BEING CATHOLIC

The News from Benedictine University

Benedictine Voices

Spring 2012
Being Catholic

In today’s demanding, fast-paced world it is easy to get caught up in the day-to-day chaos of our work, school and private lives.

But sometimes the more difficult life becomes, the more we need to remember who we really are. Being Catholic is something that has always been an essential part of Benedictine University—something that set us apart, that guided us. Today is no different.

No matter how busy, complicated or challenging our world gets, we will always uphold who we are as a Catholic university—not just what’s written in scripture, but how we observe the parameters and the vision established by Catholic leaders and apply them in a more modern, globally connected world.

Our Catholic Identity and Heritage

Through the years, I have been blessed with an ever-growing awareness of the significance of Catholic institutions of higher learning in their pursuit of truth. For our institutions, truth is not relative or the premiere fad of the day. Truth is absolute. Truth is God. Since God is Truth Itself, there can be no divide between faith and reason—both are part of the same journey leading to God. There can be no question of academic freedom since faculty are able to pursue truth in every discipline, for all such truth, if it truly is truth, leads to God.

As Benedictine University begins the celebration of its 125th year as a Catholic and Benedictine institution, I am struck by the number and intensity of the many assaults on our religious liberty. What was once highly lauded as a “given” and a “hallmark” of our country seems now to be questioned on a daily basis. All successive founders for more than a century have clung to the belief and the practice that St. Procopius College/Illinois Benedictine College/Benedictine University be Catholic and be Benedictine.

While Benedictine values are not currently under assault, the Catholic foundation on which these values rest is. We have spoken often of the values of hospitality, stewardship, helping each person realize their potential, and a life lived in balance—to name just a few. We do not speak so often of the sacramental life that is at the heart of every Catholic institution or of fidelity to the Magisterium of the Church that defines us as a Catholic institution.

In recent years, the papal constitution Ex Corde Ecclesiae (from the heart of the Church) has dominated our thinking. This masterful document beautifully describes a Catholic university in its relation to the Church. I have had the opportunity to engage bishops, cardinals and other Catholic university presidents in a wonderful dialogue over the years that has made our institutions better.

In the present debate, however, our ability to practice our beliefs through a living example in our Catholic institutions is at stake. Our founders had a vision, a vision which we share. In our materials, we often “package” Catholic and Benedictine under a single roof. This issue of Voices is different. In the pages that follow, we seek to celebrate and record our Catholic identity and heritage.

— William J. Carroll, President
A Quest for Knowledge in Search of the Common Good

THE DUTY OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

WE ARE DISTINGUISHED BY A VERY HOLISTIC AND WHOLESOME VIEW OF THE HUMAN PERSON AND SOCIETY—A VIEW THAT IS HELD IN CATHOLIC CHURCHES ACROSS THE WORLD AND IS EXERCISED THROUGH CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING. WE AIM TO INQUIRE, DISCUSS, HOLD DIALOGUE AND SEARCH FOR A TRUTH THAT ENCOMPASSES THE IDEAS OF ALL VIEWPOINTS AND CULTURES—ALL THE WHILE WORKING WITHIN A CATHOLIC VIEW. AS A CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT TO BRING THAT VIEW INTO FOCUS AND MAKE IT PART OF AN ONGOING CONVERSATION.
Before they came to Lisle, the monks of St. Procopius Parish sought to educate the children of Czech immigrants so they could lead more successful and just lives. To accomplish this task, the monks established a school where students could learn all they needed about American life and culture in accordance with their Catholic beliefs.

“They (the monks) believed in the Good News and they believed it was indeed good to know God not simply as an idea or theory, but to know God personally and intimately. Not to be afraid of our consciences because Jesus has won us the forgiveness of our sins, but instead to approach God with a clean conscience and a desire to serve him out of love and in that desire to serve God, be nourished by the sacraments and to be guided and inspired by the teachings of the Church,” Abbot Austin Murphy, O.S.B., Chancellor, said in a speech marking the 125th anniversary of Benedictine University’s founding. “These are some of the blessings of the Catholic faith that the monks wanted young people in their charge to have.”

While we have evolved in our size and scope since then, today the same mission and vision holds true at the University, where teachers and students devote themselves to the pursuit of knowledge and conduct research in service of the common good. We are distinguished by a very holistic and wholesome view of the human person and society—a view that is held by Catholics throughout the world and is exercised through Catholic institutions of higher learning. We aim to inquire, discuss, hold dialogue and search for a truth that draws the best from different viewpoints and cultures—all the while working within a Catholic view.

As a Catholic university, it is our responsibility and commitment to bring that view into focus and make it part of an ongoing conversation. We do this in our exploration of the interconnectedness between faith and human reason in which truths are uncovered every day. From history to psychology, ethics to humanities, our faith shapes how and in what way we pursue truth across all academic areas. Besides teaching, research and services common to all universities, a Catholic university brings to task the inspiration and light of the Christian message. At a Catholic university, ideals, attitudes and principles guide university activities. The Catholic university must be both a community of scholars representing various branches of human knowledge, and an academic institution in which Catholicism is vitally present and operative.

“The objective of a Catholic university is to assure in an institutional manner a Christian presence in the university world, confronting the great problems of society and culture. That is Benedictine University’s mission—to bring the richness of Catholic teaching into conversation with the problems and issues today,” Abbot Austin said, quoting from Ex Corde Ecclesiae (No. 13). “Does this mean all our students must become Catholic? No, but still, here’s what I think every student should come away with from this school: an appreciation for the Catholic vision for the common good; to appreciate its view of moral truth; to be aware of its understanding of the principles of a just social order; and to know its teaching on the dignity of the human person. These are some of the things that the Church has to offer all people of good will, whether Catholic or otherwise.”

TODAY, OUR FOUNDERS WOULD BE PROUD TO KNOW WE CONTINUE IN THE TRADITION OF DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON IN MIND, BODY AND SOUL. OUR STUDENTS LEAVE HERE PREPARED TO THINK AND ANALYZE IDEAS IN A GENUINELY CRITICAL WAY, AND IF THEY ARE CATHOLIC, COME AWAY WITH A MORE MATURE AND INTELLECTUALLY INFORMED FAITH WHILE OUR NON-CATHOLIC STUDENTS COME AWAY WITH AN APPRECIATION OF HOW CATHOLIC VALUES CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMON GOOD.

According to Blessed Pope John Paul II’s Ex Corde Ecclesiae, Catholic universities possess four essential characteristics:

- A Christian inspiration not only of individuals but of the university community as such;
- A continuing reflection in the light of the Catholic faith upon the growing treasury of human knowledge, to which it seeks to contribute by its own research;
- Fidelity to the Christian message as it comes to us through the Church;
- An institutional commitment to the service of the people of God and of the human family in their pilgrimage to the transcendent goal which gives meaning to life.
A Catholic University—A Community of Scholars

IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH

WHEN YOU ENTER A CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, YOU ARE MET BY A COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH, AND THIS IN SEARCH OF GOD. THEIR DISCIPLINES AND MODE OF RESEARCH MAY NOT BE THE SAME, BUT THEIR TARGET IS. ACADEMIC FREEDOM ABounds BECAUSE THERE IS NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN FAITH AND REASON, FOR BOTH ARE PART OF THE SAME CONTINUUM LEADING TO GOD. PEOPLE OF FAITH HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM REASON, FOR REASON IS THE TOOL TO GARNER THE TRUTH. FOR PEOPLE OF REASON, FAITH IS NOT THE TENT OF THE UNINFORMED, IT IS SIMPLY A HOLDING PLACE FOR THAT WISDOM FOR WHICH WE HAVE YET TO UNDERSTAND. PUT IN THE WORDS OF ST. ANSELM, “I BELIEVE SO THAT I MAY UNDERSTAND.” (CREDO UT INTELLIGAM)

Did you ever wonder what the difference is between a Catholic university and a public (non-sectarian) university and what they have in common?

Certainly, their funding mechanisms and governance structures are different. Usually, the size varies—with the public university campus being significantly larger.

However, there are many commonalities—from curriculum and faculty credentials to student diversity. Algebra taught at a public institution is the same as algebra taught at a Catholic institution. The structure of academic departments is similar, as are the major courses of study. In fact, even a sacramental life may be experienced at a public institution through the valuable work of the Newman Centers.

It almost seems that the differences are slight and the commonalities much greater. For instance, if one were blindfolded and put into the middle of a campus, they would be hard-pressed to discern whether they had landed at a public institution or Benedictine University.

But there is one fundamental difference so vast that it should create a chasm between the two types of institutions. It is a difference that has little to do with the size of the campus, faculty credentials, breadth and scope of the curriculum, diversity of students or governance structure. Rather, it has everything to do with the core belief that God exists.

As humans, we are confronted by a world that is constantly changing yet somehow remains constant. But what is permanent and what is it that does not change?

For a university founded on Catholic beliefs and doctrine, that permanence, or in the words of the metaphysician, “really real,” is God—the Divine Permanence. This God is knowable in and throughout creation and is the ultimate Truth Itself. Over time, humanity learns more and more about Truth Itself.

Universities are all about the attainment and realization of knowledge.

When linked to the basic belief that God exists and is knowable through revelation and creation, the approach to acquiring and disseminating knowledge becomes THE differentiator between a Catholic university and a public university.

A Catholic university is on a journey to the Truth—that “Truth” being ultimately God. For a Catholic university, there are not many truths but a single Truth that is manifested throughout creation. Truth with a “small t” is still truth because it emanates from Truth itself.

In the realm of public institutions, there is no unifying theory of knowledge that necessarily binds one discipline to another. While individuals may subscribe to a more holistic notion of truth, the institution itself subscribes to none. Individual disciplines continue the search for truth in their fields, but the universalization of truth—the natural merging of all disciplines under the universal Truth—is missing. As a result, relativism is always a permanent possibility and danger.

So the next time you walk on the campus of a Catholic university, know that something very special is going on that may not meet the eye. Underneath the glitter of the campus—its architecture, students and faculty—is a serious enterprise that seeks Truth Itself. It is the only place in the world of higher education wherein truth is unified under the banner of Truth Itself, God.

—William J. Carroll, President
On the Benedictine University campus 57 years ago when I was a student, the majority of the faculty at the school were monks. Today, you’d be surprised to find a monk at the front of a classroom and a student body made up entirely of Catholics.

But that doesn’t mean we’re any less of a Catholic university. According to Pope John Paul II’s *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, there are more important characteristics that make us the strong Catholic institution that we are today.

From the very beginning of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* there is an emphasis on the “vocation” of the university, which we recognize as the joy we express when we “search for, discover and communicate truth in every field of knowledge.” Over and over again, the point is made that “it is the honor and responsibility of a Catholic university to consecrate itself without reserve to the cause of truth.”

Whether our students study biology, physics or philosophy, they struggle each day with our faculty in search of the truth. This idea is evident in our own description of Benedictine University, as a university “guided by the Roman Catholic tradition that fosters a dialogue between religious and secular cultures, while promoting ecumenical and multicultural understanding.” We go on to highlight this notion by saying, “this type of education is designed to broaden and deepen a person’s vision of reality, to help all understand the dignity and uniqueness of each human person, and at the same time place an emphasis upon the demands of freedom and social responsibility.”

We invite discussions and dialogues on campus, for example, when Cardinal Francis George and Bishop J. Peter Sartain (right) presented their view of Catholicism during the same program at which a Muslim student and Muslim Imam presented their views of Islam.

Today we are a University not just of Catholics, but of Muslims, Jews, agnostics and evangelical Christians. We respect religions and we don’t proselytize. We allow people to be who they are. If women want to be veiled, they can be veiled. However, they will have to study our curriculum and we will let them know we are going to say things that they don’t have to believe, but they should know and will have an opportunity to share their beliefs.

**THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL POINTS OF THE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL TRADITION—TO SHARE AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. IT’S NOT A “YOU’RE RIGHT AND I’M WRONG APPROACH.” IT’S ABOUT STRUGGLING TOGETHER AND HOW WE STRUGGLE THAT IS THE PROCESS FOR THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH.**

In this environment, we acknowledge that “religious faith and science are both directed toward the pursuit of truth, and both are strengthened through research and study. Central to the University’s educational tradition is the rigorous investigation of questions that deal with the ultimate purpose of life.”

In April 2002, Terrence W. Tilley, at that time professor and chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Notre Dame, discussed the character of the Catholic university and stated quite clearly the makeup of such a university.

He said what makes a university Catholic is not the presence of nuns, brothers or priests, it is not the percentage of Catholic faculty members, nor is it the presence of theology and philosophy departments. What makes a university
The Catholic identity of the University was the topic of my first discussion with President William Carroll shortly after I was elected Abbot of St. Procopius Abbey several years ago. It didn’t take us long to realize that we were both on the same page with our desire to re-establish a theology major and strengthen University Ministry. The University moved forward on both: bringing in new faculty, developing new courses for a theology major, and expanding the reach and function of University Ministry.

The development of the Catholic and Benedictine hallmarks of education by the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities was a significant event for the Catholic life on our campus. Under the strong leadership of Dr. Carroll, faculty and staff began to embed the hallmarks into campus life and curriculum, and that effort continues under the guidance of the Center for Mission and Identity, an organization created specifically to maintain and strengthen Catholic and Benedictine values. The acceptance of those values by the entire University community is evident in campus life and teaching throughout the curriculum.

We are as strong as any Catholic university or college in the country in following the guidance of the Second Vatican Council and in our relations with students and staff of other religions: “The Church…exhorts her sons, that through dialogue and collaboration with the followers of other religions, carried out with prudence and love and in witness to the Christian faith and life, they recognize, preserve and promote the good things, spiritual and moral, as well as the socio-cultural values found among [them].” (Nostra Aetate, October 28, 1965)

The University has come a long way in strengthening its Catholic identity, and reinforces good relations with other religions, giving all who connect with us the opportunity to experience the values that shape our Catholic life.

—Abbot Dismas Kalcic, O.S.B.
Former Chancellor

Catholic is the way it works in and out of the Catholic intellectual tradition. The point is stressed that the Catholic university is first and foremost a university. It is not a school for discipleship, but a school that supports disciples and others by learning and teaching.

Each year, we welcome our incoming freshmen with a ceremony in the St. Procopius Abbey Church and we present them with the Jubilee Medal of St. Benedict. Whether all of our students wear them or not doesn’t really matter—but it’s how we introduce them to that specific part of our Catholic identity and acknowledge its importance.

We have an institutional commitment to the service of the people of God, the human family and to give our students ample opportunities to serve the poor. We are engaged in the Corporal Works of Mercy, among which are feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty and clothing the naked. Every week, our students and staff work at local food pantries, stock shelves with groceries, and journey to impoverished towns during holiday breaks where they fix homes which have fallen into disrepair.

As we continue to seek to have this spirit of “A Christian inspiration not only of individuals but of the University Community as such,” we need to recognize that within Catholic thought there is a growing recognition of pluralism, and as such, we have a variety of challenges.

I believe sincerely that a spirit of openness and inquiry will keep us on track and allow us to represent to the world around us the results of our continued inquiry and dedication to the search for truth.

—Fr. David Turner, O.S.B.
Assistant to the Provost for Mission and Identity
Since 2005, Benedictine University has relied on the Center for Mission and Identity (CMI) to reinforce the mission and identity of the University through the use of activities that reflect the Catholic intellectual tradition.

In years past, our identity and Catholic faith at the University revolved around the monastic community of St. Procopius Abbey. The monks comprised a majority of the faculty and had greater influence on the direction of the campus. Today, with fewer monks overseeing the University and a much more diverse student body, faculty and staff, the Catholic tradition is not so obvious at first glance. But it is still strong here, and it is the role of CMI to preserve and celebrate that tradition in all that we do.

If we look at our diversity in the light of Christian inspiration, our diverse student and faculty population offers us the opportunity to be a model for other schools and communities that wish to develop a greater understanding and dialogue between individuals of different social and faith backgrounds. At CMI, we regularly discuss the values that we all share and revel in our differences. In this way, we create bonds with other religious-affiliated colleges and faith-based leaders, and develop students who are interested in discovering the commonalities between each other’s life mission.

Our work to strengthen the commitment to the Catholic tradition manifests itself through participation in daily Mass and other liturgical activities, the crucifixes we display in classrooms, when we host guest speakers, student retreats, Catholic readings, discussion groups, the annual Benedictine Pedagogy Conference and many other Catholic-centered activities. A new addition this year is the Benedictine Heritage Lecture series. This series will invite Benedictines from around the world to speak on an aspect of the Benedictine heritage that will better inform the University community.

Since the creation and adoption of Pope John Paul II’s Apostolic Encyclical Ex Corde Ecclesiae in 1990, Benedictine and other Catholic institutions of higher education have examined their structures and programs to ensure they meet the Church’s standards.

In 2000, when the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) applied the document to Catholic colleges and universities in the United States, Benedictine again diligently analyzed, created, implemented and promoted Catholic-focused programs in Theology and Religious Studies, which bring to light a particular focus on Catholic teachings and perspectives. Our enhanced programs provide students of all faiths with the knowledge of Catholic culture, imagination, heritage and traditions focusing on Catholicism’s place in history and influence on the arts, sciences and everyday culture.

Since that time, we have supported the development of the Faith and Reason Symposium to foster a dialogue between religion and science; the Conversatio Round Table Discussion to refocus our attention on our Catholic and Benedictine traditions and provide direction for the future; the Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought program to heighten awareness of the contributions of the Catholic intellectual tradition; and Rediscover Catholicism, a monthly listing of Catholic-centered events, presentations and discussion groups on campus. In cooperation with other University departments, we have supported new areas for contemplation and prayer both on campus and online to strengthen and promote our mission as a Catholic institution.

At Benedictine, we recruit academically distinguished faculty regardless of personal beliefs. However, faculty members should understand the faith commitment of the institution and participate in relevant aspects of mission while demonstrating commitment to their own faith. We invite all faculty members, full-time and adjunct instructors to participate in our forums so that they may better integrate the Catholic intellectual tradition into the classroom experience.

Here, the Catholic view of life values tradition, life lived in community and recognizes the importance of reason and philosophy in defending and promoting the Faith. Thus, through the work of the University, the term “Catholic” implies that we are a faith-filled community of learners who embrace the teachings, values and traditions of the Church within an environment of academic freedom and civility. Affiliation alone does not make a university Catholic.

We are all responsible for living the Catholic mission and transmitting it in our work.

Alicia Cordoba Tait, D.M.A.
Director, Center for Mission and Identity
PRAYER AND MASS HAVE BEEN A DAILY OCCURRENCE AT BENEDICTINE SINCE THE SCHOOL WAS FOUNDED IN 1887. STUDENTS CAN UTILIZE THE KRASA CHAPEL, WHERE DAILY MASS IS HELD, ST. PROCOPIUS ABBEY ACROSS COLLEGE ROAD, AS WELL AS OTHER AREAS, FOR MASS, PRAYER AND REFLECTION. PLANS ARE IN THE WORKS FOR A SPACE ON CAMPUS TO HOUSE A LARGER CHAPEL WITH A COMMUNITY CENTER.

At Benedictine University

PRAYER WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED
At Benedictine University, we hold with high esteem our duty to engage our students, faculty and the community in an intellectual conversation that is deeply rooted in our history as a Catholic university. We live and breathe the Catholic intellectual tradition, whether it’s through the scholarly research of our faculty, or from an expectation that our students leave with a well-rounded body of knowledge.

One of the biggest ways we reinforce the merits of the Catholic intellectual tradition is through the Visiting Scholars in Catholic Thought (VSCT) lecture series, which was founded several years ago by Fr. Philip Timko, O.S.B., professor emeritus of Religious Studies, to invite accomplished thinkers to participate in an ongoing dialogue within the University.

The series heightens awareness and appreciation of the distinct contributions of professionals from all branches of academia (from business, medicine and literature to education, ecology and astronomy) whose work stems from and contributes to the notion of the Catholic intellectual tradition.

MUCH OF THE WORK OF THESE SCHOLARS—WHETHER BOOKS, POEMS, ART OR RESEARCH—IS BASED ON THE CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE.

Our speakers have included Sr. Marjorie Keenan, R.S.H.M., D.U.P., a leading Roman Catholic champion of disarmament and the environment. Keenan spoke on “Care for Creation: A Sacred Trust,” discussing the meaning behind the text of Genesis and how it can be applied today to environmental sustainability and the moral obligation to care for the Earth.

We explored politics and the effect on the Catholic community with lectures from David Cochran, Ph.D., associate professor of politics at Loras College. He is a political authority in Iowa who has published numerous articles and given lectures on topics regarding religion and politics, multiculturalism, democracy and the morality of war.

In the area of business, we invited Andre L. Delbecq, Ph.D., to discuss the relationship between high-performing leaders and their understanding of their own spirituality. Delbecq is the director of the Institute for Spirituality and Organizational Leadership at Santa Clara University. Leadership “can be a dangerous calling for the psychologically and spiritually immature,” Delbecq said. “Such leaders experience a life of increasing stress and often leave their role in a state of brokenness. High performing leaders continually calibrate their inner spiritual compass.”

In the field of science, we welcomed Fr. Kevin FitzGerald, S.J., Ph.D., a leading researcher in the division of biochemistry and pharmacology in the department of oncology at Georgetown University’s Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. Fitzgerald, who is also a Jesuit priest, is considered an expert regarding ethical issues surrounding human genetic engineering, cloning and stem cell research. His research interests have included the investigation of abnormal gene regulation in cancer and ethical issues in human genetics, including the ethical and social ramifications of molecular genetics research. Most recently, we hosted Br. Guy Consolmagno, S.J., Ph.D., an astronaut at the Vatican Observatory, who curates the Vatican’s meteorite collection and conducts research exploring the connections between meteorites, asteroids and the evolution of small solar system bodies. He also conducts surveys using the Vatican’s 1.8-meter Advanced Technology Telescope in Arizona.

Later this fall, we will hear from John F. Haught, Ph.D., an educator and author who focuses on reconciling religion with evolution. He will present two lectures at Benedictine University. Haught, who views science and religion as two different and noncompeting levels of explanation, is the author of several important books on the creation vs. evolution controversy including “Deeper than Darwin: The Prospect for Religion in the Age of Evolution,” “God After Darwin: A Theory of Evolution” and “Responses to 101 Questions on God and Evolution.” Haught earned his doctorate in Theology from the Catholic University of America and is a senior fellow of science and religion at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University.

All VSCT scholars exemplify the Catholic intellectual tradition, which is characterized by a particular method and content, and includes the active encouragement of dialogue between faith and reason (a dialogue St. Anselm described in his classic definition of theology as “fides quaerens intellectum,” or “faith seeking understanding”). The tradition is a simultaneous respect for the wisdom of the past and a vigorous engagement with the most urgent questions of the present day. It is the integration of all fields of human knowledge, recognition of the sacredness of all creation and a special concern for both the human person and the common good.

One of the hallmarks of the Catholic intellectual tradition is curiosity and an openness to examine large and difficult questions. We created the VSCT series to explore these questions as part of an intellectual journey and search for truth.

—Rita George-Tvrtkovic, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Theology
Different Faiths Connect for Better Understanding

CATHOLIC-MUSLIM DIALOGUE

In the real world, Muslims and Catholics don’t typically meet with each other for a friendly discussion about religion and life.

But every other week on Benedictine University’s Lisle campus, a group of eager students representing both Muslim and Christian faiths come together to share their experiences, ask questions and discuss some of the global issues that are often shaped by religious doctrine.

The assembled students, called the Catholic-Muslim Student Dialogue group, formed nearly three years ago to give students of all religions an opportunity to develop a greater understanding of their own faith and the beliefs of others through the eyes of their peers. The group meets on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 175 of the Krása Student Center.

The students, led by Rita George-Tvrtkovic, Ph.D., assistant professor of Theology, begin each meeting with scripture readings from the Bible and the Qur’an. After readings, students may delve into discussions exploring a variety of topics ranging from “Islamophobia” and misunderstood customs, to war, interfaith marriage and politics.

“I thought because we have the kind of student body that we have that we needed to have this kind of student group,” George-Tvrtkovic said. “We don’t engage in an interfaith dialogue because it’s the cool, politically correct thing to do. We do that because it’s part of our Catholic identity and to be Catholic, we have to engage in dialogue with others.

We have to know who we are, give witness to who we are and be faithful to that tradition while at the same time be open to the wisdom that other religions present. What we’re supposed to do as Catholics is engage in dialogue.”

With the formation of the dialogue group, students who under normal circumstances may not have met are learning from each other, said Onyekachi Nwoke, a senior medical school hopeful.

“I think that it’s so precious. It breaks down all these walls that people have built up naturally. We have to remember before anything else we are citizens of the world and human beings and we should interact with each other regardless of race, religion—all these kind of things that we label ourselves upon,” said Nwoke, who is Muslim. “It (interreligious dialogue) helps to get rid of misunderstandings, misconceptions and helps to remind ourselves that we are one humanity, and we can work together to solve human rights issues around the world instead of separating ourselves and dividing ourselves into all these denominations and sects.”

Before Kevin Byrnes joined the group as a Catholic, his knowledge of Islam was limited. Today, he calls many followers of the religion his friends.
It’s one thing to say we have “Catholic identity” simply because we’re a Catholic university by name. It’s a completely different story when you ask how we apply and promote that identity on a daily basis. At the office of University Ministry, our No. 1 goal is to assist students, alumni, faculty, staff and the larger Lisle/Naperville community with integrating Catholic community into their everyday existence. We must continue to follow our Catholic duty to be “One as Jesus and the Father are one.” At University Ministry, we do our part to help Catholics and non-Catholics develop a greater understanding and appreciation for religion, and provide them with the tools they need to grow and lead rewarding and fulfilling lives.

University Ministry provides as many opportunities as possible for our students, faculty and staff to live out Catholic life. They may do this directly through the daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, or by providing volunteer services to a number of different social service agencies and international mission posts.

The Catholic Church encourages people of different faiths to be in dialogue with each other—one of the finer points of the Second Vatican Council for the Catholic Church to participate in ecumenical opportunities. University Ministry moderates the Catholic-Muslim Student Dialogue group and holds several Bible study groups, which include members of Protestant churches. The framework of Catholic identity, expressed in the concept of Catholic dialogue, helps others understand the Catholic way of life.

For Lent, we hosted a series of talks, service events and devotional opportunities highlighted by “Rediscover Catholicism” month, which began at the start of Lent and lasted through spring break to the Triduum.

As part of Rediscover Catholicism month, student Kevin Byrnes and I held conversations with provocative titles to intrigue students and engage them in a Catholic view that is global in scope. The topics covered views of the human person that Catholicism stresses. Rita George-Tvrtkovic, Ph.D., assistant professor of Theology and Religious Studies, and Abbot Austin Murphy, O.S.B., gave more traditional talks that stressed scripture and the Benedictine life. George-Tvrtkovic discussed how scripture can be used to deepen our spirituality as Catholics using the lectio divina, a historical critical method, and what it means for the scriptures to be “inspired.” Abbot Austin discussed the many contributions followers of the Benedictine life have made to the world and how it is still relevant and has something to offer today.

University Ministry sponsored The Vatican II Symposium and essay contest in March, where students from across the United States were invited to write essays on the question, “Why did the Holy Spirit inspire Pope John XXIII to convene the Second Vatican Council?” Three winners were awarded tuition remission grants and their essays were published in the online journal Constellation. Students presented their papers at the symposium before a panel of academics. The event drew more than 100 people and winners were drawn from a pool of applicants from as far away as the Catholic University of America. The question for next year’s essay contest is, “Lumen Gentium calls the Church a ‘sacrament.’ What does this mean and why does it matter?” For more information, go to www.ben.edu/vatican.

In addition to these events, University Ministry has added 25 percent more program offerings for students. We have seen the number of our student participants in the Koinonia Retreat increase exponentially this past year from four participants to 25 in one semester.
TO REACH A GREATER PORTION OF THE BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY, WE PLAN TO ROLL OUT A NEW INTERNET-BASED MINISTRY IN FALL 2012. BUT EVEN THOUGH WE’RE INCORPORATING MORE TECHNOLOGY INTO OUR WORK, WE STILL PROVIDE THE OLD-FASHIONED, PERSONAL TOUCH WHEN WE VISIT RESIDENCE HALLS ONCE A SEMESTER. BR. RICK PORO, O.S.B., HAS ALSO PLANNED A MINISTRY TO VISIT UNIVERSITY STAFF IN EVERY DEPARTMENT FOR AN INTRODUCTION AND PERSONAL PRAYER WHEN REQUESTED.

This is an exciting time for University Ministry. You can stay in touch and check on our progress at www.ben.edu/ministry.

— Mark Kurowski, M.Div. Director of University Ministry

Campus Contributions
University Ministry’s contributions can be broken down into the four main focus areas of inspiration, instruction, devotion and service.

INSPIRATION: Our staff is present at all prayers at University events and records reflections from weekly scriptures for Mass. These records are then transferred into podcasts that can be found on the Catholic Ministries section of our Web page. We also lead the five-minute Benedictine Moment to contemplate on our Benedictine values at Student Life meetings.

INSTRUCTION: We frequently write columns for the Candor, Voices, parent newsletters and several other University publications and give presentations at the College of Liberal Arts orientation for foreign exchange students. We also sit on the Muslim Parent Advisory Board and work with the Center for Mission and Identity.

DEVOTION: Our staff plans and attends daily Mass, the music ministry, administers group and individual spiritual direction, and offers reflections to University departments throughout campus. This year, we are emphasizing prayers for alumni and want to include the community in liturgical ministries at the daily Mass.

SERVICE: We are there for any person or department for individual pastoral counseling or devotions. We also plan and offer service trips to the Sacred Heart Mission Parish in Hopkins Park, Nazareth Farm in Salem, W. Va., and Sucre, Bolivia, where participants minister in several orphanages, daycare centers, a home for delinquent boys, hospitals and clinics.
literally 50 years ago, you wouldn’t have been able to understand what a priest was saying if you didn’t know Latin. However that barrier, as well as several other long-standing views and practices of Catholicism, were forever changed during the Roman Catholic Church’s Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) from 1962 to 1965. While some longtime Catholics left the church after the inception of “Aggiornamento,” meaning “updating” in Italian or the modernization of the church, doors were opened to a greater following when priests were allowed to integrate more common language into church services and non-Catholics were welcomed more openly into an ongoing conversation.

A WORLD OF UNREST

Only a few decades removed from World War II, the Cold War, Marxism and the progressive secularization of France, Catholic leaders realized that “the church was not speaking to people in any way they understood,” said Christine Fletcher, Ph.D., assistant professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Benedictine. “The bishops of the world recognized that they were not being effective in the world. Their policies were outdated.”

One of the more important documents to come out of the Vatican II council was the “Nostra Aetate,” which expanded the relationship of the church with Jews and other non-Catholics, according to Rita George-Tvrtkovic, Ph.D., assistant professor of Theology at Benedictine.

“‘NOstra Aetate’ was the Church’s first official positive theology of religions. Before that, salvation did not exist outside of the Catholic Church. This document recognized that where there is truth, there is God,” George-Tvrtkovic said.

While younger generations welcomed the changes, they outraged traditionalists who were taught only priests were called to serve God. As a result, some longtime members left the church.

Even with some initial dissension after Vatican II, today Catholics remain the largest religious group in the United States, with nearly a quarter of the population ascribing to the belief.

THE LATIN LIFT

The No. 1 transformation in the Roman Catholic Church was the transition from saying Mass in Latin to using the vernacular of the local church community.

“The first way to make Catholicism more relevant is to discuss it in the language that people know,” Fletcher said. “Before, traditionalists believed that this is the Mass that God gave us in Latin.
They were taught that nothing should change. They had the security blanket—the highway to heaven—and had it yanked out of their hand. This is one of the reasons people left the church.

Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., said the changes from Vatican II “turned the Catholic Church on end,” by establishing religious liberty, which gave individuals the right and obligation to follow their own conscience. “I always say that the nuns lied to me,” Turner said with a smile as he reflected on his strict traditional Catholic upbringing, adding that in the past only the priest took part in Communion with both the bread and wine, while parishioners would receive only the consecrated wafer.

**DIALOGUE WITH THE OTHER (NON-CATHOLICS)**

“The Declaration of Religious Freedom” overturned the church’s previous position that denied non-Catholics public, religious and political rights, and recognized the importance of allowing individuals to seek the divine truth without coercion.

The University encourages students, regardless of their faith background, to add Theology as a major within their field of interest. Doing so enables students to develop a greater understanding of other people and their values as they major in Biology on a pre-medical track to becoming a physician, for example.

“We give people courses that can relate to their jobs, explain how their future career may influence social justice and answer questions about ordinary perspectives in life,” Fletcher said.

Educators say the interreligious dialogue that goes on between Catholic Christians and other groups is meant to be a thoughtful exchange—it is not an attempt to sway the other’s opinion. “It is not about converting the other—not about arguing who wins, who loses or stating that ‘we all believe in God,’” George-Tvrtkovic said. “It is about learning about the other, increasing respect, building relationships and learning about your own faith.”

While Benedictine University is faced with more complex challenges today, it is evident all across campus—in our classrooms, dialogue and Bible-study groups, guest lectures, activities, academic and research pursuits—that our Catholic identity is strong and determined.

**OUR INSTITUTION IS FOUNDED UPON AND EACH DAY CONTINUES TO EXERCISE SOME OF THE MOST BASIC IDEALS OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY—THE SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM, AND HOW THE INCLUSION OF OTHER FAITHS, BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCES ALL AID IN THE TASK. WITH A SOLID BASE, WE WILL FLOURISH AS WE CONTINUE TO GROW AND EXPAND, WHILE BRINGING OUR CATHOLIC AND BENEDICTINE VALUES TO A WORLD STILL VERY MUCH IN NEED OF THEM.”**
Coffee House Networking Event Series

Benedictine alumni have had the opportunity to attend a monthly event series featuring area employers to discuss employment opportunities in a relaxed atmosphere. Employers also explain their company’s hiring and application process and how they use social media to find qualified candidates.

College of Science Reunion

On February 17, alumni and friends of the College of Science gathered for their annual reunion. Festivities began at the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum in the Birck Hall of Science, followed by dinner and a program on the second floor of the Krasa Student Center.

This year, the college presented the inaugural Alumni Achievement Awards honoring distinguished alumni.

This year’s awards were presented to:
- Ralph D. Meeker, Ph.D., C67
- William F. Stroner Jr., D.D.S., C50
- Raymond Konopka Jr., C89

For more information on the 2013 reunion and award nominations, as well as supporting the College of Science, contact Dayna Crabb, advancement officer, at dcrabb@ben.edu.

College of Business Advisory Board Workshop

“Survival of the Fittest—It’s a Jungle Out There” was the theme of the winter College of Business Advisory Workshop. College of Business students viewed a three-act play depicting different scenarios of group dynamics, personality traits, professional dress, leadership, communication and presentation skills. After each act, students and faculty discussed learning objectives and were given tips on how to handle different personality types.

Thank you to Eric Guthrie, M.S.’10; Vicki Jobst, M.B.A.’85; Debbie Smith, C08; Jeff Grimm, M.B.A.’09, C01; Bryan Frederick, M.S.’09; Melissa Mouhelis, assistant director of Career Development; Rose Madison, C08; Eric Goodwin, M.S.’10; Patrice Kucia, M.B.A.’96, C91; and Julie Nelligan, M.S.’06, director of Alumni Relations, for volunteering to act in the play.

Accepting Alumni Award Nominations

Each year at Homecoming, the Benedictine University Alumni Association presents three distinct and unique awards to alumni. The Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the 2012 Alumni Recognition Awards. All Benedictine alumni and friends are invited to submit nominations.

Nominations must be received by August 1, 2012. Finalists not selected in a given year will automatically be submitted for consideration the following year. A permanent display of winners with biographical information is in the Krasa Student Center. Please use the online nomination form by going to: www.ben.edu/awardnominations or download a hard copy of the nomination form and fax nominations to (630) 829-6313.
Get Connected with Students

“Get Connected” is a new networking series designed especially for current Benedictine students. The series was developed by the Alumni Association Board of Directors and offers a unique format where successful alumni return to Benedictine to discuss their career path since graduation and give students advice on how to progress in their careers. It allows students a chance to ask questions on various topics, including interviewing, pursuing higher education, workplace etiquette and how to succeed in the world. Students receive an unparalleled opportunity to make connections with successful alumni who are making a difference in the workplace. Students leave with a business card in hand, an alumni mentor, and most importantly, the confidence and knowledge that their Benedictine education is relevant and applicable to the world.

Thank you to:  Aheed Siddiqi, M.D., C98; James Chivilo, C97; Kunal Chopra, C99; Mary Jo Hazard, M.S.'95; Jim Lohse, C70; Chris Murphy, C99; Paul Bleuher, M.A.'05; Dave Norman, M.A.'11, C08; and John Zigmond, Ed.D., C65, for volunteering to speak at this important series.

For more information, please contact Kavita Chopra Athanikar, president, Alumni Board of Directors, at kchopra@ben.edu.

Casino Night Fundraiser

The Alumni Board of Directors, on behalf of the Alumni Association, brought a touch of Las Vegas to Benedictine by hosting Casino Night on February 18. Alumni gathered to play poker, roulette, craps and blackjack, while helping to raise money for the Alumni Board Scholarship Fund. Along with the games, there were raffles and a silent auction for the chance to win donated items, including an overnight at the Harrison House Bed & Breakfast, a Benedictine University stepping stone, a bracelet designed by Jainn Jewels, a White Sox Alexei Ramirez autographed baseball bat and Chicago Fire memorabilia, among other prizes. Everyone had a wonderful time reconnecting, making new friends and vowed to return next year. Mark your calendar for the second Alumni Association Casino Night set for February 9, 2013.

Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony

A Hall of Fame re-induction ceremony was held on February 11 to recognize former inductees (from 1960 to 2002) in honor of the University’s 125th anniversary. The ceremony included great stories from Tony LaSacala, former men’s basketball coach; Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., C59; Kenneth Carruthers, C76; Dave Swanson, C76, assistant director of Athletics; and John Ostrowski, head baseball coach.

Thank you to Mark McHorney, director of Athletics, and all the athletic coaches and staff for this wonderful event.

Pictured above (from left), former inductees: Keith Bunkenburg, C89; Leo Golembiewski, C71; Charles Pisoni, Ph.D., C60; Kate (Enochs) Keller, C96; Tony LaScala, former athletic director; Jim Kavanagh, C84; William Geist, C67; Jennifer Wildes, C02; Dave Swanson, C76; and Ken Carruthers, C76.
The synth-pop music group Cobra Starship played to a packed house in the Rice Center on April 28. This chart-topping group sang some of their biggest hits including “Good Girls Gone Bad” and “You Make Me Feel.”

Special guests were our graduating seniors. They were congratulated on achieving a major goal and welcomed into the Alumni Association.

BenBash honors graduating seniors and BenFest in August welcomes freshman into the BenU community. Save the date now for BenFest 2012 on August 25 and BenBash 2013 on April 27.

You make me feel…Fabulous!
Benedictine Brings Another Popular Music Group to Campus.

To view more photos from this events, go to www.ben.edu/benbashpics.
Help Us Welcome Our New Freshman Class on August 25

Join us in the tradition of welcoming and uniting our incoming students at Benedictine University! The Eagle Walk is a great tradition where the entire campus gathers to welcome new students. Alumni are encouraged to participate in this event by lining the Memorial Walkway and welcoming the new class as they pass by. It is a wonderful experience for our new students to be welcomed into the BenU community by our alumni. Come back to campus to celebrate our incoming class and enjoy the Alumni Picnic and the BenFest concert afterward. Hope to see you there! For more information, contact Steven Herrmann at sherrmann@ben.edu.

4:00 p.m.—Eagle Walk Line-up
4:45 p.m.—Eagle Walk Wrap-up
(Dan and Ada Rice Center Arena)
[Alumni volunteers on campus, meet on walkway in front of Lownik Hall at 3:45 p.m.]
3:45-7:00 p.m.—Entertainment (inflatables, music, picnic, contests)
4:00 p.m.—Alumni Picnic
6:00 p.m.—Doors open for concert
7:00 p.m.—Concert starts

NEW—Free Monthly Alumni Webinars

The Office of Alumni Relations is pleased to present free monthly webinars to Benedictine alumni, facilitated by alumni. Webinar topics will be relevant to all ages, and include networking skills, career services, use of social networking, life after college, financial planning, stress reducers and innovative leadership skills, among other topics. Webinars will be offered during the third week of each month and alumni will receive an email notice two weeks prior with sign-up information. We want to thank Chris Murray, C92, for hosting “Strategies for your Career Search” in February, Micki Lewis, M.S.’06, C00, for hosting “Developing You: Getting the Most Bang for Your Time, Energy and Money” in March, and Nancy Cobb, M.S.’00, for hosting “Keeping Your Spirits Up While You Might Be Getting Down—What To Do While You Are Job Hunting” in April.

Join us for these informative webinars hosted by fellow classmates. If you are interested in hosting a webinar, contact Julie Nelligan at jnelligan@ben.edu.

Throwback Alumni Wear

The Alumni Association Board is selling Traditional Threads shirts for both St. Procopius College (SPC) and Illinois Benedictine College (IBC). Cost for the SPC denim shirt is $25 and $10 for IBC T-shirts. Contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu to purchase your throwback shirt today.

Hurry! Supplies are limited.
New Alumni and Friends Area on BenU Website

To provide Benedictine alumni and donors a more effective way to stay in touch and access University information and services, the Offices of Alumni Relations and Advancement have launched a new Alumni and Friends area of the BenU website. Stay connected to the University. Visit the new site at www.ben.edu/alumnifriends.

The updated area highlights the impact alumni and donors from across the globe are having on campus, and better expresses our gratitude to our valuable alumni and donor community, who readily volunteer their time, talent and resources.

New features include five navigation tabs: Connect, Volunteer, Events, Give and Areas of Support. Each tab highlights how an alumnus or donor can get involved and stay engaged with the University.

We welcome your feedback. If you have trouble locating information or have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Julie Nelligan, director of Alumni Relations, at jnelligan@ben.edu or (630) 829-6077.

Honoring Donors

Donor Awareness Month was created to generate awareness and appreciation among the campus community and to thank donors to Benedictine University for all of their generous support. One of the most visible aspects of this month are the more than 500 ribbons displayed on campus, marking areas that were made possible through donations. Ribbons are placed on all the items that were made possible through donor support including artwork, classrooms, lab equipment, buildings, trees, benches and much more. This is meant to show students and other community members how much donor support impacts their daily life at Benedictine.

Tuition Freedom Day kicks off Donor Awareness Month. This marks the point in the semester where students' tuition dollars stop covering the cost of their education, and donors pick up the rest, or one-third of the cost of EACH student’s education. Students have a chance to say “Thank you” by writing a note to a donor. These notes are then displayed during the Scholars’ Brunch that brings student scholarship recipients and their donors together. This is a wonderful opportunity for donors to meet the students they are helping, and a great chance for students to express their gratitude to those who are helping to make their education possible.

For more information on how you can help, contact Jessica Stillo, associate director for stewardship, at jstillo@ben.edu or (630) 829-1811.

A Message from the Alumni Board President

On behalf of the Alumni Board of Directors and the Alumni Association, I wish Benedictine University a very happy 125th anniversary. At a time of great hardship and great hope, our founders had the courage to seek out solutions, make progress and leave a lasting legacy. They were natural leaders, and if we follow their example, then we too can help continue to make this institution a place where hope triumphs over hardship, and where education, leadership and success are the order of the day. I hope we all take a moment to ask ourselves what we can do to make Benedictine even better and to celebrate another 125 years.

Kavita Chopra Athanikar, C98, kchopra@ben.edu
The relationship between students and their university does not end at graduation.

More and more, colleges and universities are seeking to keep alumni connected, to provide them with the career resources they will need in the workplace, to create networking opportunities with fellow alumni, and to give them a place to rekindle old memories and make new ones.

The new Benedictine University Neff Alumni Welcome Center will help meet those needs.

Ground was broken on March 2 for the $2.5 million center, which will be anchored by the historic Neff Farmhouse near the College Road entrance on the eastern edge of the school’s Lisle campus.

“The center will house a museum depicting our 125-year history, and will be a place where new students can begin their tour of campus and be welcomed,” said Julie Nelligan, director of Alumni Relations.

“Graduates can come back to the center, sign a memory book and say goodbye knowing there will always be a place they can come back for reunions and memories of their time here.”

The 2,700-square foot welcome center will also include event space, offices and a conference room. Alumni, parents and students will all be welcomed to utilize the center and take advantage of some of the resources that will be made available there.

The Neff farmhouse, one of the oldest stone structures in DuPage County and which until recently had been used as a home by the school’s retired caretaker, will be incorporated into the center.

“We want to preserve the integrity of the structure as much as we can,” said Chad Treisch, executive director of Campus Planning, Design and Construction Management. “We are even bringing in stone from a quarry in Illinois that matches the exterior of the existing building.”

“Today we’re going to start a process of transforming this site and this building into a very special place,” said William J. Carroll, Ph.D., president of the University. “In the last 70 years, the University has gone from St. Procopius College, Illinois Benedictine College and now Benedictine University, and in all that time there’s really only one building that has stayed true to all those names, and that’s the Neff Farmhouse.”

Outside the historic farmhouse, a crowd comprised of University and public officials including Carroll, Lisle Mayor Joseph Broda, University Board of Trustees Chair Will Gillett, Abbot Austin Murphy, O.S.B.; State Rep. Michael Connelly of Naperville; and Bruce Bronge, President of International Contractors, Inc.

Groundbreakers (from left): William J. Carroll, President; Lisle Mayor Joseph Broda; Alumni Board President Kavita Chopra Athanikar, C98; University Board of Trustees Chair Will Gillett; Abbot Austin Murphy, O.S.B.; State Rep. Michael Connelly of Naperville; and Bruce Bronge, President of International Contractors, Inc.

Watch the video of the groundbreaking event at www.ben.edu/neffvideo.
But he never ignored his scientific curiosity, and soon he found himself questioning how some of the instruments of the time could be reconfigured to produce a purer sound.

“Music theory and acoustics fascinated me, and instrumental sound was a new physics waiting to be explored,” Stoessel said. “Very few performing musicians understand the science of sound, so I came into a field which was virtually empty.”

In a frank discussion with Bill Ludwig of Ludwig Percussion, Inc., Stoessel was surprised to learn how commercial music companies were reluctant to change or experiment with the design of their instruments. With a strong demand for mass production, there wasn’t much time or room for large businesses to alter the product, Ludwig told Stoessel.

Following the advice of his chemistry teacher, Norm Frigerio, Stoessel decided to challenge conventional music construction and began remaking tambourine jingles out of bronze and white brass, bells out of brass and steel, and redesigned the conventional triangle beater out of his garage.

“All that gave me the self-belief to keep at it, and when I started to remake tambourines like they were before World War II, they were instantly recognized by the top percussion professionals,” Stoessel said.

In 1968, the Cleveland Symphony bought his first three tambourines, which are still used in performances today. More orders followed, and Stoessel eventually built enough tambourines to outfit several other prominent symphonies.

While a majority of mass producers mount the bars of bell chimes on felt material, Stoessel invented a way to string the bars through the sides. The end result produced cleaner, less complex overtones and less contact noise due to the improved suspensions he used.

His triangle beaters went worldwide with buyers on six continents. Later, he ventured into bell-making and invented a suspended chime set from steel that sounds like a church carillon but at a fraction of the cost.

Stoessel admits he hasn’t made a lot of money as an inventor. He has held several other jobs—bouncing from the Federal Energy Administration and the Department of Labor to a safety and health consultant and radio announcer. To date, he’s never applied for a patent for any of his inventions, worrying it would stifle progress.

“Everything I’ve discovered is public domain,” Stoessel said. “That means that future industries can take whatever is disclosed and use it to their benefit, and the benefit of musicians who need to produce the best sound they can. I only ask to be given credit in return for any help I’ve given them.”

In his spare time, Stoessel has given lectures and demonstrations of his work to students, and in January produced a DVD with the help of a friend to share with the world how science can be leveraged to produce a better sound.

“Science satisfies my curiosities,” Stoessel said. “Even if I’m not a famous scientist with a Nobel Prize, music is a vital part of my soul.”

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From Chemistry to Classical Music

As a scientist and musician, John Stoessel, C60, never settled for the status quo. It’s a trait he learned in his early days as a chemistry student at Benedictine University (St. Procopius College), as a chemical technician for Argonne National Laboratory, and later in life as a craftsman of one-of-a-kind orchestral bells and chimes.

Working weekends for Fr. Alban Hrebic, O.S.B., Stoessel copied music and took care of other odds and ends. When he wasn’t working, he would study at the music studio, thumb through classical records and mess around on the piano.

It was in Fr. Alban’s studio where Stoessel first embarked on a career path that would blend his love of science and music with the desire to challenge preconceived notions about percussion instruments and how they should sound.

“I could study my science in peace and quiet,” Stoessel recalled. “But he also had all those classical records of the masters and a piano to play. It was great—very private, and a haven for spiritual tranquility.”

Years after graduation, Stoessel would stop by to dabble in music classes from Fr. Alban, and served as an assistant to the music director from 1960-1963. After seven years of working in the chemistry division at Argonne, he enrolled at Chicago Musical College for a second degree in music. After graduation, he pursued his interest in music, studied percussion and played for some of the leaders of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

But he never ignored his scientific curiosity, and soon he found himself questioning how some of the instruments of the time could be reconfigured to produce a purer sound.

“Music theory and acoustics fascinated me, and instrumental sound was a new physics waiting to be explored,” Stoessel said. “Very few performing musicians understand the science of sound, so I came into a field which was virtually empty.”

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18th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing

The 18th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing will be held on Monday, June 25, at Cantigny Golf in Wheaton. The special guest will be professional Hall of Fame golfer Tom Watson.

The outing will begin at 10:00 a.m. with registration and a putting contest. Golfers will be sent off promptly with a shotgun start at 12:15 p.m. The cost for a foursome is $1,100 and the fee for individual golfers is $275. Dinner-only tickets are available for $100 per person and include cocktails, dinner and a presentation by Watson speaking about his days on the PGA Tour. Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds go to Benedictine students in the form of scholarship dollars. Come out for a good cause and have a good time.


For more information, visit www.ben.edu/golf.

Hit the course with Tom Watson.
(Dinner-only tickets also available.)

Phonathon Support Matters

Benedictine University depends on the generous donations of our alumni and friends to assist with campus development, equip our classrooms with the latest technology and provide scholarships to deserving students. The University Phonathon is one of the ways we try to connect with alumni, parents and supporters to ensure Benedictine can continue to offer an exceptional educational experience for its current and future students. Our phonathon callers are student workers who benefit first-hand from your donations. Erik Rickert is one such student who agreed to share his experience.

Student caller highlight:

Why is it important for you to give back and support Benedictine University?
“This school has helped so many people in the Benedictine community, including myself. My education and college experiences, such as football, would not have been possible without support from donors. I consider my “Benedictine Spirit” a gift. It will stay with me after I graduate. Then, it will be my turn to pledge support.”

Why do you like connecting with alumni on the phone?
“It is great that I have the opportunity to have conversations with alumni and fellow Eagles about their experiences here. It is almost like a family connection between us. I also enjoy saying “Thank you” to those alumni who have done so much by supporting the University. No matter the amount of the donation, $5 or $1,000, it goes a long way to help.”

Name: Erik Rickert
Home town: Oak Lawn, Ill.
Year in school: Junior (Projected graduation: 2013)
Major: Management and Organizational Behavior
Phonathon Volunteer: Two semesters
Campus Activities: Plays football for the Benedictine Eagles and is the 2012 team captain. Rickert is president of the Super Fan Club, plays three intramural sports and also works as a cook at the Coal Ben.

Thank you to our alumni and friends for their support this year!
When Andreas Papakostas, C93, heard about a village in Africa where the children enjoy soccer so much they play on rocky ground without proper clothes or shoes, he didn’t think twice about what he needed to do.

The next day, he started a collection drive to send as many shoes and other soccer-related apparel to the children of Masvingo, Zimbabwe. Papakostas, who was once a professional soccer player in Greece and now runs Korwitts Chiropractic Center in Downers Grove, was inspired by one of his patients, who last year was busy collecting books to bring back to the children of his home village.

“We collected many books and the stories we heard of the excitement of the teachers and parents from the village was inspiring,” Papakostas said. “Then, when my patient was describing how the kids enjoy playing soccer even though they do not have shoes or proper clothes and equipment, I said I would help get the word out to collect as many soccer-related items as possible to ship back to the village.”

Papakostas announced the donation drive through the Olympic Soccer Academy in Plainfield, a training school he started and operates for young players, to help spread the word and increase donations. He is collecting old or new soccer shoes, shin guards, socks, shorts, jerseys, shirts, goalie gloves and balls until the end of July, when they will be shipped to the needy children.

“To know that a village of kids will be able to wear shoes, socks, have team uniforms and new soccer balls, sends a mental picture to me of their happiness and gratitude,” Papakostas said. “Every year, we will be picking a different mission to help children locally, nationally and internationally.”

He said his experience as a goalie for Benedictine’s men’s soccer team, where he learned to work as part of a team and look out for others, reinforced his decision to help. “Charity is not work but almost a duty for everyone to implement in their lives,” Papakostas said. “I always get my kids involved so that they understand the power of giving and working to make an impact in the lives of others through donations.”

Every year, Papakostas visits Benedictine at alumni soccer reunions to see old friends and support the team. Both his niece and nephew are current students involved in athletics, and he stops by to watch their games.

“When you had a great experience for four years of your life, it is hard not to stay connected with what the school is doing and what others are doing,” he said.

As a student, Papakostas appreciated the different backgrounds and cultures to which he was exposed, and always remembers that no matter the differences, students treated each other with respect.

“This is one of the reasons my soccer academy was named Olympic Soccer Academy,” Papakostas said. “The word ‘Olympic’ to me represents the cultures and ethnicities of people from all over the world coming together as one.”
Celebrating 125 Years

Visit www.ben.edu/125 to see videos, pictures and stories on our building namesakes and more.

The handful of Benedictine monks who gazed across their newly purchased school site in 1896 would be amazed at how the school has grown and what it has become. They would be pleased to know that the University continues to bring the Benedictine message to the world, and continues to listen and evolve to meet the growing needs of students.

Throughout its 125-year history, academic excellence has been at the forefront of a Benedictine education, with individual attention and care given to each person by a faculty rich in experience and education and a staff dedicated to the well-being and success of every student. Embracing the Catholic education tradition and Benedictine values, the University continues to prepare students for roles as leaders and citizens in an increasingly global community.

Today, Benedictine is among the most celebrated universities in the country, ranking among the top 20 percent of America’s colleges by Forbes magazine. The University has grown from 11 sons of immigrants in the early 1900s to more than 10,000 students of all races, nationalities and religions. Programs are delivered in person and online throughout Illinois, the United States, and in China and Vietnam.

Benedictine University is always evolving, always growing and always leading. For 125 years and into the future, we shall keep the vision of those early monks alive and stand as a global leader in values-based higher education.

- May Day Celebration, St. Procopius Academy, 1921.
- St. Wenceslaus Server’s Society trophy, 1954. The St. Wenceslaus Server’s Society (also known as the Server’s Sodality) was founded in 1914 and was the first student organization at St. Procopius College. According to the Society’s constitution, its mission was “to instruct the members in the proper manner of assisting as servers at liturgical functions…to promote the social and educational advancement of the members, and…to create and promote interest in missionary work, both local and foreign, particularly by forwarding educational activities.”
- Glass paperweight with aerial view of campus. Based on the buildings present on campus, such as the power plant building and what appears to be the old gym, this probably dates from somewhere between 1925 and 1943.
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is an important part of the cultural landscape of America, said educator, author and motivational speaker Mawi Asgedom. Asgedom spoke to more than 500 people gathered in the Krása Student Center at Benedictine University on January 16 for the 17th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast hosted by Benedictine University and College of DuPage.

“Dr. King represented the very best of what our country has to offer, what we work for, what direction we like to move in,” Asgedom said. “He is an important part of our cultural heritage, our cultural landscape, everything we believe to be beautiful and amazing about our country—freedom, liberty, and people of all races and backgrounds breaking bread together.”

Asgedom and his parents fled civil war in Ethiopia and immigrated to the United States, settling in Wheaton. Asgedom earned a scholarship to Harvard after graduating from Wheaton North High School, and has spoken to more than a million students and educators in more than 40 states. His organization, Mental Karate, trains educators to increase student achievement.

He encouraged those in attendance to get involved, saying that no matter how small their actions, they can spark unimagined change.

“Do you believe you carry your community with you every single day?” Asgedom said. “Do you believe that despite the challenges our country might face today, that by working together as a community, we can do things you can’t even imagine? Dr. King believed these things. Together we can accomplish anything.”

The King Breakfast is one of the largest events of its kind in DuPage County. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund at both schools. Two Benedictine students were honored as recipients of King scholarships, which are awarded based on a number of criteria including community service.

Awarded a scholarship was Jamie Webster (left), a freshman from Chicago and Maryam Zafar (right), a freshman from Glendale Heights. The students are pictured with Mawi Asgedom.

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Center for Lifelong Learning Focuses on Community Enrichment for Seniors

“Education in our times must try to find whatever there is in students that might yearn for completion and to reconstruct the learning that would enable them autonomously to seek completion.” —Allan Bloom

The above quote sums up the role and purpose of Benedictine University’s Moser College of Adult and Professional Studies Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL). The center’s faculty and staff have reconstructed learning to provide a unique opportunity for senior citizens to access quality education, enrichment and social networking opportunities. The learning experience at the center is unique in that it is specifically designed to meet the learning needs of the older adult (age 55 and older). There are multiple learning options available, including participatory classes, arts and crafts, educational trips, special events and opportunities to meet new friends. As life progresses, older adults continue to develop their own perspective and curiosities. These questions may be the same as those in our youth, but the answers are not necessarily the same. Thus, the need for the CLL.

Benedictine is committed to providing quality educational opportunities for the learning communities it serves, and the CLL is an essential part of that commitment. We recognize that our older adult learners have a wealth of knowledge, experience, and wisdom, and the CLL serves as a focal point for sharing that wealth. For further information, go online to www.ben.edu/LifelongLearning or call (630) 829-1384.

— Michael Carroll, Ph.D., Dean, Moser College

Read More
Read the full article at www.ben.edu/webextras.
College of Business: Two New Degrees Address Growing Demands

BUSINESS ANALYTICS

Business analytics is the practice of using methodical and statistical analysis to evaluate an organization and enable a business to gain insight that informs and drives data-driven decisions. The importance and prevalence of business analytics is evident in business organizations throughout the marketplace. A recent survey of approximately 3,000 executives, managers and business analysts across more than 30 industries was conducted by MIT Sloan School of Management and IBM Institute for Business Value. The survey results show that top-performing organizations use analytics five times more than lower-performing organizations. Hence, there is a growing demand for employees with analytical skills who have a foundation in business fundamentals. The new Business Analytics major is designed to address this demand.

A student who graduates with a major in Business Analytics has a choice of two career paths applicable to multiple industries. A graduate with a strong understanding of analytics can select a path that leads to a managerial position, or a student can opt for a path that prepares them for an entry-level position requiring hands-on manipulation of data and reporting of relevant business information for better decision-making outcomes.

Some of the courses offered are “Visualization Techniques/Dashboarding,” “Data and Text Mining,” “Web Intelligence,” and “The Influence of Social Networks.”

BUSINESS WITH SCIENCE APPLICATIONS

Organizations are increasingly looking for employees who have broad business knowledge and positive personal attributes and attitudes. The bottom line of any company is best served when it hires people with boundless energy who cannot only articulate their ideas but also execute them. Many companies make hiring decisions based on how well an employee works with other people over an employee who is primarily an individual contributor.

Benedictine created the undergraduate Bachelor of Business Administration in Business with Science Applications major to meet the demands and needs of today’s evolving global business network, specifically for well-rounded business and technology-savvy employees. The major combines core science classes in biology, chemistry and physics, with more specialized, cutting-edge business classes in business law, intellectual property, innovation, product development, ethics, leadership skills, and project and team management. The result is a degree program that helps to train more competitive and exceptional business-minded employees with an appetite and aptitude for product creation, systems processes and services.

To best prepare students for current and emerging career opportunities, the following sustainable business practices and trends are included in the program: selection from four career tracks; instructors with extensive business experience; extensive case study learning and an internship program with area businesses.

For more information, visit www.ben.edu/newcob or contact Rick Cali at rcali@ben.edu or (630) 829-1932.

Partnership with COD offers B.A. in Management

Collaboration of Benedictine University and College of DuPage (COD) is among the best in the land. As we have discovered, there is no better way to make higher education in DuPage County the best in the land than to work together to create the best possible educational environment for our students.

During the first three years of the Accounting program, which consists of 124 credit hours, students complete 85 credit hours of COD courses. The final 39 credit hours of Benedictine coursework are taught in an accelerated format by Benedictine professors at COD. Students enrolled in the Management or Marketing programs, which require completion of 129 credit hours, complete 90 credit hours of COD coursework and an additional 39 credit hours of Benedictine courses taught in an accelerated form by Benedictine professors at COD.

Students pay COD tuition rates for the first 85 credit hours (Accounting) or 90 credit hours (Management/Marketing) of COD coursework, with the final 39 credit hours of Benedictine courses offered at a significantly reduced tuition rate. Benedictine also provides admissions, advising and financial aid services at COD so students experience a seamless transition.

As part of this special agreement, students must be at least 21 years of age to enroll in the 39 credit hours offered by Benedictine. In addition, to participate in this new 3+1 program, students must first complete an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree at College of DuPage.

Benedictine provided the first two years of business classes in business law, accounting, finance, business statistics, management, marketing, accounting and personal finance. Benedictine’s administration realizes the importance of such partnerships, and is actively pursuing other collaborations with renowned institutions to give more students access to quality academic programs.
Competition for jobs in America is at an all-time high. Not only do most companies require a college degree, but more business leaders are wary of college graduates with no work experience.

Only 16 percent of employers believe that college graduates are very prepared for the workplace, according to a survey by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools.

According to the survey, 54 percent of employers say finding skilled and knowledgeable employees is difficult, and almost half prefer that college students receive an education that specifically prepares them for the workplace.

Employers want more accountability from higher education institutions so their graduates leave with more practical learning experience that leads to success within the workplace.

Benedictine University incorporates a required internship or post-classroom training component within many of its degree programs.

Benedictine’s Master of Science (M.S.) in Clinical Exercise Physiology program uses a variety of teaching methods, including case studies in combination with laboratory research, to better integrate academic information with practical application. The program also requires two internships to help students apply learned concepts in a workplace setting.

“Requiring two internships allows a student to explore different options and helps determine what aspect of exercise physiology they are most passionate about,” said Regina Schurman, M.S., administrative program director and student internship coordinator with the M.S. in Clinical Exercise Physiology program. “Internships allow the student to take what they have learned in their coursework and see how it is applied in the real world. It is also an opportunity for them to learn what is required of a professional in field.

“Becoming a proficient practitioner is so much more than just having book knowledge,” she added. “The students need to develop the skills required to work with a diverse range of patients. They also need to learn how to interact appropriately with their co-workers and other health care professionals in the process of providing services to their clients and patients. Finally, internships help the students understand the realities of the workplace. Not all tasks that are performed will be exciting and engaging. There will always be paperwork and other mundane tasks that are essential to successful performance in any position.”

Benedictine Assistant Professor of Political Science Phil Hardy, Ph.D., agreed. “Professional internships prepare students for life after college,” Hardy said. “They reveal the complexities of working in a ‘real’ environment in ways that we can only imitate in the classroom. Through internships, students are able to interact with individuals who have experience and expertise across a range of respective fields.

“The internship experience nicely complements the textbook and classroom training that students receive at the University, and provides a glimpse into the natural work setting that they will encounter after finishing college,” he added. “Students who have participated in internships tend to be more prepared to enter the workforce than those who have not had an internship experience.”
Benedictine has 12 graduate programs and at least 16 undergraduate programs with internship or practical work opportunities. Benedictine impresses upon its faculty the need to reflect Benedictine traditions within their teaching philosophy as well. Faculty strive to develop a personal relationship with each student. They go the extra mile to not only ensure learning is achieved, but also that the student is developing holistically.

A challenging education that emphasizes hands-on experience helps alumni have a competitive advantage. To meet employer expectations, students must become engaged in the classroom, participate in service learning (working with outside organizations on professional projects), earn internships and participate with employment outreach, according to Rick Cali, M.B.A., associate dean of Benedictine’s College of Business.

Cali, who manages the College of Business’s internship program, said internships must be measurable and add value for both the student and employer. He encourages students to seek out ways to build experiences in college that will make them more competitive and attractive to employers.

“Participation in University clubs for leadership development and taking advantage of study abroad opportunities add value to the student experience,” Cali said.

Garnering practical, hands-on experience is the main reason a group of Benedictine sociology students traveled to Cuba this March to study international tourism and environmental sustainability.

The University implements a values-based education philosophy within its core curriculum, and strives to challenge students in academia while providing individualized care, not found at most colleges with student-teacher ratios higher than the University’s ratio of 18:1.

Other Benedictine undergraduate programs that have internship components include: the Didactic Program in Dietetics, Communication Arts, Social Science, Environmental Science, and Graphic Arts and Design. Graduate programs with internship components include the Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Health.

Although internships are not required to complete every degree, Benedictine encourages and assists students with training and placement for internal and external internships. Prominent placements include: Steve Montalto (Social Science major), who interned as a 2010-11 scheduling aide in Vice President Joe Biden’s office as part of the White House Internship Program; and Finance major Tyler Zachary’s 2011 summer internship through the J.P. Morgan Chase Finance Analyst Development Program.

In addition, students can gain practical experience in accounting through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) community service program, and participate in many study abroad opportunities, including China through the University’s Asia Institute.

But in January, Benedictine students entered this elite world during an educational exploration of the 2012 Republican Party Iowa caucuses—leaving with an insider’s view of a unique and somewhat convoluted form of voting and an indelible memory of the behind-the-scenes power plays involved in presidential politics.

Months earlier, students gained practical research experience examining the Occupy Wall Street movement in Chicago. Students and faculty researchers from Benedictine’s Political Science and Psychology/Sociology departments collected information on the perspective of the Occupy protesters through surveys and a comparative analysis of similar data collected during a 2010 survey of the Tea Party.

Read More
Read more at www.ben.edu/webextras.
Exciting Season for Eagles Basketball

The Benedictine University men’s basketball team faced adversity early in the season. Saddled with a 4-10 record after back-to-back Northern Athletics Conference (NAC) road losses in mid-January, the Eagles looked to their homecourt to reverse their fortunes.

Benedictine posted three consecutive victories in the confines of the Rice Center to spark a six-game winning streak. All three games were decided by six points or less, with one game decided in overtime. The Eagles had yet to win on the road, but they posted consecutive wins, including a victory over Milwaukee School of Engineering, that put them in a tie atop the South Division.

A 52-50 homecourt victory over Concordia University Chicago evened Benedictine’s record at 10-10. After suffering back-to-back losses on the road, including an 85-66 defeat at Dominican, the Eagles were thrust into must-win mode to keep their South Division title hopes alive. The Eagles again rose to the challenge, winning back-to-back contests.

Senior David Bernard posted the most memorable moment of the season in the regular-season finale at Aurora University. With the Eagles trailing 64-63 and just seconds remaining, Bernard swooped in and tapped home a third game-winning attempt at the buzzer to give Benedictine a 65-64 win. The victory clinched a share of the South Division crown, the Eagles’ second in a row and third in four years.

The men’s basketball team did not lose a regular-season home game to a conference opponent, and opened the conference tournament against a familiar foe in Aurora. A tight contest that featured 25 lead changes saw Benedictine claim its sixth consecutive victory over their rivals by an 86-83 score. Edgewood came calling in the tournament semifinals in a contest that was a rematch of the 2011 NAC South Division championship game. The contest featured 14 ties and 14 lead changes, but this battle of the Eagles went to the visitors, 64-60, ending Benedictine’s season at 13-14.

Nate Green became the 26th player in school history to eclipse the 1,000-point career scoring mark. Green followed that milestone with selection to the All-NAC First Team. Tim McGinty was named to the All-Freshman Team while Kyle Bickler received recognition on the All-Sportsmanship Team.

The Eagles played a tough non-conference schedule and also made a midseason trip to Las Vegas, Nev., playing a pair of games in December as part of the Vegas Hoopla.

2011-12 was a season of transition for the Benedictine University women’s basketball team. Kristen Gillespie assumed the reins as head coach with a young roster featuring 12 new faces. However, the Eagles refused to use youth as an excuse and battled to earn a berth in the NAC postseason tournament by finishing fourth in the South Division.

The Eagles were very successful on the road, but they had trouble at home until posting a 71-56 victory over Aurora on January 24. Benedictine closed the year strongly, picking up a 69-57 home win over Concordia University Chicago behind a career-best 29 points by sophomore Michelle Gaede. The win over Concordia avenged an earlier loss and was followed by a win over Rockford, officially sealing a postseason slot.

Benedictine avenged another loss by disposing of Marian University 64-60 in the NAC Challenge Game at the Rice Center. The Eagles drew defending conference champion Wisconsin Lutheran in the opening round of the tournament and played the Warriors even through 20 minutes. Benedictine trailed by just one at the break after overcoming several seven-point deficits, and lead with just over two minutes left in the frame.

Wisconsin Lutheran flexed its muscle in the second half, however, limiting Benedictine to just 18 points and streaking to the victory.

In December, Tracey Walsh became just the sixth women’s player at Benedictine to surpass the 1,000-point career mark, averaging 12.8 points per game as an Eagle. Gaede, who battled injury most of her freshman campaign, emerged during her sophomore season as one of the top players in the conference, averaging 13.2 points and 5 rebounds per game.

Walsh earned second-team All-NAC recognition. Gaede was selected as an honorable mention choice. Katie Hunzinger earned a spot on the All-Freshman Team and senior Breanne Amadio made the All-Sportsmanship Team.

Benedictine concluded the 2011-2012 season with a 10-16 record. The Eagles led the conference in free-throw percentage, visiting the line 562 times and making more than 74 percent of their attempts. On eight different occasions, Benedictine made 20 or more free throws. The Eagles also made better than 74 percent of their attempts on eight occasions.
St. Procopius Academy/College

'64 Matt Mikulich, Physics, will give a talk this May about “Global Oil Reserves” to the Society of Petroleum Engineers in Zagreb, Croatia.

'66 Glen Gabert, Ph.D., Political Science, is celebrating his 20th anniversary as president of Hudson County Community College in New Jersey. He sits on several county and community boards and taught in the History department at St. Procopius College from 1968 to 1971.

Mike Kathan, Literature and Communication, retired in 2007 after being the director of library and media for 35 years at the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University. He and his wife took college students to Athens, Rome, and Galway, Ireland, for a three-month semester of classes.

'68 Michael Turney, Ph.D., Political Science, is a professor emeritus of Communication at Northern Kentucky University. He will be working part-time for Pearson Publishing revising textbook ancillary materials.

'69 Robert Madonia, Ph.D., Biology, has been serving as the interim superintendent of Lemont-Bromberek District 113A since retiring as the district’s superintendent after more than 40 years in education. He will serve in this role until a replacement can be found. Madonia also teaches graduate classes at Concordia University.

Joe O’Donnell, Biochemistry, recently retired as executive director of the California Diary Research Foundation. He is also an ordained deacon and is contemplating earning a master’s degree in Theology.

Illinois Benedictine College

'72 Geoffrey Frasz, Ph.D., Philosophy, celebrated 20 years of service at the College of Southern Nevada where he is a professor of Philosophy. He also celebrated 15 years of marriage to his wife, Marjorie, on February 8, 2012.

'73 Lester Sawicki, D.D.S., Biology, has recently published four books titled “The Teeth Whitening Cure,” “Yin Ain’t Yang” and “Reflections On a Smile.”

'74 Tom Allen, Social Science, received an award in October 2011 for supporting St. Bartholomew Church and School. He is currently a Cook County Circuit Court judge.

LouisBUFANO, Political Science, was elected president of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors of Illinois in May 2011. He lives in Lansing, IL, with his wife, Adele. They have two sons, Louis Jr. and Adam, two stepdaughters, Shannon and Marianna, and a grandson, Vinnie.

'77 Arthur Schmidt, Business and Economics, is retired and lives in Paducah, KY.

'78 Jan M. Contento, Business and Economics, is co-author of the new book “College Leadership Crisis: The Philip Dolly Affair,” which examines business, college and daily habits.

Dale L. Cudjoe, D.Min, Music, has been appointed and consecrated as bishop in the Church of Christ (Holliness) USA. He was installed as bishop of the Northern Diocese (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Ohio) on December 3, 2011.

Bill Callahan, Physical Education, was named the offensive line/running game coordinator for the Dallas Cowboys in January.

'79 Steve Haftl, Accounting, has changed careers and is now teaching business education at St. Charles North High School.

'81 Michelle O’Grady, Biology, lives in Michigan and teaches at the University of Michigan. She is also pursuing a doctorate in Nursing Practice.

'82 Kathy Fader, Ph.D., Religious Studies, has earned a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology. She is the director of internship training at Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital.

Rosemary Laudani, Literature and Communication, is an Illinois regional field director for President Barack Obama’s re-election campaign.

Frederick F. Sinkovits, Political Science, joined First Midwest Bank in Plainfield as a commercial loan officer.

Russel Travis, Political Science, recently retired from the McDonald’s Corporation. He lives in Apple Valley, MN, and has a 6-year-old son, Adam.

John McKenna, Sociology, has been a volunteer coach for a girl’s basketball team for the last four years. The team, which has had four consecutive undefeated seasons with a total record of 151-0, appeared on the “Today” show. The interview can be seen on YouTube.

Read the story at ben.edu/webextras.

'89 Tom Stahler, Literature and Communication, won the 2011 Dean Bachelor Excellence in Automotive Journalism award for the best article of the year, “Questor Grand Prix,” published in Vintage Motor Sport Magazine.

'93 Nicole Laughridge, M.P.H., ’99, Psychology, was promoted to programs manager at MetLife. She leads a team of 14 project managers who oversee strategic initiatives impacting MetLife’s group insurance.

Rick Montalbano Jr., Spanish, is the president and executive director of Touch My Heart, USA. This organization focuses on helping the special needs community with health and social wellness.

Gary Scheiner, M.S., Clinical Exercise Physiology, is dean of Type-1 University (a web-based school of higher learning for insulin users). He runs a diabetes management practice and has published the book “Think Like A Pancreas: A Guide to Managing Diabetes With Insulin.”

Colleen (Kuzel) Millen, Literature and Communication, lives with her husband, Steve, son, Jacob, and daughter, Samantha, in northern California. She is taking classes to earn a master’s degree in Somatic Psychology and is working to become a licensed therapist.

Benedictine University

'97 James Chivilo, Political Science, is now a partner at Holland & Knight law firm. He focuses on construction law, insurance law, mechanic lien law and general commercial litigation.

Padraic Gallagher, History, is a park ranger with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. He is working to protect threatened and endangered seabirds, native Hawaiian plant restoration and environmental education.

Daneen Schroder, M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior, has been promoted to vice president of member relations and education at The Hospital & Health System Association of Pennsylvania.

Mark Watychowicz, Philosophy, and his wife Christy (Hamill) Watychowicz, C98, Political Science, work together in their law office. Mark concentrates on real estate, estate planning and business law, and Christy is the office manager.

'98 Aheed Siddiqi, M.D., Biology, his wife, Shama (and daughters Mohsin, Sakeena and Eesa), welcomed the birth of their fourth child, Haneen, on January 20.

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 Julie Nelligan at jnelligan@ben.edu today!
Three winners are randomly chosen from Class Notes to win a prize.

Latest Class Notes Winners:
- Regina Leeberg, ’99, Elementary Education
- Valerie (Clawson) Feld, ’97, Philosophy
- James Bromberek, ’84, Political Science
- Shannon (Verschoore) Voytekshovskyy, Spanish, and husband, Pavlo, welcomed daughter, Nina, on November 7, 2011.
- Katherine Obmsaskic, M.B.A., received an Award of Excellence from the Society for Technical Communication for a brochure she edited called “The Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory—Lighting the Way to a Better Tomorrow.”
- Nancy Cobb, Management and Organizational Behavior, is president and owner of a consulting firm called Partners in Possibilities, Inc. She has also written the book “The Project Management Workbook: Field-Proven Strategies for Developing Your Greatest Asset.”
- Joel Hamilton, Art Administration, portrayed Joseph in the play “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” at Naperville Central High School in January.
- Doug Wildes, Social Science, has been named assistant principal at Addison Trail High School.
- Michael Lind, Psychology, and Jennifer Riebeling, C03, Biology, were married on March 31. Lind is a clinical child psychologist at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.
- Kimberly Tarver, M.P.H., received the 2012 National Institute for Staff and Organization Development Excellence Award. She also wrote a chapter in “The Teaching Portfolio: A Practical Guide to Improved Performance and Promotion/Tenure Decisions.”
- Kate Martinez, Management and Organizational Behavior, and husband, Dan Martinez, M.B.A. ’06, welcomed their daughter, Lucy Michelle, on November 13, 2011. Deb Orr, Ph.D., Organization Development, and her husband, Fraser Smith, welcomed their second child, Dexter Robert Smith, on January 25, 2012. Orr teaches at National University of Health Sciences.
- Bridget Banash, Biochemistry, married Jay Kruger on December 31, 2011, and will graduate from Loyola University’s Stritch School of Medicine with an M.D. and Ph.D. in Virology in June 2012.
- Diane Mallett, M.S. in Management Information Systems, worked on the PeopleSoft system for Chicago Public Schools.
- Stephanie Schultz, M.D., Nutrition, earned a Doctor of Medicine degree in February and will be starting her residency in July.
- Chirskira Caillouet, Communication Arts, received the St. Sabina Young Adult Ministry’s (YAM) Group Leader of the Year, Member of the Year and Service and Charity awards in December 2011. In August, she will go on a mission trip with YAM to Kenya.
- Michele Morgan, Management, is the vice president and wealth advisor for Citizens Financial Advisors in Plano, IL.
- Tyler Benjamin, Management, and wife, Grace, welcomed their first child, Jeremiah Dean.
- Jim Balsarab, M.D., M.P.H., was promoted to Brigadier General of the 162nd Fighter Wing Arizona Air National Guard after returning from a tour in Afghanistan. He now works at the Pentagon.
- Kristina Davis, M.S. in Nutrition and Wellness, M.P.H., is a research specialist for the American Hospital Association Health Research and Educational Trust. She assists hospitals in reducing infections.
- Jennifer Green, M.S. in Clinical Exercise Physiology, is an exercise physiologist and information specialist at the National Center on Physical Activity and Disability. She creates programs to encourage physical activity for all ability levels.
- Andrea Kartalia, Social Science, works at Navistar in Lisle and has joined the talent acquisition team.
- Eric Peterson, M.B.A., has his own information technology consulting business in Morris, IL. He specializes in services for small businesses.
- Abigail Taylor, M.P.H., is the project director for an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Springfield Junior College

’48
- Oswald C. Langfelder, former board member, and Mary Langfelder, welcomed their grandson, Nicholas Aaron Frevert, on November 19, 2011. The couple resides in Springfield.

’54
- Dorothy (Davis) Doedtman, and husband, Richard, of Chatham, IL, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on November 17, 2011.

’58
- Bobby G. Chilton celebrated his 80th birthday on October 23, 2011.

Springfield College in Illinois

’68
- Ernest and Alice Antonacci, of Springfield, welcomed their granddaughter, Madeline Grace Kulek, on November 11, 2011.

’72
- Sandra (Hudgins) Brewer, and husband, Michael, welcomed their granddaughter, Pippa Lynn Gardner, on December 10, 2011.

’73
- Joseph and Barbara Bretz welcomed their granddaughter, Katelyn Emma Bretz, on November 5, 2011.

’75
- Michael and Mary Beth Farmer, of Springfield, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on November 21, 2011.

Karl Kohrs, Springfield Alumni Association board member, retired in 2010 and decided to ride his bicycle across the United States. He began his journey with his wife Christine, who drove the support van, and a friend, in January 2011 from Kyle, TX. He finished the first half of the trip on February 18 in St. Augustine, FL, having ridden 1,397 miles. On October 27, he began the second part of his trip in San Diego, CA. He rode from San Diego to Kyle, TX, where he arrived on November 27, for a total of 1,548 miles. This was the first item on his retirement “bucket-list.”

Please contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu by June 15 to collect your Benedictine prize.
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 enclose your donation in the attached contribution envelope.

Are You Receiving Duplicate Issues?

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) 829-6099.

Want to show some school spirit? Get your alumni wear today!

Visit the campus bookstore or go online to http://ben.bncollege.com.

Benedictine University at Springfield

Amy (Rubin) Lakin, an English professor at Benedictine University at Springfield, is a contributing journalist for the Springfield Scene magazine.

Benedictine University

Cassandra (Harris) Shimkus, Business Administration and M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior, and husband, Frank, welcomed a son, Frank James, on November 9, 2011.

Donald Ross, M.B.A., received the A. Raymond Eveloff Award for Clinical Excellence at Springfield Clinic in January.

Kelsie Harbin, A.A. in Business Administration, and Matthew Jensen announced their engagement on December 18, 2001.

The Keldermans family was featured in the Springfield State Journal-Register’s magazine Capital Parenting. The family includes alumni Steve Keldermans, C80, Kate (Keldermans) Tierney, C87, and Claire (Keldermans) Kramer, C99.

Robert Williams, M.S., in Management and Organizational Behavior, is the police chief of the Springfield Police Department and was featured in the State Journal-Register on January 16, 2012.

Amy Looker, Elementary Education, and Matthew Dahlkamp, announced their engagement on December 25, 2011.

In Memory

St. Procopius Academy/College

Kevin Butler, C65, passed away October 2011. He was a retired electrician.


Rev. Andrew Patak, D.D., C48, passed away December 8, 2011. He was the Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, NJ.

Doug Rhone, M.D., C65, Biology, passed away November 2011.

Gernot “Gernie” Eric Schier, retired electrician.

Lyman L. Hubbard, SJC’52, passed away January 12, 2012. He was a Tuskegee Airman in WWII and was awarded a Bronze Star and Air Medal with oak leaf clusters, a U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal and Vietnam Service Medal.

Patricia (Nolan) Beyers, SJC’53, passed away November 25, 2011.

Springfield College

Helene Rachford, SCI’70, passed away November 28, 2011.

Rebecca K. Hewitt, M.D., SCI’80, passed away August 29, 2011.
Quick Look

The latest video from Benedictine is called “Take on B.” This video plays off of the 80s hit music video by a-ha “Take on Me,” while taking a look through the University’s history. Two lucky students touring campus get taken on a great adventure through a pictorial history of the school. Here is a behind-the-scenes look at the video being filmed.

Watch the video!
www.youtube.com/benu1887
www.vimeo.com/benu1887

Pass it on.
Enjoy a great concert in an intimate venue for a very good price!

The day will also include the Eagle Walk (welcoming incoming freshman) and the Annual Alumni Picnic with fun for the whole family. Sports Complex gates open for the concert at 6:00 p.m. Concert begins at 7:00 p.m. Don’t miss the chance to hear popular music live in this great, convenient setting!

Featuring: Band to be announced soon. Go to www.ben.edu/benfest.

For more BenFest and ticket information go to www.ben.edu/benfest.

4:00-4:45 p.m.*
Eagle Walk Event
Welcome the incoming freshman class.
*Alumni volunteers meet in front of Lownik Hall at 3:45 p.m.

4:00 p.m.
Alumni/Student Picnic & Entertainment
Fun for the whole family.

7:00 p.m.
Concert
Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex

Homecoming 2012—Plan on coming back
In celebration of our 125th Anniversary, please join us at the Homecoming festivities September 14-16, 2012. Visit our website to learn more—www.ben.edu/homecoming.

Upcoming Alumni Events

**June 25**
18th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing

**July 15**
Alumni Day at Wrigley Field

**August 18**
Alumni Football Reunion

**August 25**
BenFest and Alumni Picnic

**August 26**
Men’s and Women’s Alumni Soccer Game and Reunion

**September 14-16**
Homecoming and Class Reunions

Watch it! Share it!

Featured on NBC 5 Chicago’s morning news.

Our Latest Video is Here!

Catch the spirit at
www.youtube.com/benu1887
www.vimeo.com/benu1887

*(mobile viewing)*

*For ward to your friends and family!

**Benedictine University**
You can call John McKenna the grammar school version of NBA coach Phil Jackson. In fact, he’s been so successful, you can compare his team to the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins.

Like Jackson and the Dolphins, McKenna, C’82, has thrived—so much so that the 10-player girl’s basketball team he coaches at St. Celestine Catholic school in Elmwood Park has had four consecutive perfect seasons, including this year when the team won the Illinois Elementary School Association 8th Grade Class 1A state championship, totaling 151 wins and 0 losses. McKenna’s youngest daughter, Annie, also plays on the team.

When McKenna is not rushing off to an emergency as a fireman or paramedic for the Village of Oak Park, he’s on the court at St. Celestine. Annie is the youngest of five McKennas to attend St. Celestine where their father has served as coach the last 17 years.

The team’s record garnered local and national media attention. McKenna and the team were interviewed by CBS 2 Chicago Sports Anchor Megan Mawicke. The segment later appeared on CNN and the team was interviewed again on the “Today” show.

“We’re very proud of them (the girls),” McKenna said on the “Today” show. “We keep things in perspective. We know this is grammar school basketball and the objective is to have fun and have a great experience. The high schools and colleges and pros—they measure their success by the titles and championships. We measure our success by the smiles on the girls’ faces.”

Since then, the team has received honors from Elmwood Park and the Illinois Legislature.

“It’s been a great experience for 13 to 14-year-old girls,” McKenna said. “It’s a feather in their cap that no one will ever be able to take away from them.”

McKenna said he stepped up to volunteer at St. Celestine to help a school that depends greatly on parent volunteers to run extracurricular activities.

“Not every team is able to reach that type of success, but they all strive to achieve it,” McKenna said. “The reward for me is in the journey along the way and that’s why I volunteer.”

McKenna said he looks back fondly on his days at Benedictine University, which he said helped reinforce his ethics, beliefs and decisions throughout his life.

“I remember the football team attending pre-game Mass on game days, which reminded us there was something more important than the football game,” McKenna said. “St. Celestine, Benedictine University and all Catholic schools provide a solid foundation based on ethical beliefs. Character and integrity are more important than wins and losses, but I’ll have to admit it’s nice to have both.”
Center for Lifelong Learning Focuses on Enrichment for Seniors

“Education in our times must try to find whatever there is in students that might yearn for completion and to reconstruct the learning that would enable them autonomously to seek completion.”

— Allan Bloom

The above quote sums up the role and purpose of Benedictine University’s Moser College of Adult and Professional Studies Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL). The center’s faculty and staff have reconstructed learning to provide a unique opportunity for senior citizens to access quality education, enrichment and social networking opportunities. The learning experience at the center is unique in that it is specifically designed to meet the learning needs of the older adult (age 55 and older). There are multiple learning options available, including participatory classes, arts and crafts, educational trips, special events and opportunities to meet new friends. As life progresses, older adults continue to develop their own perspective and curiosities. These questions may be the same as those in our youth, but the answers are not necessarily the same. Thus, the need for the CLL.

In this new learning context, there are no grades, tests or admission requirements. The only criteria we ask of our adult students is a desire to learn, inform, reflect, contribute and share with others. The CLL at Benedictine University provides the vehicle to accomplish this.

During the past year, the center enrolled more than 350 participants in 32 courses. Students took courses ranging from history, finance and computers, to politics, current events and religion. Our adult students ventured outside the classroom on two inspirational field trips, where they were addressed by a Holocaust survivor at the Holocaust Museum in Skokie, and visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. Both trips were part of specific courses covering the Holocaust and Lincoln.

The CLL operates on a trimester schedule and offers different courses every four months. Students may opt to take single-session or multiple-session courses. To connect students with similar interests, the center also sponsors social networking events. To date, we’ve had single-session events discussing how to protect oneself from identity theft, and on various facets of the American Civil War. Course participation and attendance at center-sanctioned events has exceeded expectations, continues to grow and our students have told us in responses and evaluations that they enjoy our offerings. We have clearly uncovered a significant area of need in the senior citizen population.

In a short time, the CLL has expanded, offering more than 20 courses, and this summer we plan to offer classes in digital photography, painting with watercolors, the U.S. presidency, the Holocaust, literature, Shakespeare, art appreciation, writing, computer literacy, and the 1960s. There will also be several social networking opportunities and events of interests to seniors.

The CLL partners with local retirement and residential communities to offer courses at Villa St. Benedict, Oak Trace and Asbury Gardens, as well as the Lisle Park District. These courses are open to the public and are advertised in our program schedule.

A critical consideration in participating in any type of educational and enrichment program is cost. The CLL prides itself on maintaining affordable rates for every course. Multi-session courses are $25 per course, and single-session courses or presentations are $10 (not including material costs and trip fees).

Benedictine is committed to providing quality educational opportunities for the learning communities in which it serves, and the CLL is an essential part of that commitment. We recognize that our older adult learners have a wealth of knowledge, experience and wisdom and the CLL serves as the focal point for sharing that wealth. For further information, go online to www.ben.edu/LifelongLearning or call (630) 829-1384.

— Michael Carroll, Ph.D., Dean, Moser College
Dumpling-making, kung fu-fighting, guzheng-playing and costume-wearing were just a few of the activities that amazed, thrilled and educated friends and neighbors at Benedictine University’s Asia Institute’s fifth annual “Festival of Asia.”

The Festival of Asia is a rich, exciting and entertaining experience that showcases Asian culture and tradition. Held in the Krasa Student Center in January, the festival included authentic Asian cuisine, live music, martial arts, and an Asian costume fashion show and contest.

The fashion show and costume contest featured Benedictine students, faculty and staff garbed in traditional Asian wear, including Chinese Qipao, Japanese kimono and Vietnamese dress.

“China has 56 ethnic minority groups and each of them has a very distinctive costume style,” said Elsie Yuan, director of the Asia Institute at Benedictine.

Master Yang Chen, an expert in Shaolin-style kung fu, and students from the Illinois Shaolin Kung Fu School demonstrated several different types of authentic kung fu. The group delighted the crowd, which gave several enthusiastic rounds of applause during the demonstrations.

“Kung fu in particular and martial arts in general are popular in Asia because not only do they maximize a person’s potential to protect themselves from harm, they also make a person’s mind stronger and give them more confidence and optimism,” said Amanda Schmidt, administrative assistant at the Asia Institute.

Two Benedictine students who received Chinese Government Scholarships to study in China for a semester shared their experiences, and Chinese language students from Naperville Central and Naperville North High schools performed and participated in the fashion competition.

The festival included displays of Asian art and musicianship, including a performance on a traditional Chinese instrument called a Guzheng by Benedictine University student Yingbo He. He is a student in the Master of Science in Accountancy program who has been playing the guzheng since 1998.
Imagine having the chance to hobnob with the “who’s who” of national media, political insiders and powerful lobbyists.

Such engagements are usually relegated to the likes of celebrities or the rich—not college students.

But in January, five Benedictine University students entered this elite world during an educational exploration of the 2012 Republican Party Iowa caucuses—leaving with an insider’s view of a unique and somewhat convoluted form of voting and an indelible memory of the behind-the-scenes power plays involved in presidential politics.

Due to political reforms since 1972, the Iowa caucuses have become more influential in determining a nominee for the presidential candidacy of the United States.

“It was important for students to see the nature of the caucus’s function versus a primary,” said Phil Hardy, Ph.D., assistant professor of Political Science at Benedictine University. “It was interesting for students to see the artificial and manufactured nature of news media and the way they conduct interviews and the way a company tries to use media.”

Hardy, who led the expedition, said the experience gave students invaluable insight, allowing them to relate concepts studied in class with the unspoken political maneuvering that plays out on the campaign trail.

Students rubbed elbows with national media journalists including NBC’s “Meet the Press’s” David Gregory and CBS’s “Face the Nation’s” Bob Schieffer. Students also attended Ron Paul’s press conference and Mitt Romney’s short-lived “victory” party after officials re-tallied votes and declared Rick Santorum the official winner.

“I attended the Iowa caucuses because I’m a bit of a political junkie, and I felt that it would be a rare opportunity to be a part of history,” said junior Chris Follert. “As a Political Science major, I thought it would be a great chance for me to observe the political process and gain insight on any possible careers in the political field.”

Some students felt the Iowa caucuses were like a blowout during the Super Bowl with all the media focus on the event.

“In my opinion the process was messy. People seemed confused, since they were approached by candidates and representatives that were campaigning at the caucus location,” said Thais Molina, a senior Political Science and International Business major.

Learning the difference between a primary and caucus was a valuable experience, but some students had trouble accepting how much of the process is decided well before votes are cast.

“I learned that the political establishment runs a little too much,” said Plainfield resident Abdon Madrigal, a recent Political Science graduate. “I am a Ron Paul supporter and I had to grit my teeth more than a few times. For example, we were at a Politico event hosted by a number of political anchors, reporters and the governor of Iowa. It was so frustrating to hear things like ‘Even if Ron Paul won first place, it would be a victory for Romney.’

“It was so hard for me to hold back my tongue and not yell ‘this is not democracy!’ Before any votes were cast, every member of the establishment is writing my guy off, calling all of his supporters libertarians and displeased Obama supporters. Talk about stereotyping. It was clear that powerful people wanted Romney to win,” Madrigal added.

Students were surprised they were able to meet with candidates in person and members of the news media—particularly CNN anchor Anderson Cooper.

“I’m a big fan,” said Molina. “He was very nice and posed for a photo with us.”

Months earlier, some of the same students gained practical research experience examining the Occupy Wall Street movement in Chicago. Students and faculty researchers from Benedictine’s Political Science and Psychology and Sociology departments collected information on the perspective of the
Occupy protestors through surveys and a comparative analysis of similar data collected during a 2010 survey of the Tea Party.

Though the group of 139 Occupy Chicago protestors identified themselves as liberal democrats, many were not happy with President Barack Obama’s policies, particularly the handling of the economy. Seventy-five percent said they believe Obama’s policies only favor the rich and 84 percent of Occupy Chicago protestors polled think Americans who make more than $250,000 should pay more taxes.

With the presidential election months away, President Obama will be challenged to translate his sympathy for the Occupy movement into votes after protestors gave Obama a 33 percent job approval rate. They cited Obama’s handling of the economy and attempt at nationalized health care as major disapproval points.

However, Occupy Chicago, of which 77 percent of protestors reported being registered voters, primarily blame Wall Street, the Bush Administration and Congress for the U.S. economic crisis. Along with the GOP and Tea Party, banks and multinational corporations scrape the bottom of the popularity barrel, according to protestors.

The survey also indicates Occupy protestors regard talk show host Jon Stewart as king, followed by unions.

While most Occupy protestors expressed dislike for the Republican Party and Tea Party, 56 percent of respondents agreed with members of the GOP for criticizing the decision to bail out the auto industry.

One surprising finding revealed 58 percent of Occupy protestors believe violence is sometimes necessary against the government. In the previous Tea Party study, 25 percent of people felt violence against the government was necessary on occasion.

If protests don’t remain peaceful, Hardy questions whether Obama, liberal Democrats and moderate Republicans would be willing to align themselves with the Occupy movement.

“If it stays non-violent and they have a reasonable message, then I would expect to see some sympathy, at least from the Democrats as we (get closer to the election) particularly if you see more labor, firefighters, police officers, nurses and teachers align themselves with the movement,” Hardy said.

The Tea Party movement was attributed with garnering enough momentum to affect the outcome of the 2010 midterm elections, handing the Congressional majority over to the Republican Party. The impact of the Occupy movement on the presidential election remains to be seen, Hardy said.
Benedictine University received its fifth scholarship grant in 2011 for the Arthur J. Schmitt Future Leaders Development Program developed by the College of Business’s Center for Values-Driven Leadership (CVDL).

The 10 scholarships from the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation are for students in any major, at or above sophomore status, with a 3.00 or better grade point average.

Each scholar must demonstrate moral and academic leadership, and develop goals to make a long-term positive impact on society. To date, the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation has awarded 39 scholarships for Future Leaders totaling $170,000.

The CVDL custom-designed the Schmitt Future Leaders Development Program for undergraduate students to learn leading best practices in values-driven leadership. Each Schmitt Scholar completes more than 20 hours of interactive learning in workshops, plus continuous mentoring throughout the academic year. Individuals and teams select, design, implement and evaluate a major service learning project to achieve leadership goals that go beyond students’ current skills and leadership experience. The program culminates with a formal presentation to the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation board, University deans, advisors, and parents. Each scholar receives an evaluation on the presentation from College of Business faculty and program leaders and submits a reflective evaluation on their leadership development.

Thus far, Schmitt Scholars have completed 24 service projects as individuals or with another scholar, impacting 104 children, 32 high school students, 14 non-scholar college students and 12 regional non-profit organizations, including Benedictine University.

After completing the Arthur J. Schmitt Leadership program, scholars reported improvement in the following key leadership abilities and skills:

- Experience and extensive planning
- Communicating for results
- Working successfully in a group setting
- Expressing and sharing ideas with others and soliciting feedback
- Developing and acting with confidence
- Leading by example
- Developing leadership that transcends academic majors

Here’s what our Schmitt Scholars have to say about the program:

“It helped me show my leadership skills to others, and showed me how to use my leadership skills on campus to make the Catholic identity grow on campus, which I now do in teaching…I know that this is what God wants me to do now.”

“Understanding servant leadership gave me an example I could follow with others: listening, broadening my horizons and working with other leaders.”

“The program taught me the importance of giving my all to my attempts…it may prove long and stressful at times, but the effort is always worth the end result.”

“I learned that people have different leadership styles, and I learned how to work better with diverse personalities.”