In Lisle, 959 graduates earned degrees and enjoyed the traditional walk across the stage at the University’s 119th Commencement Convocation on a sunny May 13. Thirty-four earned associate degrees, 495 earned bachelor’s degrees, 411 earned master’s degrees and 19 earned doctoral degrees.

Commencement took place on Mother’s Day, and Benedictine University President William J. Carroll, made a special point to thank the proud mothers and families of graduates who encouraged them throughout their journey.

Graduates Set to flourish in Next Stage of Life

I am often struck by the students who visit my office in tears months before their graduation simply because they do not want to leave Benedictine. I try to tell them in a kind and supportive way that they came to Benedictine University to leave—to graduate. Some students do not find my words consoling. However, I do understand their trepidation. Graduation is a frightening prospect for many. It marks a significant transition in one’s life. It means leaving the safe harbor of a supportive faculty and staff, and striking out on one’s own.

Yet, comfort and hope can be found when considering the successes of the students who left before them. They have not only persevered after leaving the University, they have flourished.

A graduating class can be compared to a bouquet of flowers. Through the years—from St. Procopius College to Illinois Benedictine College to Benedictine University—the bouquet has grown into a beautiful representation of the world. In the pages that follow, you will glance at pictures and read stories of this year’s graduating class, representing an international array of cultures, religions and people from almost every walk of life. You will see the face of today’s Benedictine University truly as a beautiful bouquet from the world’s gardens. ●

— William J. Carroll, President

Hats off to our graduates!

We pay special attention to our graduates and celebrate their achievements at Benedictine. We honor the myriad of challenges they faced and had to overcome to earn their degrees, and the long hours and sacrifices they made along the way.

On campus, we challenge students to go above and beyond—to use knowledge not only to better themselves, but to advance society for the better.

It is this consideration of the University’s core values that defines our graduates and serves as a guide for them as they make their way in the world and begin to shape their futures. We honor them as we reflect on their accomplishments and realize their life’s potential. ●
The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, encouraged and cautioned graduates during his commencement speech when he acknowledged the challenges they face, living in a more complicated world where technological advancements in the information age have the capacity to connect and isolate people in different ways.

“Much is on the minds of you graduates,” Conlon said. “I hope most of it is positive. College graduates go forth with a spirit of optimism, even in a lousy economy. They want to change the world, while humanity as a whole remains the same in both its good and bad dimensions.”

Robert Horsley, Biochemistry/Molecular Biology, gave the student address, describing the immense wealth of knowledge the Class of 2012 received, along with the realization that there will always be more to learn.

“This diploma that we receive today represents our ability to tackle those challenges that lay before us,” Horsley said. “However, we can’t do it alone. One suggestion that many wise people have told me is to always remember your support system. Our support systems have helped us get over the challenges during the past few years, whether it be God, family, a friend, a stranger or anyone else.”
Two hundred ten graduates were honored for their outstanding academic achievements—including nine students who received the University’s most prestigious awards for academic excellence—during this year’s Hooding and Honors ceremony.

**PROCOPIAN AWARD**

Robert Kenneth Horsley, B.S. in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology (Bolingbrook)

*The Procopian Award is the highest honor awarded to a graduating senior. It is given for consistently outstanding curricular and extracurricular activities.*

**THOMAS J. DYBA LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Eraj Din, B.S. in Biology (Algonquin)

*This award is given to a student who demonstrates outstanding ability to initiate and organize worthwhile activities, encourages and directs the cooperative efforts of others, and commands respect as a campus leader.*

**BENEDICTINE SERVICE AWARD**

Edward Frank Price III, B.S. in Mathematics (Bolingbrook)

*The Benedictine Service Award is given for outstanding service to the University and fellow students.*

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Sarah Marie Staninger, B.S. in Biology (Highland, Ind.)

*The Community Service Award is given for outstanding service in religious, educational, social or political activities.*

**ARCHBISHOP DANIEL KUCERA, O.S.B., AWARD**

Barbara Cunha Knight, B.S. in Biology (Joliet)

*This award recognizes a non-traditional student who has an exemplary academic record as well as a record of contributions to the University community.*

**AWARDS IN ACADEMIC HONORS**

These awards are conferred upon students who have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better and have either completed research of consequence or have been published in their field.

**College of Business**

Srividya Anjana Ranganathan, B.B.A. in Finance (Lemont)

**College of Education and Health Services**

Kara Marie Walsh, B.S. in Nutrition (Oak Forest)

**College of Liberal Arts**

Martin Tomszak, B.A. in History (Wheaton)

**College of Science**

Thymur Ali Chaudhry, B.S. in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology (Westmont)
At age 51, Patricia Jones never thought she would go back to school, let alone with her two sisters. But after a pitch from a Benedictine University adviser, the Bolingbrook High School paraprofessional embarked on a path that would lead to earning her first college degree.

In May, Jones was joined by her two sisters, Pamela Kuykendall, 46, and Prescillia Spencer, 55, both of Naperville, at Benedictine’s commencement ceremony. All three had earned college degrees simultaneously.

In the beginning, Jones wasn’t sure she could afford a private education, but when the adviser told her she could save 25 percent on tuition, she decided to learn more. Shortly thereafter, she attended an informational session and brought along Spencer, a supervisor at Maryville Academy in Bartlett.

Two years later, Jones, who lives in Romeoville and has 10 grandchildren, earned an Associate of Arts in Business Administration from Benedictine.

Kuykendall, a state of Illinois rehabilitation case coordinator, spearheaded the sisters’ educational pursuits, earning an Associate of Arts in Business Administration from Benedictine in 2010 and most recently, a Bachelor of Arts in Management. Spencer earned an Associate of Arts in Business Administration.

The sisters always believed in hard work and education, but did not have the opportunity earlier in life to earn degrees. The grandmothers of a collective 21 grandchildren certainly never imagined all three would earn degrees at the same time.

The sisters grew up with three other siblings on the West Side of Chicago where they were raised largely by their mother who worked factory jobs. It was through watching their mother that the sisters learned the value of family and perseverance.

All three sisters enrolled in Benedictine’s Moser College of Adult and Professional Studies, which they said fit well with their schedules and family values as they were able to enroll in flexible programs geared to non-traditional students.

Nonetheless, the work was challenging. All three worked toward their degrees while working, raising children and grandchildren, but they encouraged each other to stay on track, remembering the values their mother taught them.

The sisters learned how to study together—Spencer and Jones even joined the same study group. At times, they doubted whether they could successfully complete their degrees, but their faith and the support of students in their study group helped them stay positive and persevere.

Each sister believes the Benedictine degrees they earned will aid their careers. In fact, Jones received a promotion while she was pursuing her degree.
Benedictine University at Springfield held its commencement service honoring 203 undergraduate and 37 graduate students at the Prairie Capital Convention Center on May 19. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki of the Diocese of Springfield gave the commencement address, in which he congratulated graduates on their accomplishment and stressed the importance of preserving religious liberty and defending the rights of the Church.

John McCarthy, Writing and Publishing, gave the student address to the graduating class. He was this year’s Procopian Award recipient and a major contributor to the intellectual life of the University, exemplifying the Benedictine hallmarks of stewardship, humility, love of neighbor, hospitality and community.

Tracey Welsh, Management and Organizational Behavior, also addressed the graduating class as the adult accelerated speaker. She excelled in her academic pursuits while balancing her family, career and life’s other challenges.
Two hundred forty-six Benedictine graduates were honored in ceremonies at Binh Duong University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and Shenyang Jianzhi University and Shenyang University of Technology, in Shenyang, China.

Benedictine University President William J. Carroll, and Elsie Yuan, executive director of International Programs and Services at Benedictine University, attended the first Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) cohort graduation ceremony at Binh Duong University. U.S. Consul General of Ho Chi Minh City Le Thanh An; Do Quoc Anh, director of General Ministry of Education and Training; Cao Van Phuong, D.Sc., chairman and president of Binh Duong University; and many deans and faculty were also in attendance.

In 2015, we will recognize the first graduating class of students from our newest campus, Benedictine University at Mesa. Business operations began in September at an administrative building located in downtown Mesa, and classes will start in the academic building a few blocks away in Fall 2013. (See full story on page 20.)
Career Development Helps Graduates Put their Degrees to Work

Achieving a Benedictine degree is an accomplishment to be celebrated, but after the fanfare subsides it’s time to use that degree.

Enter the Office of Career Development, where the staff is committed to providing Benedictine students with the tools to market their degree and pursue opportunities that match their desired profession.

While earning a college degree is an important landmark, it alone does not guarantee employment. Today, one in two—or about 1.5 million—college graduates with bachelor’s degrees under the age of 25 are unemployed or underemployed, according to The Associated Press. This means students need to distinguish themselves from other graduates well before commencement.

At the Office of Career Development, incoming students are given a four-year roadmap to identify careers and begin building their resume. Our staff encourages students to participate in extracurricular clubs and organizations to expose themselves to their field of interest as soon as possible. Along the way, staff members remind students to seek out informational interviews, job shadowing opportunities and career fairs to build their network.

The office provides free critiques and mock interviews so graduates are prepared to show potential employers that a Benedictine degree is confirmation that they have the requisite knowledge, experience and leadership skills to hit the ground running.

But these services don’t end once students find employment. Alumni can take advantage of lifelong support services—whether they are transitioning between careers, considering a career change or wanting to reconnect with other alumni with careers in a similar field.

In addition, the Office of Career Development offers the following free services:

- **One-on-One Counseling** includes individual appointments for students and alumni to discuss careers and other facets of the job search such as resume writing, interviewing and using social media. In addition, assessments are used to identify career interests and strengths.
- **Career Resource Library** houses career books on different occupations, types of jobs and salaries, as well as other resources containing company information, job listings and more.
- **Networking Opportunities** connect with more than 23,000 alumni nationally and internationally to network and discuss the job search process.
- **Job Postings** access hundreds of employers and online job applications. This is a special service only accessible to alumni through a partnership with 23 other small private universities. In addition, Career Search is offered as an online tool with access to more than 4 million companies across the nation.
- **Virtual Services** include Skype appointments, job postings access, electronic registration for events and interviews through the College Central website.

For more information, contact Pariana, executive director for stewardship development, at pariana@ben.edu or (630) 829-6003.

For more information, contact career development at (630) 829-6040, career@ben.edu or visit Room 010 in the Krasa Student Center.
Showing off a diploma after receiving it from the University president was a common act back in the years when we had what we commonly called “live diplomas” at Benedictine University.

That important piece of paper was held inside an elaborate red cover, which carried the name of the graduate embossed in gold lettering. As graduating classes grew larger, graduates no longer received the full diploma at the ceremony—only the cover. Today’s graduates cannot show this elegant wording on the diploma to parents and guests at commencement. They receive the diploma in the mail at a later date.

A diploma is meant to look sleek and prestigious—but what is its function? Is it simply “proof” that one has completed all the work that’s required at an institution of higher education? We announce on each Benedictine diploma that our students have demonstrated “personal intellectual growth and achievements consonant with the goals and requirements established for this degree.”

While this might seem like a boiler plate statement, a Benedictine degree is distinct in that its students have not only surpassed academic requirements, they have undergone tremendous personal and social growth with a focus on working in community, rather than on individual gratification.

Our graduates have additional perspectives on life, work and the world, and they carry this clear idea of community and being mindful of the other as they begin the next stage of their lives.

The Benedictine student leads the way as a result of what they have experienced, which is a model for life in the world that truly considers the common good. Their best contributions will come from their gifts to the lives of others.

Nicholas Scipione, who received the Thomas J. Dyba Leadership Award in 2004, has personally benefited from his studies at Benedictine. As a chemistry teacher and chair of the Science Division at Glenbard East High School, his approach to his work is that he is open and honest.

Scipione said he was introduced to Benedictine’s philosophy from classes such as the First Year Seminar, where he examined the 10 values contained in the Rule of St. Benedict, which he continues to practice well after graduation.

While you may find many of these same values listed in the mission statements of other institutions, they are not integrated the same way as in a Benedictine environment where students apply those values in a truly workable way.

Scipione’s professors knew he was preparing to become a high school teacher, and would very subtly stress what it means to live and work as a member of a community.

“We learned quite quickly how one was to be a contributor to society with his or her specific talents and personal skills,” Scipione said.

Whether our students receive a diploma with their name on it or not on commencement day, the intent of that document lives on in them. Throughout the course of their lives, they will carry with them the great responsibility to see what they can do to make this a better world through whatever pursuits or endeavors they choose to follow.
What are you doing with your degree?

**BRYAN WIESEMANN**  
B.B.A. in Management and Organizational Behavior

- I am working as a retail sales representative for Hershey Company, selling chocolate to various stores in Albuquerque, N.M.
- I would like to have a lifetime career at Hershey Company and move up within the company, possibly becoming area sales director.
- **Benedictine taught me to be independent, manage my time, work hard and persevere. My time at the University was the best four years I could ever ask for.**

**MAX BEDNARSKI**  
B.A. in Communication Arts

- With my degree, I became a television producer for the Extreme Volleyball Professionals (EVP) Tour for the Beach Sports Network where I edit a TV show that airs on regional sports networks. I also coordinate with contracted filmers and the TV host to get voiceovers for the show, work on side projects and create graphics for our website.
- I see myself growing with the EVP Tour as their first in-house producer. I want to make Beach Sports Network a huge hit and have its own channel.
- **Benedictine taught me to be independent, manage my time, work hard and persevere. My time at the University was the best four years I could ever ask for.**

**ERAJ DIN**  
B.S. in Biology

- With my degree, I went on to enroll in medical school as a full-time student.
- I hope to complete medical school and pursue a career in the field of pediatrics and neonatal care.
- **Benedictine’s small class sizes helped me take advantage of great learning opportunities. I learned to appreciate the impact science and research have on the world. Additionally, I participated in a student organization called Rotaract where I met some of my closest friends and formed my fondest memories.**

**EDWARD PRICE III**  
B.S. in Mathematics

- I am a graduate teaching assistant.
- I eventually plan to earn a Ph.D. in Mathematics and become a mathematics professor.
- **Benedictine provided me with a solid educational foundation, a desire for lifelong inquiry and opportunities to develop my leadership skills. The University’s friendly atmosphere and religious openness provide a safe environment for people to grow not only academically, but as individuals.**
Destined for greatness

While college graduates will encounter more challenges today than many of their predecessors, we are certain our Benedictine graduates will go forth with a sense of confidence knowing they have proven themselves to be dedicated and compassionate individuals determined to persevere and overcome any hurdle that comes their way.

We challenge graduates to apply themselves, make their mark on the world and defy expectations. And in the communities they serve, we urge them to continue to aid the common good, representing Benedictine as steadfast leaders of our values and ethics. It doesn’t matter if it’s one or 50 years since commencement—our graduates will always be Benedictine.

RACHEL SCHULTZ
B.B.A. in Finance and B.B.A. in Marketing

I am working as the new media coordinator for the University’s Office of Marketing and Communications where I plan, coordinate and create e-communications for all recruitment, retention, advancement, development and event efforts, help maintain the University’s website, and coordinate and distribute internal and external e-communications. In addition, I assist with marketing projects and advertising campaigns.

I want to continue learning all aspects of marketing including advertising, public relations, video production and graphic design. One day, I’d like to be in charge of a communications department.

At Benedictine, I learned how to apply what was taught in class to real life. My course load was more than essays and exams—it consisted of one-on-one interactions with professors and other students. This experience opened my mind and improved my ability to understand the viewpoints of others, which has helped me in my current job.

DAVID ZACHARY SESSO
B.S. in Biology

I am working as a conference assistant for Benedictine’s Office of Residence Life and studying for the MCAT. I want to apply to medical school, but am also interested in other positions in the medical field, such as working as a lab technician.

I’d like to go to Africa and help malnourished children. I was a paramedic for a few years, so I think I have a deeper understanding of the medical field and what to expect than most students my age.

The Health Sciences Recommendation Committee at Benedictine helped me secure the needed recommendations to apply to professional medical schools, and the University’s Office of Career Development helped me formulate my resume. I decided to come to Benedictine because this school fulfills a unique niche. It’s one of the only four-year universities with recognition that I could attend while living at home.
History, Philosophy and Religious Studies Annual Awards Banquet

The Department of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies held its annual banquet in May for more than 50 students, faculty and alumni. 

Offered biannually, the “Developing Your Employment Toolbox” series is free, open to all students and alumni, and made possible through a donation from the Lisle Community Service Corporation.

First Responder Program Reunion

More than 10 years later, alumni, faculty and staff of Benedictine University’s First Responder Program reunited in March to celebrate its creation and reflect on the time they spent at Benedictine.

Since its inception, the program has awarded degrees to more than 600 first responders—73 of whom earned multiple degrees. Terry Vavra, M.S.’06, fire chief for the Village of Buffalo Grove, and Jim French, M.S.’07, C06, bureau chief for the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District, both recalled how they discussed the idea for the program in 2001 with University President William Carroll. They also stressed why they felt it was important to give back to the program in order to establish a first responder scholarship. The scholarship would allow other first responders to advance their careers by earning a Benedictine degree at a reduced cost now that federal funding for the program has ended. Thanks to multiple donors, more than $8,000 was raised in pledges.

For more information about how to get involved or to donate to the First Responder Endowed Scholarship, contact Eric Guthrie, advancement officer for Moser College, at eguthrie@ben.edu or (630) 829-1388.

Inaugural Teacher Appreciation Reception

Alumni, students, faculty and staff gathered for the inaugural Teacher Appreciation Reception in May at the Krasa Student Center. Held during Teacher Appreciation Week, this reception honored current teachers and offered networking opportunities for graduating seniors. This event will be held again next year.

For more information, contact Ray Jackson, advancement officer for the College of Education and Health Services, at rjackson@ben.edu or (630) 829-1841.

Developing Your Employment Toolbox Workshop Series

The Offices of Career Development and Alumni Development partnered with the Lisle Chamber of Commerce to launch the Spring Career Fair in April at the Krasa Student Center. Students, alumni and community members met with more than 45 employers offering part- and full-time employment as well as internship opportunities.

To view more photos from alumni events, go to www.ben.edu/alumnipics.
Annual Moser College Graduate Reception

The second annual Moser College Graduate Reception was held in May at the Coal Ben to welcome more than 70 online and off-campus graduates to campus. Mick Carroll, Ph.D., dean of the Moser College of Adult and Professional Studies, recognized faculty, staff and students who had traveled from as far away as New York, Texas and Vermont. Many graduates had never seen the campus nor met their fellow classmates prior to the event and therefore enjoyed the opportunity to gather together as new Benedictine alumni.

Thank you to all who attended and supported this event.

College of Business Annual Success Dinner

The annual College of Business Success Dinner had a great turnout. Thanks to the Benedictine University Student Senate, nearly 100 students, faculty, staff and alumni attended the event. Christos Linardakis, C88, was the event’s alumni speaker and Vidya Ranganathan, C12, was the student speaker. Sandra Gill, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business, gave department updates, and awards were presented to outstanding seniors.

Everyone had an opportunity to meet old friends and faculty members, share great stories and wish graduating seniors “Good luck!” Thank you to all who assisted in this successful evening.

Alumni Webinar Series

Monthly Alumni Webinars

The Office of Alumni Development is pleased to provide alumni free monthly webinars facilitated by alumni. Webinar topics are relevant to all ages, and include networking skills, career services, using social media, life after college, financial planning, stress reducers, innovative leadership skills and more. Webinars are offered each month, and alumni will receive an email notice about two weeks prior with registration information.

We thank Joyce Pugh, M.S.’09, for hosting “It’s All About WHO You Know—Networking Do’s, Don’ts and How-to’s,” Micki Lewis, M.S.’06, C00, for hosting “Packaging Yourself as an Innovative Leader,” Tom Ruginis, C03, for hosting “Using Social Media for Your Job Search—Pros and Cons,” and Yorli Huff, M.S.’08, for hosting “Influence of Benedictine Values in Your Career.” To watch any of these webinars visit ben.edu/alumni.

Join us for these informative webinars hosted by your classmates. If you are interested in hosting a webinar, contact Pat Ariano at pariano@ben.edu or (630) 829-6003.

Throwback Alumni Wear

The Alumni Association Board is selling Traditional Threads shirts for both St. Procopius College (SPC) and Illinois Benedictine College (IBC). Cost is $25 for the SPC denim shirt and $10 for IBC T-shirts. Contact Pat Ariano, executive director of stewardship development, at pariano@ben.edu or (630) 829-6003 to purchase your throwback shirt today.

Supplies are limited.
Anthony McCain is vice president of operations at Nicor Gas where he is responsible for distribution services and meter-reading functions. In each area, he oversees financial management, compliance, operating results and employee safety and development.

But outside of his career, McCain is deeply devoted to public service, serving as a director for Voices for Illinois Children, a nonprofit organization focused on making sure children grow up healthy, happy, safe, loved and well-educated. He is director of Common Ground Alliance, an association dedicated to public safety, environmental protection and the integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention practices for underground facilities. He serves on the boards of the Boys & Girls Club of Naperville, Midwest Energy Association and Junior Achievement of Will County. He is also a Leadership of Greater Chicago fellow.

McCain has a strong desire to give back and is very impressed by the impact Benedictine University has made on the community. This is a major reason why he feels the need to stay connected to his alma mater and contribute when he can.

“I have always been committed to giving back to the community whenever possible. (Staying connected to Benedictine) provides me with an opportunity to be close to my community, and it continues to expand my network and exposes me to key civic and community issues,” McCain said.

As an alumnus, McCain has returned to meet with student groups and attends sports and other cultural events sponsored by the University. Recently, he met with Idris Habeeb Shokunbi, an Environmental Science major, providing him with ideas for career opportunities and directing the student’s resume to key industry organizations.

“I listened and provided coaching as he is developing a transition plan for his career, and after meeting him, I was very impressed,” McCain said. “His personal story, focus and ability to articulate his career vision touched me in a way that made me want to support him.”

When McCain was a student at Benedictine, he was involved in the African-American Student Council and the football and men’s track teams, where he still holds multiple indoor and outdoor school records.

After earning a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business and Economics in 1984, he became an assistant manager at Jewel-Osco for two years. He then joined Nicor Gas, beginning his career as an associate supervisor of computer operations and semi-retired member of the National Guard and former salesman for 3M; Jack Steffek, C69, Political Science, a financial advisor for KB Elliott; and Lee Lamb, C69, Political Science, an insurance broker for Affordable-HealthAndLife.com, met on the Lisle campus to greet their friend and tour their alma mater.

“We were classmates…more than classmates, we were hallmates,” Steffek said. “It was from living together that we got to really know each other.”

After meeting in Scholl Hall, the group visited the recently renovated Dan and Ada Rice Center before settling in for lunch at the Krasa Student Center. Most of the attention was on the archbishop because most of the group had not seen him since his last visit to the United States in 2000.

Asadourian won a five-year scholarship from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in 1965 which allowed him to travel from his home in Iraq to attend Benedictine University, where he earned a bachelor’s
Itris Habeeb Shokunbi, C12, Environmental Science, felt anxiety and uncertainty at the thought of finding employment after earning his degree. Then he met alumni Anthony McCain, M.B.A.'93, C84, Business and Economics, who shared his personal story of career advancement and encouragement. Now Shokunbi is inspired to persevere.

Anthony McCain, M.B.A.'93, Business and Economics, felt anxiety and uncertainty at the thought of finding employment after earning his degree. Then he met alumni Anthony McCain, M.B.A.'93, C84, Business and Economics, who shared his personal story of career advancement and encouragement. Now Shokunbi is inspired to persevere.

“I told (McCain) that I had applied to many jobs and was feeling discouraged,” said Shokunbi. “But Mr. McCain showed me the importance of not giving up.”

Like Shokunbi, McCain was the first in his family to earn a college degree. “His message for me was to not expect to make a lot of money in my first position, but be open-minded and start from somewhere…that I should not limit myself locally but to take advantage of global opportunities,” Shokunbi said. “He also emphasized that I should continue my education.”

“I have truly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to stay connected to Benedictine,” he said. “Being an alumnus and watching the transformation and growth of the University under Dr. Carroll has been rewarding and exhilarating. I would invite any alumnus who has not been connected for a while to come experience for themselves how the University is making a difference.”

Married for 26 years, McCain has five children and resides in Bolingbrook.

“Going through all these stages, St. Procopius College was always with me,” Asadourian said.

Touching briefly on his time in Iraq during two wars, Asadourian said he “lived under the shadow of death day in and day out.” Today, the country is still struggling to rebuild, having lost many professionals and at least half of its Catholic followers.

“All the good professionals have left the country for fear of their lives, and not only Christian professionals but Muslim professionals as well,” Asadourian said. The group spoke fondly of the small, close-knit Benedictine community of the late 1960s and reminisced about the past.

“Everyone knew everybody else,” Asadourian said. “We had very good times and these were innocent times.”

Women were first admitted to the college at that time, which led many of the men to change some of their habits and attire, said Steiskal.

And as many students were getting set to graduate from their beloved alma mater—the University was preparing to change its name.

Brusek said he remembered graduates receiving two-sided diplomas with both Illinois Benedictine College and St. Procopius College listed as their institution.

Reflecting on the growth of the University, Asadourian said he would have liked to have seen more of the older buildings still on campus, but he recognized things had to change with time.

“I believe life changes and everything with it, and you should look at a college or a university as a living organism,” Asadourian said. “It is, and therefore it changes as time goes on.”

Today, the friends primarily stay connected through email. With the exception of Asadourian, who visits the United States once every five or 10 years, the five other alumni meet about four times per year for dinner and visit campus during their class reunions.

Like McCain, you too can help younger generations of Benedictine students by sharing your career experiences so that they may learn how to better identify and pursue a career path.

To find out how you can give back, contact Pat Ariano, executive director of stewardship development, at pariano@ben.edu or (630) 829-6003.
FALL 2012

I am elated to serve as president of the Benedictine Alumni Board of Directors for a second year. As a pre-millennial graduate, I represent the many alumni who desire to redefine our commitment to work cohesively across generations of alumni. As a fellow alumnus, I ask you to consider doing two things.

First, become an active member of the Benedictine University Alumni Association. This does not necessarily mean making a donation (although the University would certainly appreciate any contribution you are able to make). There are many ways you can become involved each year. Please reach out to me if you are interested.

Second, please consider attending the second annual “Casino Night” on February 9, 2013. It is a wonderful way to spend the evening catching up with old friends and making new ones while enjoying a variety of Las Vegas-style casino games. It is a fun event and serves as a fundraiser for the Alumni Board Scholarship.

As we look back, the 2011-2012 academic year was successful and filled with great enthusiasm. Last fall, our alumni participated in the first-ever Eagle Walk welcoming incoming students to campus, followed by the Alumni Picnic and BenFest, featuring the Plain White T’s. The Alumni Board hosted many networking events, encouraged successful alumni to come and speak to current students through the “Get Connected” series, and raised money for the Alumni Scholarship at Homecoming and the inaugural Casino Night fundraiser. In the spring, we honored Benedictine’s heritage on its triumphant 125th anniversary and broke ground on the Neff Welcome Center. We sponsored BenBash featuring Cobra Starship to celebrate our graduating seniors, and had a blast watching the Cubs at Alumni Day at Wrigley Field.

In August, we did it all over again with the second annual Eagle Walk and BenFest with the Neon Trees and The All-American Rejects, followed by a Homecoming for the record books in September.

As we look to the future, there are great opportunities for involvement underway, so join us to make everything we do bigger and better. You can mentor current students or recent graduates, show your support at several of the aforementioned events, help raise funds, and share your story so that others can learn how to follow your path.

Please contact me at kchopra@ben.edu for ways to get involved. Also, for updates, photos and alumni news, look for my blog online at ben.edu/alumni.

We must continue to expand and evolve as an association just as the University grows. We need to be good stewards of our alma mater. I encourage you to enhance your connection and commitment to Benedictine!

Kavita Chopra Athanikar, C98, kchopra@ben.edu
Benedictine University alumni and staff officially welcomed freshmen students on August 25 at the second annual Eagle Walk, where the class of 2016 marched along Memorial Walkway with their peers. As the freshmen entered the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex, they were greeted by Executive Vice President Charlie Gregory. He encouraged the students to embrace the Benedictine community and get involved.

After the Eagle Walk ceremony, the campus community continued the celebration with food and entertainment, including live music during the Alumni Picnic. Later that day, BenFest (sponsored by Navistar) got into full swing at the Sports Complex when radio personality Special K of 103.5 Kiss FM hosted the main attraction—the chart-topping bands Neon Trees and The All-American Rejects. The bands put on a stellar show for thousands of cheering fans.

BenFest is part of Welcome Weekend when freshmen start their journey at Benedictine. It is a great day to come to campus to welcome these students, reconnect at the picnic, have some fun with friends and family, and then top off the day with an amazing concert featuring top recording artists. If you haven’t been back on campus for BenFest or BenBash in the spring, make plans to attend in 2013.
The 18th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing welcomed PGA Tour hall of famer Tom Watson (pictured right) to Cantigny Golf in Wheaton. Watson was as friendly, down-to-earth and endearing on the links as he appears on television. He is truly a legend, and the mood at the outing was one of reverence for one of golf’s greatest.

Watson interacted with golfers at every hole, giving tips, yardage and congratulations on some great amateur shots. He signed golf balls and posed for photos with players. After golf, he captivated the crowd at dinner with tales of his days on the PGA Tour.

The day was full of special moments, including complimentary golf shoes given to each registered golfer. Each person who participates in this event helps make it possible for Benedictine students in need to earn their college degree.

The outing raised a record $328,000 for student scholarships. The golf outing is the largest fundraising event the University hosts and provides crucial funding to help students afford a college education. Last year, 96 percent of freshmen received some form of financial aid and 56 percent of all Benedictine students received need-based aid. The average annual award package per student was $16,600.

Thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers and participants who make this outing more successful every year.

Next year’s event is scheduled for Monday, June 24.
Check the web for updates at www.ben.edu/golf.
WINNERS ON AND OFF THE COURSE

1st Place Team • The William Bartlett II Cup
[1] Tom Kelly, Jeff Andrews, Dean MacMorris and Chad Braaskma

1st Place Mixed Team • The Bruce Bronge Cup
[2] David Dahler, Brian Baer, Wendy Pellegrino and Bernie Glossy

1st Place Women’s Team • The Maureen Beal Cup

1st Place Alumni Team • The Alumni Challenge Cup

The Prayer’s Cup
Kathryn Deluher, Katie Gregory, Katie LeGros and Maggie Noldan

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Closest to the Pin Contest Sponsor: First Midwest Bank
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Sign Sponsor: Signs Now, Downers Grove
Accommodations Sponsor: Hilton Lisle/Naperville
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View more pictures of the event at www.ben.edu/golfpics
Making a Difference in the Lives of Others, Globally and Locally

Sharif Hassanein didn’t leave Benedictine University with a degree determined to make vast amounts of money. He left with the drive to make a difference in the lives of others.

His passion for international affairs began as a student at Benedictine, volunteering with student visitors from the Middle East through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) program and participating in Model United Nations, where he competed as captain of the mock trial team.

Hassanein studied Arabic for one year at the American University in Cairo, then returned to Illinois in 2008 to work for the Office of International Programs and Services at Benedictine.

Soon after, Hassanein was inspired to volunteer for the Peace Corps as an English teacher in a remote Middle Eastern village of Azerbaijan from 2009 to 2011. While in Azerbaijan, he learned of the resilience and plight of the people there and developed a refined sense and passion for global issues and the interconnectedness of human society.

“I wanted a challenge and I wanted to help people in any way I could,” Hassanein said of his decision to enter the Peace Corps. “I also wanted to be immersed in another culture and learn a language by being forced to use it every day to communicate. Benedictine helped in my decision to join the Corps by expanding my interest in international affairs with programs like MEPI and class trips to Mexico to see the economic, social and political challenges of others.”

In the hilly mountain village of Tezekend, Azerbaijan, Hassanein taught students from grades 1-10 and provided free after-school English conversation clubs and games, teacher training workshops and a leadership camp for 50 Azerbaijani boys from around the country. Last year, Azerbaijan celebrated its 20th anniversary of independence from the former Soviet Union. Today, the country continues to rebuild, he said.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 shut down major factories that were built to serve other Soviet republics, choked out grape vineyards and dismantled the country’s economy, all of which led to massive unemployment and underemployment in the region. Wars broke out between Azerbaijan and Armenia, killing thousands and displacing millions. Today, except for in the country’s major cities, Azerbaijani are largely impoverished. In Tezekend, most people work as farmers, shepherds, taxi drivers or day laborers and depend on family members to survive, Hassanein said.

“As a Peace Corps volunteer, you are thrown into a situation that requires you to change your way of thinking,” Hassanein said. “You must be able to adapt to situations quickly and take everything in stride. Probably the most important quality I learned was patience—a quality that is very much lacking (in the United States). You learn to deal with things and do more with less. No power today? OK, maybe tomorrow. Internet? Forget about it! My Peace Corps experience helped reinforce my world view and helped put in context things that I learned in my Political Science classes at Benedictine,” he added.

But throughout his two-year stay, he was able to witness signs of improvement and change. A few months before he left, Tezekend began to receive weekly garbage pickups. The roads, which were just dirt and stones, were expected to be paved.

Hassanein also faced a few hurdles in the classroom. While teachers are more revered in Azerbaijan than America, the educational system is still largely influenced by the old Soviet system, which emphasizes memorization of science and math over critical-thinking skills, Hassanein said.

“When you ask people why things are done in a certain way, they almost always respond ‘just because,’” he said. “The concept that in some areas there is no right or wrong answer is completely foreign to their learning process. The idea of questioning a teacher or challenging what is in the textbook amounts to outright blasphemy for most students and teachers. This was the main target of the Peace Corps in post-Soviet states—to help increase students’ reasoning skills and encourage them to question things.”

In the fall, Hassanein will begin graduate studies in International Affairs—another step in a journey he hopes will lead to a job working in international conflict prevention and resolution for the United Nations.

“I want to study international affairs because I’m interested in what happens in the global community,” Hassanein said. “If the problems of little countries go untreated, they will spread and become even worse. Living in Azerbaijan made me more aware of the danger of these kinds of low-level crises and the damage they do to embattled societies.”
Thanks to generous donations by Benedictine supporters such as Bill Bartlett, his wife, Gayle, Bruce Bronge, Craig Pines and Matt Weisz, the University opened the doors to the Bartlett Golf Center in the Dan and Ada Rice Center this August.

“I am very grateful and humbled at the opportunity to be a part of this venture,” said Frank Janczak, head coach for both men’s and women’s golf teams at Benedictine. “The Bartlett Golf Center will give our student-athletes the advantage of working on their game all year round—something that in the Midwest is difficult to do during the winter months. This gives me the opportunity to attract top student-athletes from across the United States with a practice facility on campus that will offer more than most scholarship golf programs.”

University Board member Bill Bartlett and longtime University supporter Bruce Bronge invited other benefactors to play in a golf outing, encouraging them to help make the center a reality.

“It didn’t seem fair that our golf team was relegated to practicing at an off-site location,” Bartlett said. “My wife Gayle and I believe in investing in young adults and our golf center contribution certainly reflects our philosophy. The game of golf is a sport that can be played throughout a student’s entire lifetime, and its values and teachings are applicable and transferable to many things in life.”

Giving Benedictine’s golf teams access to a high-quality facility should give student-athletes a leg up when it comes to competing in tournaments, said Charlie Gregory, executive vice president at Benedictine.

“We want our student-athletes to be able to compete at the highest level,” Gregory said. “They need to have every opportunity to win. So many of our other teams have gone on to championships in the last few years and we want members of our golf teams to have the same advantages by providing them with the right facilities and equipment.”

The center will primarily be used for the golf teams, but will be made available to all BenU students with the possibility of signing up for golf lessons, or for use through student activities and health/physical education-enhanced learning.

“The golf center will give Benedictine’s young athletes the opportunity to develop skills necessary to compete at a higher level, and it will have a positive impact on the future enrollment and quality of student-athletes who come to the University,” Bartlett said. “I believe the golf center is a reflection of the support Benedictine University provides its students and will significantly enhance the quality of student life on campus.”

The University appreciates the support of the Bartletts, Bronge, Pines and Weisz, as well as everyone who helped make this important campus improvement happen including all of those who attended the outing: Richard Bronge, Bruce Lit, Kevin White, Chris Caponigri, Tim Jackson, Dan Rosenberg, Chad Treisch, Kirk Madison, James Friel, John Walz, John Ruth, Liz Holt, Mark McHorney, Stacy Weisz, and Bill and Carol Edson.

Class of 2012 Donates $4,200 and Sets a Challenge in Motion

As members of the Class of 2012, Eric Taylor, Alana Smith, Nicolas McCord, Daniel Zust and Brittany Wolski formed a committee and met with Annual Fund staff to plan a class giving campaign that would raise funds for the new Neff Welcome Center. Knowing their donation would serve as a legacy gift once they graduated, the committee decided to raise funds to purchase some of the first bricks to adorn the Alumni Plaza leading up to the Neff Welcome Center.

The committee’s initial fundraising goal was to exceed $3,000. At commencement, graduates proudly presented a check to University President William Carroll for $4,200. With the help of December graduates, the new goal is to raise $5,000 for the project.

There is still time to donate to the class gift. You can find updates on this effort and the names of donors including alumni, friends and family members who are supporting this project at www.ben.edu/2012classgift. Help the Class of 2012 raise the final dollars needed to meet this goal!

With the bar raised, the Class of 2012 now challenges the Class of 2013 and future graduates to meet or exceed this goal.
Benedictine to Offer Academic Programs in Arizona

Benedictine University is bringing its faith-based, values-centered liberal arts programs to the southwestern United States.

Benedictine already has a branch campus in Springfield, Ill., and satellite locations in China and Vietnam. Now, the University is moving forward on a project that will allow one of the nation’s top Catholic, private universities to establish a branch campus in downtown Mesa, Ariz.

The project is part of the City of Mesa’s Higher Education Recruitment Initiative, an economic development effort by city officials to attract new institutions of higher learning to the downtown area, increasing the vibrancy of the urban core as well as the number of highly-skilled workers with college degrees.

“This is an excellent opportunity for Benedictine University to further enhance our reputation as a leading provider of outstanding academic programs, and to achieve our mission of graduating students who are good citizens and good stewards of society,” said Benedictine University President William J. Carroll.

Initial degree offerings will include a Bachelor of Fine Arts, a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts, a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Bachelor of Arts in Theology, a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and Organizational Behavior, in addition to a minor in Religious Studies.

Eventually, University officials expect to add residential facilities. Long-term plans include a full range of academic programs and extracurricular offerings including athletics.

“We believe there is a need for a Catholic and Benedictine education in Mesa, and that our academic programs will complement the existing base of educational options for students in the city, state and region,” said Kari Gibbons, vice president of Enrollment Services at Benedictine.

Several steps necessary for launching the branch campus were taken during the winter and spring including the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Mesa.

The University began business operations in September 2012 at 51 E. Main St. and will offer classes starting in August 2013 at 225 E. Main St., both located in downtown Mesa.

In April, the Arizona Corporation Commission approved the University’s application for Authority to Conduct Affairs in Arizona. A few weeks later, Benedictine was granted a license from the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education to operate an accredited, degree-granting institution.

In June, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix officially extended an invitation to Benedictine to open a campus in the diocese, located in Maricopa County where an estimated 530,000 Catholics live without access to a Catholic college.

“The priests expressed their gratitude for this initiative and recommended that an invitation be officially extended to Benedictine University to open a campus here in our diocese,” said the Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted, Bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix. “I welcome their counsel and am supportive of moving forward with this project.”
Partnership with Rasmussen Makes M.B.A. More Widely Available

Benedictine University and Rasmussen College have both served adult students for years. Now, the two schools are providing adult students with more choices and greater access to both institutions.

Benedictine has partnered with Rasmussen to offer its Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program at Rasmussen’s Aurora location. The new cooperative will help Benedictine provide more convenient educational offerings to students across northern Illinois, while Rasmussen students who complete their undergraduate degree will be able to seamlessly transition into Benedictine’s M.B.A. program.

“Over the years, students have found their way to Benedictine University through many paths,” said Benedictine President William J. Carroll. “Among those private institutions that have been around for many years and are known for their quality, Rasmussen has specialized in serving the adult population—a population that Benedictine also serves. Through our partnership, students will have access to the best of both institutions.”

Benedictine is currently forming classes for the M.B.A. program at the Rasmussen College campus in Aurora. This partnership provides students the option of focusing on their studies within their local community. The Benedictine University M.B.A. is a 64 quarter credit-hour program, designed to meet the growing global need for knowledgeable, principle-centered leadership of organizations. Intended to prepare managers as both economic and ethical leaders, the M.B.A. program emphasizes a comprehensive integration and application of business knowledge.

Sr. Beata Dinner Continues to Raise Funds for Students

The Sr. Beata Scholarship Dinner Auction, held at Illini Country Club in Springfield, raised money for Benedictine University at Springfield’s Institutional Scholarship Fund. Many wonderful people attended the April event and participated in the auction supporting the fundraiser.

Thanks go out to the sponsors who helped make this event possible: Sodexo; Memorial Health System; St. John’s Hospital; Harold O’Shea Builders; Graham and Hyde Architects; John Phillips, professor of Political and Social Sciences; Polly Roesch; Denney’s Jewelers; Power Distributing Inc.; and Citizens Equity First Credit Union.

Thanks to the generosity of those who attended, enough money was raised for the Fund-a-Need Project to acquire a new ceramics kiln, replacement parts, clay extruder, air compressor, chemical buckets and a triple beam scale for the art department. Because the University now offers a minor and upper-level courses in art, students have the opportunity to study with internationally-recognized ceramicist Bob Dixon.

The Divine Wine Find mystery boxes sold out within the first hour. Thank you to Trustee Dan Romano of Power Distributing Inc. for donating the wine and Denney’s Jewelers for the special piece of jewelry for the secret gift.

Thank you to everyone who supported this year’s fundraiser in memory of Sr. Beata Knoedler, O.S.U. Her love for students lives on in everyone’s generosity as the University continues to help students earn their Benedictine degree.

Alumni Association Board Names Co-chairs and Welcomes New Member

The Springfield Chapter of the Benedictine University Alumni Association is pleased to announce that Amy Ihnen, SCI’03, and Phil Seck, SCI’85, are co-chairing the Alumni Board. Ihnen is the director of the Chatham Area Public Library, and Seck is a campus minister at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School. The Alumni Board also welcomes Morgan Manning, M.B.A.’11, as a new board member. Manning works in communications and public affairs for the Illinois Senate Republicans.

Projects on the horizon for the group include an alumni survey, a fall gathering and an event for elementary education graduates. If you are interested in working with the Springfield Alumni Board, please contact Susie Doddek at sdoddek@ben.edu or (217) 525-1420, ext. 228.
Even though DuPage is the wealthiest county in Illinois, its residents include thousands of hungry children. More than 95,000 people—45,000 of whom are children—go to bed hungry every night.

To address this growing problem, Benedictine faculty, administrators, students and staff plan to partner with community organizations such as the Northern Illinois Food Bank, The People’s Resource Center and The DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform.

Starting this fall, the Center for Civic Leadership (CCL) will launch a three-year anti-hunger initiative to feed children and their families in DuPage County.

According to Feeding America, an organization whose mission is to “feed America’s hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks,” 17.2 million American households were labeled as food insecure in 2011, meaning both children and parents were uncertain where their next meals would come from—the highest number ever recorded.

The CCL will encourage students across campus to raise money for DuPage County food pantries which are struggling to meet increased demand in the wake of prolonged economic hardship. While the economy has showed some signs of recovery, there are still thousands of Americans who cannot afford to feed themselves or their families on a regular basis.

Students will donate the money they raise to the Northern Illinois Food Bank where it can be used to stock pantries throughout the area and supply the food bank’s BackPack Program. The program provides food to chronically hungry children in communities with limited resources when school is not in session and children lack access to free or reduced-price school meals.

The CCL will seek a grant from the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation to match the money raised by students and host a panel discussion addressing the cause, scope and severity of hunger. Students will also have the opportunity to volunteer at food pantries throughout the county and intern at organizations such as the People’s Resource Center, which is focused on putting an end to poverty in DuPage County, said Jim Ryan, C68, distinguished fellow and CCL director.
In 500 B.C., “The Art of War” treatise was developed by Sun Tzu, a very prominent Chinese military strategist. The text—originally written on bamboo strips—meticulously describes the philosophy-driven strategies of the ancient battlefield. Today, that sacred military guide can be applied to achieve success in a variety of fields, including education.

In 2008, Ovid Wong, Ph.D., professor of Teacher Education Preparation at Benedictine University, applied the strategies of the military guide to the field of education in a book titled “The Pivotal Strategies of the Educational Leader: the Importance of The Art of War.” In the book, Wong analyzes the five winning factors of war and applies them to effective educational strategies.

The five winning factors are:

- A philosophy of the commander (the teaching philosophy of the professor)
- The commander (the internal and external attributes of the professor)
- The heaven (timing, which the professor has little or no control)
- The earth (the location, which the professor also has little or no control),
- The commander’s strategies (the manifestation of a professor’s philosophy and ability to manage a classroom)

In the summer of 2012, Wong was invited by Zhang Zhigang, vice dean of the College of Foreign Languages at Dalian Nationalities University (DNU), a partnership school with Benedictine, to train newly hired faculty using this education pedagogy through the State Administration of Foreign Expert Affairs in China.

Trainees learned the importance of demonstrating their philosophy of teaching, as it influences their decision-making and virtually everything they will set out to accomplish in the classroom. Wong led the group through the various strategies detailed in his book and discussed what has worked and what has not. The sessions ended with each trainee conducting a mini-lesson based on what they learned.

The average age of the faculty trainees was 30, and they represented a wide spectrum of subject areas and expertise, including art design, mathematics, physics, sociology, drama, economics, Korean study, computer science, chemistry, engineering and enterprise management.

At the conclusion of the training, each successful new faculty member received a certification of completion by Benedictine University and left with a strong desire to continue to strive for improvement.

“One can stand on the shoulders of giants and learn from the world’s best and brightest,” said Wong. “In this project, we can do that and benefit all.”

The CCL encourages the Benedictine community to get involved with this project and welcomes suggestions and contributions to this initiative. Additional details are available at www.ben.edu/ccl.
This fall, business students will analyze market information using the same tools financial professionals across the globe depend on to make forecasts and decisions.

Bloomberg Professional service is used by central banks, investment institutions, commercial banks, agencies and law firms in more than 160 countries and provides users with access to global news, analytics, communications, charts, videos and articles of interviews with people in business and politics. It contains both real-time and historical data and provides users with tools to conduct an analysis of market information.

As part of the new service, College of Business faculty and staff will determine the best way to help students complete the Bloomberg Certification Program, which will give students an advantage in the financial world as they embark on professional careers, said Deborah Cernauskas, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Undergraduate Business program.

Students must demonstrate general knowledge of the Bloomberg Professional service and understand one of four market sectors—equities, fixed-income, foreign exchange or commodities—to pass the certification exam.

While students who major in other areas of business will receive some exposure to the system, students who major in Finance will use it frequently as it will be incorporated in a majority of their classes.

All business students will be eligible to take the Bloomberg Assessment Test (BAT), a standardized three-hour test administered online. The test assesses a student’s overall knowledge and aptitude for a career in business, and includes 150 multiple-choice questions in 11 subject areas—60 percent of which are comprised of finance-based questions and 40 percent general business skills.

Celebrating 125 Years

March 2 marked the 125th anniversary of the founding of the University by the monks of St. Procopius Abbey—a seminal historical moment the University is recognizing at special events throughout the entire year.

As part of the celebration, the Benedictine Library has been sharing a variety of rarely seen images highlighting the University’s humble beginnings and more festive moments including commencement and homecoming.

As the University continues to grow and change, one thing will always remain—the observance of our founders’ vision, values and beliefs in providing a faith-based, values-centered education.

Top row (l to r)

- Two 1952 Alumni
- World War II greatly shrunk the male student population at St. Procopius College, forcing commencement ceremonies to be put on hiatus between 1941 and 1945. In 1946, only 30 students earned degrees, and the ceremony was significantly smaller in scope. By 1952, the sense of occasion and celebration returned as commencement ceremonies were held. The campus grew to include a new residence hall, Jaeger Hall, in December 1951.

- Baccalaureate Mass, 1963
- Holding Baccalaureate Mass as part of commencement exercises was a longstanding St. Procopius College tradition.

- Graduation Ceremony, 1964
- One of the earliest photos of an outdoor commencement ceremony on the Lisle campus.
• Five Students Gather After Commencement (circa 1970s)
St. Procopius College became fully coeducational in 1968, and the presence of women students became even more visible when they moved into Jaeger Hall at the start of the 1969-1970 school year.

• Graduation Ceremony, 1981
Over the years, the University shifted its commencement ceremony between indoor and outdoor venues as student populations, weather and its facilities changed. The gymnasium at the Rice Center was typically the first choice for an indoor ceremony.

• Football team from first Homecoming game at St. Procopius College in 1930
Benedictine’s first homecoming game took place in the fall of 1930. The Lisle Cardinals (Benedictine Eagles) delivered an impressive 39-13 victory over the Aurora Spartans under the leadership of Fr. Robert Mastny, O.S.B., a St. Procopius College alumnus.
Fr. Robert was something of a legend at St. Procopius, having received his training from Knute Rockne, the famous Notre Dame football player and coach. After winning the game, the team went on to win the Northern Illinois Junior College Conference championship. In the words of the campus newspaper, which ran an original poem commemorating the team’s achievements: “They (the Cardinals) fought, they scrapped, ah ‘twas fine just to watch Lisle’s fighting line.”

• Homecoming Court, 1972

Visit www.ben.edu/125 to see videos, pictures, stories and more.
President of SlovakiaHonors University Trustee

Slovak Republic President Ivan Gasparovic and other dignitaries traveled from the NATO summit in Chicago to Benedictine University in May to officially open the Consulate of the Slovak Republic in Chicago and install Rosemary Macko Wisnosky, a Benedictine University trustee, as honorary consul.

During the induction ceremony, the Benet Academy Madrigal Choir sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and Slovakia’s national anthem, “Nad Tatrou Sa Blyska” ("Lightning Flashes over the Tatra Mountains"). Guests were treated to an exhibit of artwork by three prominent Slovak artists. Instrumental music was performed by Benet Academy and Benedictine University students and by Veselica, a Slovak folk ensemble from Chicago. Benedictine President William J. Carroll noted Wisnosky’s installation and the significance of her work with Slovakia.

“It is an honor for Benedictine University to host the special installation of the honorary Slovak consul, Rosemary Macko Wisnosky,” Carroll said. “Rosemary is a long-serving University trustee and a wonderful advocate and supporter of Slovakia. We celebrate her recognition and success. This installation also reminds the University of its roots as an institution founded to educate Czechoslovakian immigrants. The values instilled in these immigrants by the early monks of St. Procopius Abbey are the same values we instill in our students today.”

As honorary consul, Wisnosky will help organize official Slovak visits, help develop Slovak commercial, economic and tourism events, extend assistance to scientists, artists, journalists, teachers, students and others, and assist citizens of the Slovak Republic abroad who find themselves in distress, as defined by international law.

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Embracing Diversity, Encouraging Mutual Understanding

The House of Benedict is a new venue at Benedictine University where students, faculty and staff can meet to participate in campus-wide, intercultural education initiatives, further promoting Benedictine as an inclusive and diverse campus.

The House of Benedict, located in the clubhouse of Founders’ Woods Apartments on campus, will be the site of informal and formal forums, events and classes meant to increase awareness of different cultures and experiences.

University faculty and staff will organize activities that will complement students’ academic studies and address their diverse religious beliefs, ethnic orientation and how they perceive the core values of themselves and others.

Through these gatherings, students will learn how to exercise their global citizenship while participating on a more local level as a citizen of the University community. The House of Benedict activities will strive to improve retention and the university experience among non-traditional, international, first-generation and first- or second-generation immigrant students, as well as scholars and academically underprepared students.

Learning structures, such as the traditional classroom, are rapidly changing in scope into spaces that are less formal and more social in nature. As a result of these new environments, students form closer relationships, where they may interact, collaborate and share new knowledge in a strategically designed space.

Benedictine is known for its diversity, and the House of Benedict will serve as another resource where the University can embrace and maintain high standards for intercultural excellence.
Library, Kindlon Renovations Driven by Changing Needs of Student Body

The Benedictine library is now housed in an upgraded and more efficient Kindlon Hall after the University completed a $3 million project to restore the life of the facility and modernize it.

As part of the renovation, workers finished an unused space and relocated the University’s library collections to the lower level of Kindlon, opening the second and third floors for more collaborative learning environments for students.

The change makes the second floor the primary reading room and study space for students, while the third floor serves as study and research support space where library reference and instruction teams will provide direct support to students.

The new learning environment includes additional student study areas, lounging areas, library offices and a computer lab.

“This will be a new experience for students, and the new archives/special collections space in the lower level will offer more room for researchers and processing space for staff,” said Jack Fritts, University librarian.

More importantly, all the library’s collections will be concentrated in one area—the lower level—instead of across all levels.”

The renovation project also provided space for four new classrooms with state-of-the-art technology, including interactive white boards and group study areas with different seating options, as well as an entertainment wall complete with 60-inch flat-screen TVs.

Learn more at www.ben.edu/visitlibrary.

Benedictine Remembers

John Kevin Doyle, Ph.D.

John Kevin Doyle taught undergraduate Computer Science and Information Systems and graduate business courses at Benedictine University from 2001 to 2011 and played a major role in a number of important campus initiatives impacting the future of the University.

Doyle passed away on June 21 after a long battle with cancer. He was a deep thinker and a caring and humorous person with an affinity for telling great stories.

As a professor of Business Administration, Doyle set high standards for performance and provided guidance to students so that they could reach his expectations. His contributions extended throughout the faculty of the University.

In 2003, Doyle began conducting a review of how Benedictine University complied with the expectations for Catholic universities in the Apostolic Constitution Ex Corde Ecclesiae with Computer Science Professor Ralph Meeker, Ph.D., Philosophy Professor Martin Tracey, Ph.D., Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B., and Fr. David Turner, O.S.B. The work was later incorporated into the role of the University’s Center for Mission and Identity.

In March, Doyle was awarded the University’s inaugural Kevin Doyle Award for Leadership in Mission and Catholic Identity. The award recognizes a faculty member who has worked to advance the Catholic mission and Benedictine heritage.

The University is working with donors and the Doyle family to endow the award and use it to annually recognize faculty members who follow in Doyle’s footsteps by creating effective, interesting and successful ways to integrate the question of who we are as Benedictines.

Read more at www.ben.edu/webextras.

“He had an excellent understanding of the practical aspects of management,” said his friend and colleague, Ralph Meeker. “He will be remembered by many for his commitment and devotion to the University’s mission and in identifying the connections between the Rule of St. Benedict and the development of values-driven management practices.”
Eagles Softball Team Advances To NCAA Tournament For Second Consecutive Year

The Benedictine University softball team swept through the Northern Athletics Conference (NAC) tournament to earn its second straight bid to the NCAA Division III Softball Championship.

The Eagles ended the season with a sparkling 33-11 record after dropping a heartbreaking 1-0 decision to Carthage College in an NCAA elimination game played at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington.

Seven players received all-conference honors, including Brittany Adcox, the conference Player of the Year, who also earned her third straight NAC Pitcher of the Year award. Joining Adcox on the All-Conference First Team were Brittany Wolski, Kelly Mieszala and Nikki Powers.

Kara Walsh received second-team honors, while Chelsea White was named to the All-Freshman Team. Ashley Parrott was selected to the All-Sportsmanship Team, and head coach Kate Keller was named NAC Coach of the Year.

The honors didn’t end there. Five players were named to the 2012 National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Division III Great Lakes All-Region Team. Wolski earned first-team honors, while Adcox, Mieszala and Laura Christensen were named to the second team. Powers was a third-team choice.

Among the many milestones achieved by the Eagles during the 2012 season, Wolski broke the all-time conference record for hits in a career with 244 and Adcox broke the school record for victories in a career with 88 including a perfect game in April.

The softball team was also named the 2011-2012 Team of the Year at the annual Benny Awards hosted by the Benedictine University Department of Athletics.

Men’s Track and Field Wins First NAC Title

The Benedictine University men’s track and field team won a share of its first Northern Athletics Conference title at the conference meet held in River Forest. Read more at BenUEagles.com/2012menstrack.
Academy/College

‘67
Shaddick, C74, an instructor at Kaplan University and was one of three finalists for the Teaching Award.

‘66
Haskell Vaughn Anderson III (1963-1965) will portray the fictional character Cardinal Paul Ciprian in the film “40 Days Road.” Anderson is one of the co-producers and co-creators of the film.

‘67
Dan Lata, Mathematics, was married in March.

Wayne Wesolowski, Ph.D., Chemistry, lives in Tucson, AZ, with his wife, Mary Cay. Wesolowski taught Chemistry at Illinois Benedictine College and Benedictine University from 1973 to 2003 and continues to teach at the University of Arizona. He won the 2012 Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award from the University of Arizona Women in Science, Engineering and Technology program and was one of three finalists for the university-wide Five Star Faculty Teaching Award.

‘74
Paul J. Fitzgerald, Psychology, is the director of master’s counseling training and an assistant professor at the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago. He has a private psychotherapy practice in Hinsdale and Chicago and is a board member of the Northern Illinois Chapter of the Employee Assistance Professionals Association. He and his wife, Christine, have three children, Christian, C01, Management and Organizational Behavior, Rebecca and Kevin.

Illinois Benedictine College

‘77
Phil Caponigro, Political Science, is an instructor at Kaplan University and studying for a doctorate. He is a member of the Benedictine University Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Roger Shaddick, History, is retiring after 38 years of teaching. Shaddick and his wife, Jane Sondgeroth Shaddick, CT4, Accounting, are celebrating 40 years of marriage this year.

‘80
Kerry O’Donnell, Physical Education, has been married to Joe O’Donnell, CB1, Biology, for 28 years and they have five children. She has been busy as a stay-at-home mom. She earned a master’s degree in School Guidance and Counseling in 2008. In 2013, she anticipates earning a master’s degree in Pastoral Counseling.

‘81
Michelle O’Grady, Biology, earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Nursing and is a registered nurse. She is currently studying for a doctorate of Nursing Practice and anticipates completing her studies in December with a focus on stress management for nurses.

‘83
Ron Paryl Sr., M.B.A., and his wife, Christine, M.A.’03, climbed the Grand Canyon.

‘85
Laura Hill, Business and Economics, is the director of assessments and accountability for Elgin School District U-46. In this role, Hill helps with development for administrators and teachers and supports the school accreditation process.

‘90
Susan Gaca, M.B.A., is the first chief nursing officer for Cigna, a global health service company. She will lead more than 2,000 nurses, health educators, case managers and behavioral coaches to help clients receive optimal health potential. Gaca will also continue to be a leader of Cigna’s Executive Nurse and Leadership Council, as well as a leader within the Total Health and Network organization.

‘91
Michael Bezouksa, D.O., Biology, is a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps and an occupational medicine specialist. He was stationed as head of occupational medicine for the 3rd Marine Air Wing at the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, CA. Bezouksa is a diplomat of the American Board of Preventive Medicine and is married to Saori Hirakawa.

‘93
Paul Ronczkowski, M.P.H., is an assistant professor at Illinois State University and was a support team volunteer for the “Sea to Shining Sea” bike ride to help wounded veterans.

‘95
Sharon Gilbert, M.S. in Clinical Psychology, will celebrate a year of operating her own private practice as a therapist in Naperville.

Benedictine University

‘97
Sheri (Metzger) Narvaez, Molecular Biology, her husband, Alfredo, and daughter, Ava Rene, welcomed twins Mathieu Alfredo and Elena Lynn on November 15, 2011. Yuri Wagner, Health Science, and her husband, Joseph Wagner III, C97, Elementary Education, live in Carol Stream with their two children, Katie and Joey. She works for Fertility Centers of Illinois and is a board member of “Two Hearts Rock,” a charity group that raises funds for rare childhood diseases.

‘98
Eleanor Brtva, M.P.H., is the vice president and chief philanthropy officer of the Pan American Health and Education Foundation and an adjunct professor at George Mason University.

‘99
Maggie W. Augustyn, D.D.S., Molecular Biology, is a dentist at Happy Tooth Dental Clinic in Elmhurst. She has volunteered her services in many parts of the world where dental care is not available or in communities where people cannot afford it.

St. Procopius Academy/College

‘62
Mike Meier, Physics, (above) and his wife, Francies, visited their son, Paul, in Albuquerque, NM, in March.

‘69
Phil Caponigro, Political Science, is a leader within the Total Health and Network organization.

‘02
Erica Evens, Biology, married Thaddeus Paskert, C04, Political Science, on April 28.

Send us your email address and don’t miss a thing!

As the University reduces its reliance on paper documents, email is being used as an essential tool for keeping you in the loop. Don’t miss out on events, news and requests for alumni involvement, opinions and more.

Send your name and email address to Pat Ariano at pariano@ben.edu today!
**02**

Erika Evans, Biology, married Thaddeus Paskert, C04, Political Science, on April 28.

**03**

Claudia Parker, Management, recently published "Becoming a Mother While Losing My Own." The book examines Parker’s life from childhood to adulthood, and discusses motherhood and how she overcame years of severe hardship and abuse.

**04**

Stephen N. Buchman, M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior, was promoted to director of learning operations for MillerCoors brewing company. He will drive the enterprise learning strategy for MillerCoors, and is responsible for directing and evaluating the performance and infrastructure of Learning and Development.

Tatiana Garrett, Psychology, is director of community outreach for The Anti-Cruelty Society. She oversees all of the humane education programs, hosts an online magazine, and is executive chair of the Microfinance Alliance of Accion Chicago.

**05**

Andres Arndt, Computer Science, his wife, Melissa (Sakurai) Arndt, COS, Marketing, and their daughter, Mikaela Lynn, welcomed son Andres Arndt Jr. on May 29. Arndt works in public finance and his wife is a stay-at-home mom.

**06**

Jim Lenahan, M.S. in Clinical Psychology, has a law firm in Wheaton where he practices collaborative divorce, which helps couples resolve issues through a team approach that includes the services of mental health professionals and financial experts.

**07**

Andrew Meyer, Pharm.D., Biology, earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Midwestern University in May. He will perform his residency at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

Sr. Andrea Rose Sims, LSP, Nutrition, was accepted into medical school at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and was scheduled to begin classes in August.

**08**

Tim Swanson, Mathematics, is a math teacher at Hall High School in Spring Valley. He played basketball and baseball while at Benedictine and is now Hall’s girls varsity basketball coach.

**09**

Raj Chavda, M.B.A., gave birth to a daughter, Saanvi, on April 20.

American Revolution (NSDAR). She was recently honored as the Fort Payne Chapter NSDAR Outstanding Junior member for 2011-2012.

**10**

Mohammed Ahmed, Biology, went on a religious pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. After traveling, Ahmed earned an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic certification and worked full-time for an ambulance service. His plans include beginning medical school this fall at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

**11**

Jackie Johnson, M.S.N., is teaching health care science to 9- to 12-year-old students. Johnson is considering working toward a doctorate or specialist degree in education next year.

**12**

Ryan Christopher Cloud, M.P.H., was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He is a quartermaster corps officer and reported to Officer Basic Course at Fort Lee, VA, in June. He will then begin active duty with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, KY.

Three winners are randomly chosen from Class Notes to win a prize.

**Latest Class Notes Winners:**

- Joel Hamilton, C01
- Fred Sinkovitz, C82
- Nicole Laughridge, M.P.H. ’99

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Please contact Pat Ariano at (630) 829-6003 or pariano@ben.edu by October 15 to collect your Benedictine prize.
Springfield College in Illinois

‘75 Jim Schoenherr and his wife, Diana, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on April 3.

‘94 John Stremsterfer is the executive director of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln and was selected to the first group of 40 Illinoisans to be named Edgar Fellows. The Edgar Fellow initiative is a project of former Gov. Jim Edgar to encourage bi-partisan cooperation in addressing public policy. He will be meeting regularly with leaders and policy makers on important public issues.

‘97 Jason Curry was a finalist for the 2012 Horace Mann Educator of the Year Award in Springfield.

‘04 Amie C. Godefroid received the “Rising Star” award from the Horace Mann Corporation during the Educator of the Year ceremony in Springfield.

Benedictine University at Springfield

‘07 Justin Standridge and Krystal Yeager welcomed a son, Kolby Ryan, on February 4.

‘08 Anne (Norris) Bell and her husband, Bradley, welcomed a daughter, Kamyn Leila, on January 3.

‘10 Ashley Boggs married Ryan Fitzsimmons on August 25. Ashley (Schneider) Carpenter and her husband, Jason, welcomed a son, Quincy William, on February 22.

In Memory
St. Procopius Academy/College

Marine Lt. Col. Thomas Kaufman, C65, passed away in March. Kaufman served in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with Combat Distinguishing Device (Combat V).

Benedictine University

Bianca Richards, C10, passed away in April. She was part of a 40-member cohort for the B.A. in Management program.

David MacDonald, M.D., passed away in May. MacDonald was a senior lecturer for the online Master of Public Health program at Benedictine’s Moser College of Adult and Professional Studies. (Read more about MacDonald at www.ben.edu/facultynotes.)

Kevin Doyle, Ph.D., passed away in June. Doyle was a professor of Business Administration at Benedictine from 2001 to 2011. (Read more about Doyle on page 27 or at www.ben.edu/facultynotes.)

Springfield Junior College
Louise Barbara (Barrets) Hixon, SJC’33, passed away April 18.

Florence (Buecker) Buckles, SJC’39, passed away April 22.

Robert T. Hanrahan, SJC’41, passed away March 21.

Victor Ranaletta, SJC’41, passed away March 24.

Rita Ann (Curtain) Hanudel, SJC’41, passed away May 25.

Everett Hopson, SJC’42, passed away April 18.

Alice (Meier) Boarman, SJC’43, passed away May 19.

Mary E. Carmody, SJC’43, passed away May 12.

Marcella “Sally” (Schafer) Pipkin, SJC’44, passed away May 21.

William McCue, SJC’47, passed away February 18.

Joseph W. Maddox, SJC’47, passed away March 15.

Leonard E. Ferguson, SJC’49, passed away February 18.

John Dietrich, SJC’52, passed away February 29.

Edward C. Ramsey, SJC’61, passed away May 3.

L. Niles Hoffman, SJC’63, passed away February 25.

Ethel Bileck, SJC’65, passed away April 23.

Springfield College in Illinois
Pamela L. Smith, SCI’82, passed away April 7.

Benedictine University at Springfield
John Denny, CO6, SCI’01, passed away May 24.

Voluntary Subscriptions to Voices
It’s always great to see that new issue of Voices in the mail. You can help supplement the cost of publishing and mailing the alumni magazine. Your tax-deductible gift of $25 helps defray the costs of production. This is strictly voluntary, you can never enclose your donation in the attached contribution envelope.

Are You Receiving Duplicate Issues of Voices Magazine?
If you are receiving more than one issue of Voices per mailing, please let us know. By making sure our mailing list is as accurate as possible and by each home only receiving one magazine per issue, we can reduce our mailing costs and help conserve our resources. Please take a moment and call (630) 829-6073.

Refer a Student
If you know someone who would make a good addition to the Benedictine student community, help them complete the alumni-referred prospect student form online at www.ben.edu/referral and their application fee will be waived.

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

Want to show some school spirit? Get your alumni wear today!
Visit the campus bookstore or go online to http://ben.bncollege.com.
The new Neff Welcome Center is a centrally located facility meant to host visits by new students, families and alumni while on campus in the tradition of the University’s welcoming spirit. The center is anchored by the historic Neff Farmhouse near the College Road entrance on the eastern edge of the Lisle campus.

The 2,700-square-foot welcome center includes event space, offices and a conference room as well as a photo gallery depicting the University’s 125-year history. The property will also feature the Alumni Plaza, which includes a walkway to which the Class of 2012 contributed the first engraved brick paver. This plaza is a great way for alumni to welcome future generations of students as they pass through this building.

Plan a visit next time you are on campus!
# Upcoming Alumni Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>October 13</td>
<td>Golden Eagles Reunion</td>
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<td>October 18</td>
<td>Speed Networking and Physicians Event</td>
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<td>February 9</td>
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<td>February 22</td>
<td>College of Science Reunion Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>BenBash</td>
<td>(Entertainment TBA)</td>
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<td>May 11</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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David Axelrod admits that there was a time when he became disgruntled with the Democratic Party and switched sides to work for the New York mayoral campaign of the late liberal Republican John Lindsay.

“For those of you who can’t remember what a liberal Republican looks like, I think they have an exhibit at the Field Museum right now,” he said.

Axelrod, a Democratic strategist and political adviser who found his calling very early in life, spoke to an overflow crowd of more than 600 people gathered in the Krasa Student Center at Benedictine University in April as part of the “Presidential Election Series 2012” sponsored by the Center for Civic Leadership.

Axelrod was invited to speak at Benedictine by Jim Ryan, C68 (above), a Republican who defeated an Axelrod client during his run for the Illinois Attorney General’s office in 1994.

“As good as he is, even he occasionally slips up,” Ryan joked while introducing Axelrod.

Axelrod prefaced his remarks by expressing his admiration and praising Ryan for working to engage young people in public service.

“Jim is someone who has demonstrated courage and character on a scale very few people in public life have,” Axelrod said. “He’s always impressed me as a person who is committed to public service. He has proven that commitment by trying to encourage young people to get involved in public service, something I hope to do.

“I believe deeply in public service,” he added. “I don’t think there’s a higher calling, and we so desperately need our young people to be committed to public service because they need to help shape the future in which they’re going to live. Jim is doing important work here, and I just wanted to come to be a part of that.”

Axelrod talked about his Chicago connection, about his undergraduate years at the University of Chicago and his flirtation with a career in journalism as a City Hall reporter for the Chicago Tribune.

“I started writing for newspapers to sate my passion for politics,” he said. “When I graduated, I went to work for the Chicago Tribune, and like every cub reporter I started out on the night beat covering murder and mayhem, which it turns out was great preparation for covering Chicago politics.”

Axelrod shared a number of anecdotes about his career as a campaign adviser, about his fascination with John F. Kennedy as a youngster, about meeting a young Barack Obama in 1992 when he was heading up a local voter registration drive, and about his experiences on the road with the president during the 2008 campaign.

He also talked about his time as White House Chief of Staff, particularly the early weeks and months of 2009 when they were dealing with a collapsing auto industry, the escalating conflict in Afghanistan and the ongoing war in Iraq.

“I wondered aloud to the president what the job would be like in good times,” Axelrod said. “He patted me on the shoulder and said, ‘Don’t kid yourself. If there were good times, we never would have gotten the job.’”

Axelrod said he is confident that Obama will win re-election, but also expressed hope that the two battling political parties can set aside their differences and work together in a positive and meaningful way after the campaign rhetoric subsides.

“I’m not as partisan as you think,” he told the crowd. “Nobody who’s served 20 feet from the Oval Office could come away from that experience with anything but a deep respect for anyone who has ever served there regardless of their party affiliation.”

He also expressed his belief in a system of government in which many citizens have lost faith.

“I know better than anybody about the dysfunctionality and frustration associated with our politics,” he said. “I’ve seen that firsthand. But I’ve been passionate about politics and government throughout my life and this great messy, noble, profane process of self-governance.”

To continue the series, the University invited former Republican National Committee Chairman and current MSNBC political analyst Michael Steele to speak on September 19 and discuss the Romney campaign and his expectations for the upcoming presidential election. Watch the Benedictine website for a recap of his presentation.
John Kevin Doyle taught undergraduate Computer Science and Information Systems and graduate business courses at Benedictine University from 2001 to 2011 and played a major role in a number of important campus initiatives impacting the future of the University. Doyle passed away on June 21 at age 64 after a long battle with cancer. He was a deep thinker and a caring and humorous person with an affinity for telling great stories.

Despite his illness, his strong character continued to shine through, University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Donald Taylor, Ph.D., noted.

"During Kevin’s illness, he demonstrated for our entire community how to live out one’s last days on earth—with dignity and grace," Taylor said. "He was an example for all of us."

As a professor of Business Administration, Doyle set high standards for performance and provided guidance to students so that they could reach his expectations. His contributions extended throughout the faculty of the University. As secretary and later chair of the Faculty Development Committee, he organized the processing of faculty requests for development funds and planned faculty forums for personal and professional development.

"He had an excellent understanding of the practical aspects of management," said his friend and colleague, Ralph Meeker, Ph.D., professor of Computer Science at Benedictine. "Through his example in leading various groups, he taught a number of us how to organize meetings more effectively, how to document and communicate committee work and how to provide effective leadership to projects.

Outside of the University, Doyle had a broad variety of interests, including stamp collecting. He was the recipient of the inaugural Charles J. Peterson Philatelic Literature Life Achievement Award from the American Philatelic Society in 2011, and served as editor of the German Colonies Collectors Group quarterly journal Vorlaufer. He volunteered for both the Boy and Girl Scouts of America—serving as leader of the local Boy Scout Council, as an examiner for the Eagle Scout program and member of the Joliet Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting.

In March, Doyle was awarded the University’s inaugural Kevin Doyle Award for Leadership in Mission and Catholic Identity in recognition of a faculty member who has worked to advance the Catholic mission and Benedictine heritage.

The University is working with donors and the Doyle family to endow the award and use it to annually recognize subsequent faculty members who follow in Doyle’s footsteps by creating effective, interesting and successful ways to integrate the question of who we are as Benedictines.
Three Benedictine professors were named recipients of the 2012 University Faculty Awards, which recognize significant achievements in teaching, research, service and serve as models for all faculty members.

**THOMAS WANGLER, PH.D.,** professor of Mathematics, received the Faculty Award for Teaching.

Wangler is a pioneer in the use of technology in his classroom, including the University’s Learning Management System and the Tegrity lecture capture system. He is continuously looking for new ways to make his teaching more effective, and participated in an initiative to incorporate the iPad and digital inking through a tablet PC into courses.

**PRESTON ALDRICH, PH.D.,** an associate professor of Biology, received the Faculty Award for Research.

Aldrich’s work has been published in numerous journals including *Molecular Ecology, Theoretical and Applied Genetics, Forest Service* and *Science*. He also served as a National Science Foundation grant reviewer, chaired several conference sessions, served as peer reviewer for 16 journals and was recently named journal editor for the *Journal of Systems Biology*. To support all of this work at Benedictine, Aldrich secured more than $115,000 in grant money.

**ETHEL RAGLAND, E.D.D.,** professor of Nursing and Health and a Benedictine University faculty member for 30 years, was named the recipient of the Faculty Award for Internal Service.

Ragland served as chair of the Department of Nursing and Health for 13 of the last 26 years and resurrected the University’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing program from near extinction. She developed partnerships with several community colleges to expand the program and worked tirelessly to turn the program into the thriving, expanding program it is today.●
More Benedictine University at Springfield athletic teams will have the opportunity to compete in postseason conference tournaments and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) championships during the 2012-2013 academic year after the University’s programs were accepted for full membership in the American Midwest Conference (AMC).

After two years of waiting for acceptance by the AMC, the baseball team made its debut in the conference tournament held at Robin Roberts Stadium in April. The team reached the semifinals before falling to William Woods University in double-elimination play.

And if this past year’s achievements are any indication, the University’s athletic teams should be ready to compete for more postseason tournament berths next season.

At the end of the 2011-2012 season, the Bulldogs boasted 42 academic all-conference honorees, 12 all-conference and five NAIA scholar-athletes, and the women’s soccer team received the 2011 AMC Fair Play and Sportsmanship Award.

Later this fall, the University will re-launch its men’s basketball program after a 12-year absence with coach Ian McKeithen at the helm. Wanda Nettles will lead a new women’s basketball program. Both coaches bring NAIA coaching experience to Benedictine University at Springfield.

McKeithen was an assistant coach at Iowa Wesleyan College, and previously served as an assistant at Dakota State University in Madison, S.D. He was a graduate assistant at Augustana (S.D.) College, and worked...
as a basketball operations intern for the NBA’s Minnesota Timberwolves where he helped the team’s front office during the 2008 draft.

McKeithen earned a master’s degree in education at Augustana and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Athletic Administration.

“I’m very excited about this opportunity,” McKeithen said. “I look forward to building a program that brings excellent student-athletes from the surrounding area to Benedictine. We’re committed to growing the program as a whole with top talent on the court and in the classroom.”

Nettles comes to Benedictine University at Springfield from Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis, where she successfully led her team to the AMC tournament title in 2007. Previously, Nettles coached at the University of Illinois at Springfield, Lincoln Land Community College and Belleville Area College (now Southwestern Illinois College).

“My goal is to make the women’s basketball program a nationally-renowned program known for its dedication to academic excellence and athletic success,” Nettles said. “My desire is to develop the ‘Spirit of Excellence’ within the team through education, teamwork, leadership and character building, as well as enhanced athletic skills on the court.”

Director of Athletics Nikki Bull-Eguez said she is excited about having a strong college basketball program for both men and women in Springfield.

“The entire campus is looking forward to adding basketball this year, and we hope to provide two quality programs for our community to support,” Bull-Eguez said.

Benedictine University at Springfield will also launch a new website in the fall to provide more information and coverage of athletics events during the 2012-2013 season. Visit: www.ben.edu/springfield/athletics for more information.

—Submitted by Katie Bunner, sports marketing/communications coordinator at Benedictine University at Springfield