Couple’s multiple experiences at Benedictine inspire new College of Business building donation

Sarah (Talbot) Peacey | Ph.D.’15 (Organization Development)  
M.S.’12 (Management and Organizational Behavior), C98 (Sociology)

Matt Peacey | C13 (Organizational Leadership)

If you are looking for a thorough appraisal of the Benedictine experience or the value of a degree post-graduation, Matt and Sarah (Talbot) Peacey can certainly provide more than enough reasons why enrolling at the University is one of the smartest decisions you could make.

The couple, who met on the BenU campus in 1997, has collectively earned four degrees at Benedictine. They also share a great deal of success in their professional lives, memories as undergraduate students working at The Candor student newspaper, and experiences as graduate students in the Master of Science (M.S.) in Management and Organizational Behavior program.

So when they heard about an opportunity to give back to the University by supporting the new Daniel L. Goodwin Hall of Business, which will house the University’s M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior and Ph.D. in Organization Development (OD) programs, they both quickly agreed to help.

This past spring, the couple made a generous contribution to name a room in the new building.

“We saw this as a way to give back and pay it forward,” Sarah said.

“We have so many fond memories and experiences from our time at Benedictine. I feel like we’ve been given a precious opportunity. The gift of knowledge is priceless, but universities rely on alumni donations to provide the infrastructure which enables the creation and dissemination of knowledge.”

Sarah came to Benedictine after graduating from Benet Academy in 1994.

“I was familiar with Benedictine,” Sarah said. “I swam for Benet and we used the pool in the Rice Center (at the time) so I was familiar with campus. I also liked the idea of being close to home while still being able to have the full college experience.”

A Sociology major who was active on the swim and soccer teams and a member of the cheerleading squad, Sarah was introduced to her husband Matt by a friend while working as news editor for The Candor during her junior year.

“We needed a marketing manager,” Sarah recalled. “We knew that Matt was majoring in Marketing at the time, so we recruited him to join the newspaper staff. We married two years later.”

During her senior year, she took an Organizational Behavior course with professors Peter Sorensen, Ph.D., and Therese Yaeger, Ph.D., that changed everything for her and Matt as well.

“When I decided to go back for my master’s degree, I remembered how much I liked the class and the content,” Sarah said.

“The program had a strong reputation and I learned a lot from my graduate courses. As I approached graduation, I didn’t want the learning experience to end. I knew that the Ph.D. in OD program had a global reputation, plus I was working full time, so the three-year program with a scholar-practitioner focus and weekend classes worked out perfectly with my schedule.”

Today, Sarah leads large-scale change management, talent management and organization design projects for Fortune 500 clients as a manager at KPMG.
“I use what I learned at Benedictine every day at work,” Sarah said. “While I wasn’t a communications major, the writing skills I learned while working for The Candor have been invaluable to my career. Perhaps the most important lesson I learned was from observing Dr. Sorensen and Dr. Yaeger. Their humility, passion and love for the OD field is contagious. I learned that if you love what you do, and are passionate about the work, you will have a rich career and will be respected by your peers.”

After observing Sarah progress through the University’s OD programs, Matt decided to add to his Bachelor of Business Administration in Organizational Leadership by enrolling in the M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior program.

“After seeing what Sarah learned in her master’s classes and seeing the positive experience the Ph.D. would have on her career, I decided to work toward my master’s degree,” Matt said. “After considering several universities across the nation and their programs, I was impressed with Benedictine’s program and decided it would be a good fit for me.”

Today Matt is responsible for procuring software services and technologies applications as a category manager for Walgreens.

“I believe the skills I learned at Benedictine will help me throughout my career,” Matt said. “The knowledge and skills I learned have prepared me to maneuver through a corporate environment by expanding my perspective and have given me a different lens to analyze and diagnose issues that arise. I enjoy negotiations and seeing how products and services can contribute to a better consumer experience and help the company.”

Aside from giving back financially to the institution, Sarah and Matt feel strongly about the importance of staying connected with Benedictine and engaging with the University as active alumni by attending lecture series and networking events or simply keeping updated through its social media pages.

“These are valuable personal and professional connections, and it’s important to have a large toolkit to keep your mind sharp, your network fresh and your opportunities open,” Sarah said. “You never know what’s going to happen and you’ll never know who you will meet, who you can help or who may help you one day.”

Do you know an alumnus who is giving back in the Benedictine tradition?
Email lhale@ben.edu.

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Helping Students in Need
Class of 2015 Starts New Fundraiser

This year’s Class Gift Committee decided to take on a new fundraising challenge to support a program which helps students in immediate personal need, while still collecting funds for the traditional class legacy gift awarded to the University at the Commencement Convocation. This past spring, students supported the Campus Ministry Student Emergency Fund with proceeds from the sale of more than 100 “Class of 2015” T-shirts.

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