest and in the common interest to call for policies and actions that will address these challenges.

Facuity insight

What is the biggest global issue we are currently facing?

How can we affect positive change?

Vince Gaddis, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Chair, Department of History, Philosophy, Theology and Global Studies

A Revolution in Values

The most pressing need in the world today is a revolution in values. As a nation, we need to ask ourselves what values we communicate as the world’s hegemonic force. Martin Luther King Jr. pointed to the values we live by as a culture and named them as evil-extreme materialism, militarism and racism. We need to ask ourselves why African-Americans make up 13 percent of the population and 49 percent of the prison population. Why do 20 percent of children born in this country live in poverty? Why are we spending billions of dollars every month on a war in which we do not know the victory conditions, and yet we cannot give decent health access to our citizens or educate our children?

If we as Americans and part of the Benedictine community, could work for justice and the establishment of what King called “The Beloved Community,” we could solve these problems. This is not a utopian vision, but rather a revolution that says we are committed to serve in the community, give respect to the dignity of the human personality and be willing to pay more at the store so workers at home and in foreign lands can live decently. If every individual in our community could attack injustice when and where they see it and get involved with groups to end war, racism and poverty, I believe we can make a difference. We can make the world a more just place, but we will have to sacrifice two precious things we hold closely—our pride and our selfishness.
**FR. MICHAEL KOMECHAK, O.S.B. 1932-2009**

**CURATOR OF BENEDICTINE ART COLLECTION**

In memoriam

Fr. Michael passed away on August 30 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He graduated from St. Procopius Academy in 1950 and from St. Procopius College in 1954. He professed vows in 1955, studied theology at St. Procopius Seminary and taught English and journalism at St. Procopius Academy. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1959. That same year, he became head of the English Department and advisor to both the student newspaper and the yearbook.

He earned a Master of Arts degree in literature from the University of Notre Dame in 1961. In 1965, Abbot Daniel Kucera, O.S.B., selected Fr. Michael to oversee the planning and the construction of the new St. Procopius Abbey church and monastery. The building has since won numerous awards including a 25-year award from the National American Institute of Architects “for the best designed building for its enduring excellence.”

He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Cardinal Stritch College in 1978 and then became chair of the University’s new Fine Arts department. He helped to develop the Fine Arts program while accumulating a vast and richly diverse art collection, which now numbers more than 3,700 pieces.

Fr. Michael remained the art curator of Benedictine even after he left the classroom. For more than 20 years, he led art history tours around Europe, and his experience was made available to parishes and other groups in slide lectures on great pieces of art.

In May 2009, Fr. Michael celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination with more than 500 friends, relatives and people who he had served at community parishes during a Mass and reception. The Alumni Association Board announced the establishment of the “Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B., Award,” which will be presented to an individual “who provides distinctive and exemplary service to the University by contributing to the education of Benedictine students to prepare them to become responsible citizens and community leaders.”

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Joan Greatrex, Ph.D., an educator, author and researcher who focuses on medieval church history especially Benedictine Monasticism, presented two lectures at the University in October as part of the Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought program sponsored by the Department of Theology and the College of Liberal Arts.

Greatrex presented “Fauna and Flora in the English Monastic Precinct in the later Middle Ages” and “English Monk Students at University in the later Middle Ages.” In addition, Greatrex visited classes and engaged students in discussions about her work, how documents were used and stored, and how information was lost or preserved over the ages.

Greatrex has studied the great Benedictine priories associated with cathedrals. She lectured at the University of Manitoba and taught at the University of Ottawa. She has written six books focusing on medieval history and monastic life, and authored numerous articles.

The “Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought” series heightens awareness and appreciation of the distinctive contributions the Catholic intellectual tradition has made and continues to make to all branches of knowledge and creativity.

The next lecture will be February 9-12 and will feature Andre L. Delbeca, Ph.D., from Santa Clara University, who will focus on leadership spirituality. The lectures are free and open to the public.
Bringing Theology Into Daily Life

By Rita A. Dougherty

Universities were established in medieval times to teach sons of kings and men who would become priests. Theology was the “queen of sciences,” and most subjects were taught to enhance theological thought. As centuries passed, theology continued to be taught in seminaries, but it was not available for study by lay people.

When Pope John XXIII introduced a Second Vatican Council that met in the 1960s, he hoped to introduce a “new birth” in the church in all areas. One council pursued was to explore and define a new look at theology. The Pope urged theologians to chart new developments, to re-think and re-write theology for all people.

Benedictine offers both a certificate and a degree in Theology with classes such as Theology of Love, Faith and Science, Catholic Spirituality, the Mediterranean World and Baptism of Europe.

These classes give relevance to how a person can incorporate Christ into everyday life as well as in the workplace. Embedded in the courses are the principles of critical thinking, analysis, writing, teamwork and traditional areas of academic theology.

“People need a theological education,” explains Christine Fletcher, Ph.D., assistant professor of Theology at Benedictine, “In order to understand their faith and how to apply it to whatever they choose to do, for that’s the vocation of the lay person — saving the world in our daily work.”

Fletcher began teaching at the University in 2007 with a doctorate from Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, U.K. Her master’s and bachelor’s degrees were earned at Oxford University. She has a broad background in political science, philosophy, religious studies and computer counseling. Along with teaching, she presents programs for the deacons of the Joliet Diocese and continuing education classes for priests. Fletcher co-hosts seasonal days of reflection at the Abbey which have been eagerly received by the local community.

She teaches theology because it is “the root of everything else. “It examines the basic issues: Why is there something instead of nothing? What is goodness truth and beauty? Catholic theology starts with the event of Jesus Christ and his birth, teaching, death and resurrection and explains everything else from that point. So we have a reason why the innocent suffer, what the point of life is, and what goodness looks like,” said Fletcher.

Fletcher enjoys the enthusiasm she sees in her students. “What I have found most exciting is that the students arrive in the classroom with real questions that we explore over the time of the course. The result is that the students have a chance to explore their questions and test the answers that Catholic theology provides. I use novels and film to underline the point that theology is about our basic assumptions of life and the universe, and I want our students to become critical of the culture and the assumptions that underlie consumerism and the culture of death,” said Fletcher.

Another theology leader at the University is Rita George-Tvrtkovic, Ph.D., an assistant professor. She earned her doctorate from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Theological Studies from Weston Jesuit School of Theology and a bachelor’s degree, with honors, in anthropology from the University of Tulsa. Her areas of specialization are historical theology, medieval theology, Muslim-Christian relations, and Catholic theory and praxis of interreligious dialogue. George-Tvrtkovic came to Benedictine in 2009 after serving as the associate director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Even though she was raised Catholic, George-Tvrtkovic said it wasn’t until she became involved in interreligious dialogue that she became more interested intellectually in her own faith. She teaches theology because she wants her students to know the richness and diversity of the Catholic tradition — a tradition which spans so many centuries, continents and cultures.

“I want all my students, whether they are Catholic or not, to see the diversity and communion that is our church. I want my Catholic students in particular to feel that they are truly a part of this living tradition — a tradition that includes inspiring saints from history such as Julian of Norwich and Gregory of Nyssa, as well as vibrant new figures and movements such as Chiara Lubich and the Focolare, Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker, and Sant’Egidio. I want them to see how this tradition relates to real life and to their lives,” said George-Tvrtkovic.

“We are a University in the Catholic and Benedictine traditions, and theology is essential to understanding the fullness of that tradition and also to understanding what a university is for,” concluded Fletcher. ☩
St. Procopius Academy/College

'43 Frank Lukas, is enjoying life at his home on a golf course in Helendale, CA. Lukas worked in aerospace engineering for many years. His work started with propeller driven aircraft and he later was fortunate enough to work on the Mercury and Gemini projects which brought the first astronauts into space. Lukas and his wife, Mary Beth, have four children, and four grandchildren. They are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this year.

'58 Carmen Chiappetta, Science, is happily retired in Naples, FL. James Jen Kin, M.D., Science, was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame in October 2009.

'69 Bill Murphy, Ph.D., History, is vice president of communications at the University of Rochester. He and his counterparts at Duke and Stanford have created a Web site (www.futurity.org) that features the latest research news from 41 research universities.

Illinois Benedictine College

'72 Dan Evans, Psychology, lives in Portland, OR, and has retired after 36 years of teaching middle school science. Evans has been instrumental in creating several environmental sustainability projects in his area, including a rain garden in an abandoned tennis court which absorbed nearly a million gallons of runoff water, and the first totally sustainable classroom which uses no energy to heat and light itself. This project was dedicated in September 2009 and bears Evans’ name.

'75 Angela Rocco DeCarlo, Literature and Communications, is a former Chicago journalist and now resides in Orange, CA. DeCarlo covers travel, culture, lifestyle and entertainment for www.travelingdiva.com, www.chicagodeparis.com and www.angelaroccodecarlo.blogspot.com. The Christine Frances Rocco Memorial Endowed Scholarship was established by her family to assist mature Italian-American women returning to or beginning college at Benedictine University. Jim Waszak, Math, joined Brand Realty in Naperville as a commercial and residential realtor.

'77 Leo Ochs, Jr., Political Science, was promoted to county manager for Collier County, FL.

'78 Paul Bardachowski, Accounting/ Business and Economics, is currently working in Downers Grove as a cost accounting supervisor for a gear manufacturer. Bardachowski has two sons, Brian and Kevin, and three grandchildren. He and his wife, Nancy, celebrated 30 years of marriage this past September.

Russell Pavlock, Music, earned an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School in 2001 and is currently the vice president at Hunter Properties (a property management company). Pavlock and his wife, Justine (Salick), C78, Music, have a Cessna 152 aircraft which they use for local sightseeing flights. They are planning on building an airplane in the near future. Justine is celebrating 28 years as an EEG Technician at Palos Community Hospital.

'79 Susan (Rudzinski) Ekins, Math, is currently the development manager for Sharing Connections Furniture Bank, which is a nonprofit in Downers Grove.

Jim McCarthy, Literature and Communications, and his wife, Charlene (Kwak) McCarthy, C81, Literature and Communications, traveled to St. Francis of Assisi Church in Greenwood, MS, in June with 40 adults and youths from Resurrection Catholic Community Church. As missionaries for one week in the Delta, the McCarthy’s worked construction and landscaping, and brought Vacation Bible School and English tutoring to the families of their sister parish. The McCarthy’s celebrated 26 years of marriage this past September and they are thankful for the fond memories and support of family and friends during their IRC years and beyond.

Benedictine University

'95 Frank Gradishar, Literature and Communications, recently formed a law firm in Westmont with three other attorneys. The firm is called Knobbe, Laho, Gradishar & Mack, LLC, and they concentrate their practice in divorce law, family law, real estate, estate planning, wills and trusts. Gradishar graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2002.

'96 Kate Loritz, Communication Arts, M.S.M.O.B.’00, is working for U.S. Cellular as a strategic initiatives manager in sales operations. Loritz’s role focuses on helping U.S. Cellular to provide an ideal customer experience using cross-functional teams on enterprise-wide projects for new products, services and promotions. Loritz does a lot of traveling, and in 2009 her trips included the South Caribbean, Seattle, the Columbia River Valley in Washington, San Diego, Los Angeles, New York, Las Vegas, Wisconsin, Indiana and Florida. She lives in Naperville and despite her busy travel schedule finds time for her hobbies of wine collecting, cycling and triathlons.

'98 Jennifer Krall, Biology, recently earned Certified Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (CMSRN) status by the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSN). Krall currently works at Central DuPage Hospital as a surgical nurse.

Fenorris Pearson, M.S.M.O.B., is the CEO of Global Consumer Innovation, Inc. This company defines what the next “big idea” will be and produces consumer products and services that generate revenue through billion
dollar concepts. Prior to founding Global Consumer Innovation, Pearson served as vice president of consumer innovation for Dell, Inc., and as vice president for Global Organizational Development for Motorola, Inc.

’99
Jim Klyman, Computer Science, became semi-retired from BP Amoco at the Naperville research complex in 2005 and then sold his house and moved to the Big Island of Hawaii. Klyman took early retirement in June 2009 and is now working for Hawaii Electric Light Co. at their Keahole power plant just north of Kailua-Kona.

’00
Kristin Galan, M.D., Molecular Biology, earned her medical degree at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood. Galan completed her residency training at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago and a fellowship in surgical pathology from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. She is board-certified by the American Board of Pathology in Anatomical and Clinical Pathology.

Hugo Lopez, B.B.A., is currently working for Nestlé USA Emerging Markets Division. Lopez is the regional account manager in the North Central region and manages 10 distributors. Lopez also manages the sales team that calls on more than 300 Hispanic grocery stores in Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana. He has been married to Faith Lopez for six years and has a 2-year-old daughter, Giada Fe.

Angela D. Tippey, M.S.M.O.B., joined the staff at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine as director of employment and compensation for human resources. Tippey also serves as the public relations chair of the Central Illinois chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, a member of the Central Illinois Organizational Development Network and the College and University Professional Development Network and the Central Illinois Organizational Resource Management, a member chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management. Tippey is currently pursuing a M.B.A. from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Nelson also holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (C.F.A.) designation.


’05
Jessica M. Davis, International Studies, earned her law degree from DePaul University College of Law. Davis received the Family Law Fellowship Award to work in a public interest family law organization. She is engaged to Kurt Triebe.

’06
Rudolf “Philip” Botha, B.B.A., began work as a QA Test Engineer in January 2010 in Cape Town, South Africa. Botha is also coaching Cricket to kids in underprivileged areas with the hope of providing some stability, and steering them away from crime.

’07
Julie Bjorkman, Ph.D., was named to the role of past president of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) in Chicago. The IABC is a global network of communication professionals committed to improving organizational effectiveness through strategic communication. She served as the chapter’s president, director of educational relations, membership and president-elect. Bjorkman was also the director-at-large on the IABC international executive board. She is an adjunct faculty member at three universities and has worked for such major companies as Sara Lee, GE and Alistate.

Julia Olson, M.B.A., is currently employed at Videojet Technologies as a logistics lead. Videojet Technologies is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Danaher Corporation. Olson received an IMEX (Import/Export) Master Black Belt through Danaher Business Systems and continues to implement strategies in the global supply chain.

’08

Jose Magana, M.D., M.B.A., has been recertified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and has worked at the Dreyer Medical Clinic’s West Aurora location since 1999 as an internist.

Anne (Perkins) Stabaugh, International Business and Economics, was recently married.

Rick Tankersley, M.S.M.O.B., is the Chief of Police for the Village of Oak Park. He took the lead on a discussion of Edgar Alan Poe’s “Rue Morgue” in the Oak Park Village Hall during a month-long “Big Read” celebration of Poe’s 200th birthday, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Oak Park Public Library. Tankersley’s 25-year law enforcement career has made him a professional in analytical detective work, and he is well-versed in modern investigative techniques. In 2008, Tankersley received Certified Police Chief status from the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

Amit Thaker, M.B.A./M.P.H., is currently working for a health care consulting firm in Chicago. Thaker travels to clients all over the country assisting with non-labor cost savings initiatives at hospitals and academic medical facilities.

Rita M. Young, M.B.A., was Inducted into the Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society.

’09
Bill Mannaberg, M.B.A., and his wife, Dina, had their first child, Olivia Michelle, in October 2009.

Robert Williams, M.S.M.O.B., a 22-year veteran of the Springfield Police Department, has been appointed the city’s new police chief. Williams joined the force in April 1987, became sergeant in April 1994, lieutenant in October 1999 and assistant police chief in 2007.

Jason Wolf, Ph.D., is the director of organizational development for the eastern group of Hospital Corporation of America. Wolf guides organization and leadership development strategy for one of the company’s operating units. Prior to that, Wolf was leader of organization effectiveness at Owens Corning—INTGREX. Wolf also was the instructor of human and organization development at Vanderbilt University and communications director and resident director in the office of student affairs at Georgetown University.

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St. Procopius Academy/College
Ronald Drendel, SPC ’56, passed away October 20, 2009. Drendel was a retired Downers Grove Police Sergeant and former Benedictine University postmaster.

Fr. Allan Hrebic, O.S.B., SPA ’44, SPC ’48, Philosophy, passed away October 9, 2009.

Thomas D. Hynes, Biology, C66, passed away May 17, 2009. His wife, Jo Ella (Robinson), C83, is an adjunct faculty member in the Nursing Program at Aurora University.

Illinois Benedictine College
Susan (Travnik) Schiller, Math, C76, passed away August 4, 2009. Schiller was the wife of Charles J. Schiller, Jr., History, C73.

Bert Thompson, Director of Library Services (1969-1990), passed away September 26, 2009.
Football Closes 2009 on High Note

The Benedictine football team finished the 2009 season with a 6-4 overall record and tied for second place in the Northern Athletics Conference (NAC) race. The team, which posted the best mark in head coach Jon Cooper’s five seasons with the Eagles, ended the year on a three-game winning streak.

Benedictine, which played a very difficult preseason slate of games, went 5-2 in the NAC. In the season finale, the Eagles defeated Concordia University Chicago 15-14 to knock the Cougars out of first place in the league.

Leyden is Eagles’ First Volleyball All-American Since 1991

Benedictine volleyball standout Kayla Leyden, a junior from Elgin, Ill., (St. Edward Catholic H.S.), was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association’s (AVCA) All-America third team, capping an amazing season. Leyden’s honor closed out a season during which Benedictine, which at times had four newcomers in a starting role, earned a share of the 2009 Northern Athletics Conference (NAC) regular-season championship.

Leyden, an outside hitter, becomes the ninth Benedictine volleyball player to earn AVCA All-America honors and the first from the school since 1991 when teammates Carla Sacchetti and Michelle Saul were both second-team selections. Overall, led by four-time All-America Tracey Beaty (1986-89), Benedictine players have been named All-America 16 times since 1984.

“Early in Kayla’s career, we knew that she had the potential to be an All-American,” Benedictine volleyball coach Jennifer Wildes said. “Now she has achieved that stature and joined the ranks of some great names in our school’s volleyball history. This award is a testament to Kayla’s hard work and consistency. She gets four or five kills and three to four digs every set we play. She makes those around her play at a higher level. To me, that is the hallmark of what makes a player great.”

Leyden is a two-time first-team AVCA All-Midwest Region selection and was an honorable mention choice on the all-region team as a freshman in 2007. She also has three first-team All-NAC selections to her credit.

During the 2009 season, Leyden led the Eagles in kills (496) and hitting percentage (.240). She ranked second in the NAC in kills (4.43 per set) and in total number of points (548). Leyden was eighth in hitting percentage and ninth in digs (3.87 per game) in the conference. She also ranked 12th in the nation in kills per set among NCAA Division III players.

Leyden was a three-time NAC “Student-Athlete of the Week” during the 2009 season, leading the Eagles to a share of the conference’s regular-season title (along with Dominican University and Lakeland College). Leyden earned all-tournament honors at all four tournaments in which the Eagles competed (Colorado College, Illinois Wesleyan, Wheaton and Benedictine’s Eagle Classic). In addition to her three All-NAC first team awards, Leyden was named the Conference’s “Rookie of the Year” and selected to the “All-Rookie Team” in 2007.

Eagles Nab NAC Honors

Benedictine student-athletes were well-represented in the Northern Athletics Conference’s (NAC) post-season awards for the fall of 2009:

Women’s Cross Country:
First Team All-NAC—Danielle Smith, Jen Murray; Second Team All-NAC—Joy Holowicki; All-Sportsmanship Team—Penny Bournas

Men’s Cross Country:
First Team All-NAC—Danny Graham; Second Team All-NAC—Alex Arman, Tyler Zachary; All-Sportsmanship Team—Thomas Brown

Volleyball: First Team All-NAC—Kayla Leyden; Second Team All-NAC—Jackie Rust; Honorable Mention—Jessica Judge; All-Freshman Team—Miranda Brannen; All-Sportsmanship Team—Celia Porod

Men’s Golf: First Team All-NAC – R.J. Schwalbach, Ryan Feldman; Freshman of the Year—Jake Kuper; All-Sportsmanship Team—Jonathan Price

Women’s Golf: First Team All-NAC—Alexis Wadowski; Freshman of the Year—Alexis Wadowski; All-Sportsmanship Team—Cathryn Connolly

Men’s Soccer: Honorable Mention—Giancarlo Chavez, Ryan Kozin; All-Freshman Team—Cesar Martinez; All-Sportsmanship Team—Jim Hanley

Women’s Soccer: Second Team All-NAC—Rachel Wilson; All-Freshman Team—Rachel Wilson; All-Sportsmanship Team—Juana Montalvo

Women’s Tennis: NAC runners-up (No. 1 doubles)—Lisa Carrillo, Ewelina Stachulak; All-Sportsmanship Team—Ewelina Stachulak

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16th Annual President’s Invitational

Golf Outing

Monday, June 28, 2010
Cantigny Golf, Wheaton, Illinois

Join us this year at the beautiful Cantigny golf course in Wheaton.

Reserve your spot today!

Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Group Golf Clinics conducted by Natalie Gulbis (maximum 5 per group)</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>$150 per person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box Lunch</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shotgun Start</td>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocktails</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner and Program</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>included</td>
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</tbody>
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Proceeds go to the President’s 21st Century Fund in support of student scholarships.

Make a difference.
Sponsors and volunteers are needed to make this fundraiser a success.

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Please watch this video to see how you can help a student receive an education: www.ben.edu/golfvideo.

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2010 Distinguished Alumni Recognition Awards

Nominees Needed

The Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Recognition Awards:

- Distinguished Alumni Award
- Alumni Service Award
- Benedictine Spirit Award

Submit nominations to the Office of Alumni Relations
Benedictine University
5700 College Road
Lisle, IL 60532
or at www.ben.edu/alumni/awards.

For information about these and other University events, visit our Web site. www.ben.edu