Teaching Excellence

Enhancing Student Learning

Benedictine Voices
The News from Benedictine University

Spring 2011
The Highest and Most Noble People

Several years ago, Hallmark Cards developed a commercial in which a retiring professor is visited by one of his former students. At first, he seemed puzzled by who she was since it had obviously been many years since he had taught her. The dialog went something like this:

“I was a student of yours awhile ago and I heard you were retiring. I stopped by to give you something.” At this point, she presented him a card that read: “Who in their life hasn’t planted a seed just hoping that somehow something would grow? You may not remember all the things that you’ve done, but everywhere around you seeds are growing and people are blooming. I know, I am one of them.”

When the card was finished, the professor, with a wry smile, announced the name of a paper the student had done in his class and her name, Hooper. As she was leaving, he asked her “Hooper—so, what did you grow up to be? An investment banker, a lawyer, a physician?” She responded, “I am a teacher.” The professor was frozen in an unspoken sense of pride and humility. This is as good as it gets.

Every time I view this commercial, I end up with goosebumps. There is no greater reward for what you do than to have someone want to emulate it. As a former teacher, I often wonder how many of my students became teachers.

In this issue of Voices, we celebrate our Benedictine teaching tradition that has been so strong throughout the history of this institution. The main article is on teacher excellence and enhancing student learning with input from the deans and directors, as well as some input from alumni who have sent us stories about teachers that made a difference in their lives.

(To read all the stories, go online to www.ben.edu/voices.)

Imagine for every one of the St. Procopius—Illinois Benedictine College—Benedictine University teachers both in the classroom here and spreading to classrooms (K-16+) throughout the world, the thousands of seeds that have been planted and are now blooming.

Through teachers, our culture, knowledge, traditions and faith are passed to the next generation. Without teachers, the world would be a very sad and unruly place. I continue to believe that the highest and most noble person is the one who teaches another. So as you read this edition of Voices in celebration of teachers, perhaps like Hooper in the Hallmark commercial, there is a teacher you need to thank.

WILLIAM J. CARROLL, PRESIDENT

Benedictine University is primarily a teaching university, and as such, we are committed to providing excellent teaching in order to support student learning. Although students play a primary role in their own learning, Benedictine recognizes the pivotal role teachers play in guiding the students’ learning process.

When hiring faculty, programs across the University seek candidates who not only have a strong record of scholarship, but, equally if not more importantly, candidates whose teaching philosophy, experience and materials communicate a passion for the profession of teaching.
This passion for teaching is evident at Benedictine in the dedication of faculty members who consistently strive to develop student-centered classes that actively engage students in the disciplines they study. It is evident in the many hours that Benedictine faculty spend working one-on-one with students, either conducting joint research or assisting students who seek additional help with coursework. It is evident in the attention paid by programs across the University to curricular design that is relevant and regularly updated to incorporate best teaching practices and appropriate technologies that will enhance student learning. It is evident in the many Benedictine faculty members who regularly engage in critical reflection on their teaching practices and participate in professional development workshops on campus or at local, national and international conferences.

The members of the Benedictine faculty, in turn, require the support of the University as they work toward constant improvement of their teaching. To further the tradition of teaching excellence at Benedictine, Provost Don Taylor, Ph.D., established the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE) in 2008. It is described as being “Guided by the work of Ernest Boyer and fosters the scholarship of teaching. Thus, the goals of the Center include providing dialogue and professional development opportunities in areas of curricular design, development, teaching methods and assessment for fostering reflective critiques, informed practice, scholarly investigations into teaching practices, accountability to students and the public, and scholarly works.”

Since its inception, the CTLE has engaged in a variety of activities designed to promote excellent teaching and student learning at Benedictine. These include a series of faculty workshops based on the award-winning book, “What The Best College Teachers Do,” by Ken Bain, Ph.D. During these workshops, a group of faculty met to discuss the best practices described in Bain’s book as well as to share their own successful teaching strategies and practices. The CTLE has also sought to address ways to support the learning of our students who face particular challenges in pursuing a university education. To this end, the CTLE sponsored a workshop led by associate professor and ESL specialist Sandra Kies, Ph.D., titled “Teaching the Generation 1.5 Student.” In this workshop, Kies presented to the faculty participants the challenges faced by bilingual students who have grown up in a home where a language other than English is spoken. She introduced teaching strategies and practices designed to enable these students to have successful academic careers at Benedictine that will prepare them for success in their future professional careers.

Benedictine also recognizes the important role of technology in excellent teaching and effective learning. Therefore, through the CTLE, faculty members have access to current technologies such as tablet computers, Kindles and iPads. Individual faculty members are given these devices to use and experiment with in order to explore their applications to teaching and learning. The CTLE also provides the faculty with support that will enable them to learn and effectively use Benedictine’s recently adopted learning management system, Desire2Learn.

Currently, the CTLE is involved in the development of learning communities at Benedictine and particularly in integrating learning communities with Student Life. Learning communities have been identified by the Association of American Colleges and Universities Liberal Education and America’s Promise (AAC&U LEAP) initiative as a high-impact educational practice. We are interested in exploring how learning communities might contribute to the integration of academics and student life, and how we are developing or might develop learning communities to improve teaching and learning at Benedictine. Early examples of learning communities at Benedictine can be found in the long-standing Scholars Program and the International House residence recently designed and piloted by Immigration Specialist and Program Coordinator John Leedock and Associate Dean of Residence Life Zeina Abusoud. Our goal is to develop these programs more fully as learning communities and to pilot additional learning communities in the coming academic year built around the themes of interreligious dialogue, global citizenship and environmental stewardship. To assist us in this endeavor, a team from the University composed of faculty, administrators, and Student Life staff applied and has been accepted to participate in the 2011 National Summer Institute at the Washington Center of the Evergreen State College, an institution recognized nationally for its leadership in the development of learning communities at colleges and universities.

In its efforts to support student learning at Benedictine, the CTLE recognizes that our students have a variety of learning styles and academic needs, and to respond to those needs excellent teaching also requires a wide variety of strategies and practices. A closer look at the initiatives and successes of various programs across the University clearly reveals what teaching excellence means at Benedictine and the positive impact that our long tradition of teaching excellence has had on our students’ learning.

Beth Vinkler, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence
Our historical mission as Benedictines requires us to maintain teaching excellence. This legacy is very present, as recently validated by two major research studies. The LEAP Report (“College Learning for the New Global Century: A Report from the National Leadership Council for Liberal Education and America’s Promise,” by The Association of American Colleges and Universities, 2007) identifies essential learning outcomes, which have been particularly endorsed by business leaders. Business leaders want “T-shaped students” who integrate specialized skills with general management (communication, teamwork, analytics) and personal traits (self-discipline, faith, positive thinking, social responsibility, etc.).

A second initiative is the United Nations Global Compact Principles for Responsible Management Education. In this effort, business schools commit to develop socially responsible leaders to help save our planet by harnessing the capacities of nations with global business. The College of Business is a signatory to this initiative and will conduct its third faculty workshop in June to advance these important practices into the business curricula.

The faculty incorporate an artful blend of skills associated with teaching excellence along with their professional experience and disciplinary expertise. Smaller classes allow faculty members to know their students by name, so they feel a part of the class. They use a lot of team-based learning in business and marketing plans, and in initiatives such as the Volunteers Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, where student teams help low-income families by completing income tax returns. Both undergraduate and graduate classes use business simulations, case studies, role plays and presentations, often with external business leaders as evaluators.

Faculty members ask students to do more than just memorize—they expect critical thinking and reflective applications of assignments to one’s life and career aspirations. Business students are assessed on their individual skills and competence as well, and some have won national awards on licensure exams, such as the CPA examination. Students also provide feedback to each other in classes, and many students tutor others, such as in economics and accounting. There are about 30 internships a year to which students can apply in order to boost their learning in business settings.

Charles Gabala, Ph.D.: Energy and Knowledge
Throughout my entire education, Dr. Gabala was the best teacher I ever had. No one had the amount of sheer energy plus the ability to clearly teach difficult concepts in finance greater than Dr. Gabala. What I learned in his class, especially Managerial Finance I and II, I still use on a frequent basis. With the passing of years, other memories of classes and teachers have faded, but not what he taught, and more importantly, how he taught. Difficult subjects (not present values, the capital asset pricing model, the efficient market theory, etc.) were presented with humor and with simplicity, all from overheads.

After I graduated from IBC, I attended and graduated from the University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business. Its M.B.A. program in Finance is often ranked best in the country. As outstanding as their Finance classes and professors were, no one matched Dr. Gabala. What I have learned, I learned first and best from him.

MARK MIKLOSZ, BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS, C86

John Draut: M.B.A. Teachers Make the Difference
I had several classes with John Draut, and he always made himself available for questions, whether they were about starting a business or encouraging my actions in and out of the classroom (similar interest was shown by Tom Yu and Jim Zoda). His blend of humor, knowledge and ability to challenge me made for an appealing combination.

While I single out Mr. Draut, I have a very high opinion of the BenU M.B.A. program and those I encountered during my time in it. I am very happy that I went through the program and I am grateful for how it changed my life.

MARK KOZAK, M.B.A. ’10

Beyond the Classroom
Faculty members actively advise students about career choices and engage students in career-related conferences, professional meetings, internship opportunities and networking events in all undergraduate and graduate programs.

SANDRA GILL, PH.D., DEAN
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Solving Real World Problems

I received a request asking if my EDUC 318 (Elementary Science Methods) students could assist car manufacturers in identifying popular car colors for college students. That request posed a very unique learning opportunity for EDUC 318 students to use data to solve real-world problems. In class, students used cell phones to text their hypothesis of popular car colors. On the class screen, different colors were polled and graphed instantaneously with black and silver as top colors. Could this color assumption be a fact or an opinion? To test the hypothesis, students were asked to collect car color data on campus. In teams of two, students visited all the campus parking lots and car data was processed using Microsoft Excel. To everyone’s pleasant surprise, the top two colors were found to be black and white, thus the initial car color hypothesis was supported. Possible variables affecting the data interpretation such as sample size and car ownership were thoroughly discussed related to sources of error. Students used cell phone text messages, field data collection and computerized data processing to solve problems to reinforce the notion that meaningful learning needs engaging experiences with real-world application.

OVID K. WONG, PH.D.

Steven Fry: Experience and Compassion

While I had many professors at Benedictine who helped me get to where I am today, there is one professor who especially stood out to me. Mr. Steven Fry taught many of my special education courses, and it was his passion for this population that taught me so much. Mr. Fry has an extensive background in this field, and he was able to apply his personal experiences to his teaching. Not only did I gain information from the textbook, but I learned about real-life situations and ideas that I am able to apply to my own personal teaching style. I can only hope that as I continue my career in this field, that I will gain as much knowledge and continue to have as much compassion as Mr. Fry does for this extraordinary population of individuals.

MEGHAN PETTERSON, SPECIAL EDUCATION, C08

An excellent teacher is an expert and practitioner of what is taught. It is not sufficient to just know the content of the course, because if teaching is like reproducing copies, then there will be a decrease in clarity in each generation of those copies. So the teacher needs to represent the field of study as a professional in that field. Second, the teacher needs to be committed to bringing the student up to the same level of expertise, step-by-step; recognizing that such development may take years. And finally, the teacher must also be an expert in the elements of teaching. Presentation by lecture, discussion, laboratories and discussion, as well as in the new technological and online formats, are equally essential today.

In the College of Education and Health Services, I can point to the development of professional dispositions that show students how a professional in the field prepares, performs and accounts for activities. I would cite the many opportunities to serve as professionals do in community service, field experiences and student organizations.

Students generally have no idea of their own personal or professional potential. Even the teacher never knows exactly. Therefore, until proven otherwise, each teacher must teach as though every student can rise to a high level and devise multiple strategies so that this might occur.

Ovid Wong, Ph.D., of the School of Education, is able to work seamlessly in scholarly and practical realms. He is an individual who conceives of a question or issue and soon incorporates that line of inquiry into his courses. Typically, this results in a published book at the rate of one per year. Dr. Wong, whose primary field is science education and who has published some 20 volumes in this area, also has investigated how ancient Chinese philosophy of war has applications in modern teaching, how school finance can be improved in this era of scarcity and how schools can excel even in the absence of the best resources.

ALAN GORR, PH.D., DEAN
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES

Read More
Find more alumni remembrances of favorite teachers (and add your own) at www.ben.edu/voices/favorites.
William Scarlato, Ph.D.: Inspiring a Passion for Art

When I was an undergraduate I was a political science (pre-law) major but always had a passion for art. I decided to take Oil Painting with Professor William Scarlato, thinking it would be a “fun” creative class. I quickly realized that I was the only non-art major in the class, and it was going to take a lot of work on my part to keep up. While the others already had a foundation in art, I was new to the discipline. But Professor Scarlato was so patient and kind, he made sure to give me extra time and attention, and soon I felt like I actually belonged in the class. There is no doubt that he is an artistic genius, but he made sure to find little ways to inspire us each session. Halfway through the course, I became confident in my ability and didn’t cringe when he put my paintings in the center of the room for critique. I still use the techniques I learned in his class. He inspired me to continue to pursue art as a passion. I still have the six oil paintings I created in his class—my parents have them proudly displayed in their home.

KAVITA CHOPRA ATHANIKAR, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SPANISH, C98

Tammy Sarver, Ph.D.: Encouraging and Supportive

I was homeschooled from kindergarten through high school, so when I started college, I was afraid I might flunk out. In her Law and Politics Class, Tammy Sarver encouraged us to talk, discuss, debate and argue everything, and I quit being a shy homeschooled kid and I found a voice—she is the reason I am now an attorney.

I began answering what I thought were the easy questions, and after awhile people began asking me for help with their homework. I took all my pre-law classes I could take and participated in the Mock Trial team, graduated college and went on to attend The John Marshall Law School.

Now I am working for a solo practitioner in Chicago, handling employment law and civil rights cases. I will begin training with the Judge Advocate General’s Corps in July and I will serve in the Army as a Reservist, providing legal representation for wounded soldiers as they appear before their medical boards.

Tammy has been supportive of me for as long as I’ve known her. Her approach to teaching law is irreverent, offbeat and fun for everyone involved. If I had not learned the things she taught me, I would have been intimidated by law school. She provided a tremendous start to me and to a number of other students.

JESSICA HERDRICH, 1st LT RES
POLITICAL SCIENCE, C06

Benedictine University is a “teaching” institution. This means that, while an active research agenda and professional development are very important components of the faculty’s responsibilities, their most important task is making sure students learn. This approach allows us to have very different dynamics from those at other institutions where research is the top priority for faculty advancement and evaluation.

An excellent teacher has depth of preparation, effective pedagogies, genuine interest and commitment to student learning and passion.

Liberal Arts faculty members work side-by-side with students in all departments and programs. They advise and mentor their students throughout their time at Benedictine and beyond. The comments from graduates who return for departmental functions and remain in touch with their professors are evidence of their appreciation for the guidance they received toward the fulfillment of their personal and professional goals.

While teachers can certainly have profound influence in a student’s success, I am a firm believer in personal responsibility and the ability to address negative situations. Students have opportunities to evaluate their professors and point out obvious shortcomings so they can be addressed appropriately. However, I also believe that an excellent teacher is uniquely positioned to effect positive change in students’ lives. Speaking for myself, I know I owe much to my wonderful college professors who, many years ago, taught me through their examples the importance of values that still guide me today.

We have a growing interest in faculty/student research exemplified through structured practice as well as summer projects. Faculty in the social sciences and humanities encourage students to present at conferences with many presentations shared by faculty and students. We also have faculty members who have designed and lead programs that are open to majors as well as students from other colleges. Two examples are the Model United Nations and the annual international experiences carefully designed and implemented by Jack Thornburg, Ph.D. Our Global Studies faculty has reached out to faculty in all areas in their efforts to bring internationalized curricula to all types of students. The Literature faculty and students organize powerful Poetry Slam and Open Mic events so students and faculty can present their creative endeavors in a shared medium. This is only a brief summary of the outstanding efforts of faculty across all the programs as they constantly strive to provide students with opportunities to integrate, apply and reflect on their learning experiences.

MARIA DE LA CAMARA, PH.D., DEAN
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
Rather than emphasizing teaching excellence as it pertains to a university, our focus is on enhancing student learning within the University. This puts the emphasis on outcomes for students.

Excellent teaching uses a variety of approaches to promote student achievement of the learning outcomes identified for each course, major program and degree. These include general education learning outcomes as well as program-specific outcomes. One common feature of Benedictine programs is the inclusion of a suitable culminating capstone experience where students demonstrate that they have integrated the learning that takes place through the variety of distinct experiences that are part of a degree program. Excellent teaching, then, is teaching that promotes and maximizes this integrated learning.

Being a teaching-oriented institution means that faculty members have a primary commitment to teaching and that their research experience informs and enhances their teaching, rather than the other way around. Our typical class sizes allow faculty to get to know their students and to develop teaching strategies to meet the learning styles of a variety of students who might be enrolled in a particular class.

Excellent teachers start with content expertise. That alone is insufficient, however, since a teacher needs to be an effective communicator of the course content. Excellent teachers organize classroom and out-of-class experiences to promote the desired learning outcomes. These activities engage the students, helping them develop their ability to think critically, write and speak cogently, and integrate new knowledge with the knowledge gained from prior experiences.

One key characteristic common across disciplines is the obvious enthusiasm that excellent teachers exhibit both in and out of the classroom.

Capable, enthusiastic, excellent teaching can increase the engagement of students in their classes. Engaged students are likely to be successful students. Successful students are likely to complete their degrees.

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Encouraging Student Interaction/Thinking

Tegrity is a lecture capture system that records activity on a computer screen. In the classroom, I combine this with a Tablet PC which allows me to write directly on the presentation to highlight specific parts of an image, diagram or even parts of computer simulations that are helpful in illuminating complicated topics. Once the presentation is recorded, it is uploaded to a website where students can review it outside of class. This way, students don’t have to worry about writing everything down in class and can concentrate of the activity at hand.

This works well with activity-based teaching techniques which encourage the students to interact with each other. One way to see if you really understand a topic is to learn how to explain it to someone else. For example, one method I use called Interactive Lecture Demonstrations involves the use of equipment and computer simulations to demonstrate physics concepts. These are not just shows, but guided activities where students make and discuss predictions which are followed by observations of the experiment and a discussion of the results. The goal is to get the students talking and thinking about a subject instead of just watching a show. It moves the learning experience away from the front of the class and into the seats.

ANDREW WIGG, PH.D.

Finding Methods to Improve Student Performance

The Computer Science faculty determined some years ago that the success rate in our first major course, Introduction to Computer Programming (CS1), was lower than desired, as was the proportion of students in that course who selected Computer Science (CS) or Computer Information Systems (CIS) as their major. We introduced a new course, Introduction to Computer Science (CS0), made it a prerequisite for CS1 and required it of all prospective CS and CIS majors.

In order to actually analyze what happened, we tracked student performance and major selection, both before the change was introduced and after. Three years of data collection and analysis proved that student performance in CS1 improved on two different measures—proportion of students earning “A,” “B” or “C,” and the proportion of students earning “A” or “B” (doing very well in CS1). In both cases, the difference in performance was statistically significant at very low p-values (62 to 80 percent, and 43 to 74 percent). The proportion of students who declared CS or CIS majors also improved by the introduction of CS0; the overall proportion moved from 51 to 69 percent and was statistically significant.

KEVIN DOYLE, PH.D.

Clickers in Classrooms

Personal student response systems (or “clickers”) are a way for an instructor to increase student involvement in even the largest of lecture halls. Even in a small class, students are able to respond to questions in a way that is anonymous, with only cumulative responses shown to the entire class, allowing even the shyest students to have a voice. Each student has a remote-control-like device that they use to respond to questions—usually multiple choice but sometimes true/false or numeric—given by the instructor during class. Instructors can use these questions to facilitate peer discussion during class time and increase the students’ perception of being engaged with the material.

CHERYL HEINZ, PH.D.
All of our students at Moser are adults, and almost all of our instructors are adjunct faculty members. Though these teachers are not educators by trade, they are practitioners in their respective fields. They bring their real world experience into the classroom. Our teachers effectively facilitate learning strategies that focus on adults, which is the definition of andragogy.

Being a Benedictine institution further requires us to educate the whole person based on the hallmarks of St. Benedict.

Our commitment is to provide an educational setting where our students will be transformed in mind, body and spirit.

An excellent teacher is one who has the wherewithal to focus on student learning rather than teaching the students. This gets back to the notion of andragogy. An excellent teacher creates learning opportunities that allow for student discovery. They are going to facilitate and guide the student to excellent learning.

Our faculty members need to have a commitment to students, thorough knowledge in the field or discipline in which they are teaching and an overall concern for the student. If a teacher doesn’t have compassion and empathy for and with students, the experience becomes a stale lifeless exchange of information. Students can tell pretty quickly if a teacher or institution does not care about them. This is how a university distinguishes itself from others and makes the attainment of a degree more than a commodity.

At Moser, we have recently introduced a rich and structured faculty development program for our adjuncts. As part of this process, a higher level of adjunct position (senior lecturer) has been created. Certain levels of student satisfaction, classroom observation and participation in at least two faculty development activities a year will be required for senior lecturer status.

MICHAEL CARROLL, PH.D., DEAN
MOSER COLLEGE OF ADULT AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Asia Institute

In the Asia Institute, an excellent teacher has the requisite academic requirements, practical application experience, an understanding of the Asian culture, and the ability to craft courses that are relevant to the existing environment in Asia and in anticipation of the future needs of the students to operate in a global environment. For example, teachers develop syllabi using Chinese or Vietnamese companies and organizations in the course and not just Western examples often included in the textbooks. They also spend extra time and effort to assist students in actual situations they are finding in their current organizations.

The quality of the teacher has a significant impact on the success of the learning experience and the future success of our programs. Our Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) and Master of Science in Management and Information Systems (M.S.M.I.S.) programs receive many new students based on the results that previous students have achieved. Word of mouth and feedback to our partner universities provide the best publicity to encourage future students to choose BenU.

KEVIN DOYLE, PH.D.

Staying on the Forefront of Teaching: Pedagogy Conferences

Benedictine faculty members participate in a number of pedagogy conferences each year (examples include the Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area Pedagogy Conference, the Benedictine Pedagogy Conference and the Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education.) In addition, most professional conferences include many sessions on teaching techniques and pedagogical research. In all these conferences, our faculty members get to share their work with colleagues from other institutions and get feedback on it, and to see others’ work and discuss it with them. In addition, faculty members frequently make connections with colleagues at other institutions who share an interest in a particular approach to teaching. One outcome can be collaborations on future work.

Our pedagogical research sometimes involves curricular change and assessment of its effectiveness. Sometimes, it involves introduction of new simulations, technology or techniques to better teach and engage the students. In all cases, these conferences allow us to get professional advice from colleagues on our work, and learn about new ideas from colleagues at other institutions. We are thereby able to improve our teaching and benefit our students.

KEVIN DOYLE, PH.D.

JOHN F. CARROLL, DIRECTOR,
ASIA FACULTY CENTER
Each fall as a new group of first-year students begin their college careers at Benedictine University, they are provided in their Writing 101 course with a booklet titled “Our Mission, Our Vision and Our Values.” The publication states that “The mission of Benedictine University has evolved as a result of years of forward-thinking, goal-setting and character-building as an expression of what the community members strive to instill in each student.” In its list of seven values, the final one, “A commitment to academic excellence” stands as an important statement in the “words to live by,” based on a long and rich Benedictine tradition of learning.

MONASTIC PERSPECTIVE

The Issue of Academic Excellence

The brochure explains that “the University is built on vision” as it goes back to the earliest days when Fr. Cosmas Vesely, O.S.B., saw the opportunity to “form this school into a leader in the field of science.”

Much of the challenge to continue the drive for academic excellence has been helped by a publication of the Association of American Colleges and Universities titled “College Learning for the New Global Century.” Much of what is in this document came from the National Leadership Council for Liberal Education and America’s Promise. Their list of “Principles of Excellence” provide a plan for our University professors to use as a measure against which one can identify the elements that make up excellence in teaching. There are seven principles listed and each one of these provides examples of just what is involved if one hopes to speak of “Principles of Excellence.”

The list starts with “Aim High — Make Excellence Inclusive.” Here an emphasis is made that “the essential learning outcomes [are] a framework for the entire educational experience, connecting school, college, work and life.” This, of course, fits in with the idea of lifelong learning which is stressed in so many of our academic programs.

The second principle suggests we “Give the Student a Compass.” This creates an environment where the University tries to “focus each student’s plan of study on achieving the essential learning outcomes.” This is a key factor in the University’s choice of examining identified elements each year and providing reports to the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, rather than having a “site visit” and providing an extensive report on all aspects of the University every 10 years.

The third principle calls for the University in all its programs to “Teach the Arts of Inquiry and Innovation.” Here the principle calls the University to “immerse all students in analysis, discovery, problem-solving and communication.” In this area, we may well be proud of so many of our students who participate in research and attend various meetings where they make presentations of their work. In addition, we send student groups to the Model United Nations Conference as well as to Mock Trials. We can truly be proud of the fact that the groups come back with significant awards for their presentations.

Principle four suggests that college work “Engage the Big Question.” Here it is expected that the University will examine “far reaching issues in science and society, looking at cultures and values, global interdependence, the changing economy, and human dignity and freedom.” These elements have been “Benedictine values” in a real sense for the almost 1,500 years of Benedictines being engaged in education.

“Connect Knowledge with Choices and Action” is principle five. This element lines up with the University’s “Mission Statement” which states that “the University prepares its students for a lifetime as active, informed, and responsible citizens and leaders in the world community.” Faculty members at Benedictine provide challenges whereby the students will engage in the attempts to solve real-world problems.

The “[Fostering] of Civic, Intercultural and Ethical Learning” expects that there will be “personal and social responsibility in every field of study” at the University.

The final principle deals with a rather demanding element in that the University, through its programs, is to “Assess Students’ Ability to Apply Learning to Complex Problems.” Assessment is always a difficult task, because there has to be more to the process than simply giving examinations. This is a topic that occupies significant time for all faculty members as we continue to discuss the general education curriculum along with the various major fields of study. Many initiatives have already been put into place, but the “commitment to academic excellence” is a daily task.

Benedictine’s tradition of academic excellence recognizes “the demands of an ever-changing pluralistic society.” As is stated in the “mission” brochure: “We continue to recognize...that the orientation and spirit of Benedictine education will remain synonymous with scholarship, community involvement and good citizenship.”

Benedictines have been leaders in education for 1,500 years because of the dedication to each element of enhancing student learning by teaching not only facts and theory, but by teaching students about themselves and the world around them.

FR. DAVID TURNER, O.S.B.
Alumni Briefs www.ben.edu/alumni

Fall Workshop
“Interviewing with Promise—An Event Guided Toward Interviewing with Confidence” was the topic of the November 9 workshop. Eighty alumni, students and community members attended this important workshop and learned the “dos” and “don’ts” of interviewing.

Along with watching and learning what a good and bad interview entailed, there was also a panel of three experienced human resource professionals to answer questions, critique the interview role players, and offer advice for those in job transition. The panel included Amanie Drane, M.S.M.O.B.’11, from State Farm Insurance Company; Martina Ramirez, C11, from Navistar; and Theresa Oldham, C99, M.S.M.O.B.’10, from Benedictine University.

Winter Workshop
The workshop held on February 9 was presented by Frank C. Bucar, C71, and was titled “Taking the High Road: It’s Not the Tools in the Toolbox, But How You Use Them!” More than 50 alumni, students and friends attended this lively discussion about how to present your true self while interviewing, networking or working in your current position.

A member of the National Speakers Association, Bucar is an ethics expert who is a leading crusader—speaking, training and writing on the power of ethics, values and ethical leadership. With a background in teaching, Bucar’s career in business spans two decades with the message that good ethics is good business.

Positive Feedback
Feedback on these events was extremely positive and confirmed the need to continue these valuable workshops.

The “Developing Your Employment Toolbox” series, cosponsored by the Offices of Alumni Relations and Career Development, is offered to alumni, students and the community who are in all stages of job transition. Topics include networking, resume writing, interviewing techniques, on-the-job work etiquette and more. For more information on upcoming workshops, access to ongoing career webinars and fairs, as well as podcasts of past workshops, go to www.ben.edu/careerpodcasts or contact the alumni office at www.ben.edu/alumni.

Annual Dinner/Dance
Benedictine University sweethearts gathered on January 29 for their annual dinner/dance. The evening began with the renewal of marriage vows offered by Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., C59. Then all enjoyed a wonderful dinner followed by a game of Benedictine “Family Feud.” Questions were asked regarding Benedictine history, traditions and current statistics. The “girls” from the Class of 1979 were the winners and they received spirit wear shirts and other fun items. Entertainment was provided by Music Mania.

This event is open to all alumni whether married or not. The only criteria are that one member of the couple is an alumnus and they both want to have a fun evening at a low cost. Terry Lulek, C78, stated, “We love coming to this event every year. It’s a reunion with our classmates, a place to renew our wedding vows, a wonderful dinner, a chance to dance to great music and have an outstanding time. More alumni need to join in the fun.”

View more pictures at www.ben.edu/sweethearts.

Traditional Threads
The Alumni Association Board will be selling Traditional Threads alumni clothing in the near future. If you have suggestions for clothing types, please contact Julie Nelligan at jnelligan@ben.edu as soon as possible.

Class Notes winners . . . . . Matt Mikulich, Ph.D., C64 • Donald Pellico, M.B.A.’89 • Elise Griskell, C08

Please contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu by June 15 to collect your Benedictine prize.
College of Science Reunion

The Eighth Annual Benedictine University College of Science Reunion was held on February 28 with approximately 60 people in attendance. The evening started with cocktails at the Jurica-Suchy Nature Museum along with a visit from a three-toed box turtle accompanied by naturalist Yvonne Wouffe from the Forest Preserve of Cook County. Later, everyone went to the Krasa Center for dinner and an informative program about current student research.

This year’s program focused on two specific research projects that students have undertaken. The first, under the direction of Robin Rylaarsdam, Ph.D., with the assistance of three grants from Howard Hughes Foundation, focuses on “orphan diseases” or those diseases that affect 200,000 or fewer individuals.

The second project, under the direction of Tim Marin, Ph.D., and through the University of Wisconsin-Madison, focuses on the measurement of water absorption, research that can be used in nuclear cooling towers, astrochemistry and more.

Both projects validate the quality education and experience Benedictine students are receiving through the College of Science. ●

View more pictures at www.ben.edu/sciencereunion.

African-American Alumni Reunion

The Office of Alumni Relations and the African-American Student Union (AASU) hosted an alumni reunion on January 18 in the Krasa Center. This event included 20 alumni and nearly 20 students. Throughout the evening, alumni and students were able to network and share experiences. During the evening, Julie Nelligan, M.S.M.O.B.’10, director of alumni relations, and Jason Ward, C03, Alumni Board member, introduced the special alumni guests, Maurice Bell, C87, Darryl Boggs, C81, and Ken Carruthers, C76, to speak about the scholarship they started in 2004.

The African-American Endowed Scholarship was in need of $960 to be endowed, which would then make it possible for the award to be given to a student in financial need. The scholarship sponsors spoke about the vision they had for the award and what it meant to them to be able to give back to students at Benedictine. Once the audience learned more about this special scholarship, they eagerly helped to enrich it with financial commitments that lead to its full endowment.

The Office of Alumni Relations and the students of AASU thank all of those who came to the event and gave to the scholarship. Please consider donating to this and/or other scholarships to help students in need. ●

View more pictures at www.ben.edu/AASUreunion.

Learn more about scholarships at www.ben.edu/scholarships.
Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

Six alumni were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in February at the Dan and Ada Rice Center during a celebration with more than 150 attendees. The inductees were:

Keith Bunkenburg, Physical Education, C89, was a four-year basketball starter and three-time all-conference player who also played on four conference championship teams during his career. Bunkenburg also had a successful baseball career and was named the team MVP his junior year, making him one of the few student-athletes in Benedictine history to earn MVP honors in multiple sports.

Kevin Downs, Literature and Communications, C72, was a four-year starter in football and two-time team captain under Coach Tom Beck during a time when the teams were some of the most successful in school history. Downs led the nation in punt returns in 1971 and still owns the school’s career punt return mark at 18.5 yards per attempt. He also led the Eagles to 14 wins after they won just three games the previous two seasons.

Kathleen (Enochs) Keller, Elementary Education, C96, was one of the most decorated student athletes at the University and one of the most successful softball pitchers in NCAA Division III history. Keller set the Division III record for single-season winning percentage in 1993. She was a four-time All American and was the first-team selection in 1996. She won 80 games including 41 by shutout, pitching 645.2 innings with 545 strikeouts and a career 0.73 earned run average. Keller led her teams to four consecutive conference championships and NCAA Division III tournament appearances in 1993, 1994 and 1995. She was also a four-year standout on the women’s tennis team.

Michael Kowalewski, Sociology, C97, was one of only six first-time All Americans in the history of the Benedictine baseball program. He stands atop the Benedictine career record books in batting average, hits, doubles and RBI while ranking second in career home runs and runs scored. Kowalewski also holds single-season records for hits and doubles and is second in single-season home runs and batting averages. He was voted team MVP two years in a row and was named to the NCAA Division III All Region team three consecutive seasons from 1995-97.

Jennifer (Olsen) Wildes, Business Administration, Management and Organizational Behavior, C02, enjoyed one of the most impressive two-sport careers (volleyball and basketball) in Benedictine athletics. Wildes was the women’s basketball team’s all-time leading scorer and rebounder and four-time all-conference selection. In volleyball, she was a four-time all-conference player and three-time conference “Player of the Year.” Wildes was also named female “Student Athlete of the Year” and “Student of the Year” in her program.

Steve Napierala, Mathematics, C63, (posthumous), pioneered the hockey club and led the team in scoring both junior and senior seasons. Napierala led the football team in rushing and scoring in 1962 and was named to the “Small Catholic College All American Team” that same year. Napierala was named team MVP in baseball in 1962 after leading then St. Procopius to the first conference title in school history. He was highly regarded by his peers and classmates for his leadership and intense work ethic. He passed away in 1973 of a brain aneurysm, but his legacy and impact lives on with his classmates and former students.

Read more about these Hall of Famers in WebExtras at www.ben.edu/voices.
UPCOMING EVENTS...STAY CONNECTED! — View a full list at www.ben.edu/alumni.

June 27
17th Annual President's Invitational Golf Outing Special Guest—Lee Trevino

August 27
BenFest: Alumni/Student Picnic & the Plain White T's

This year, BenFest is bringing home the Grammy-nominated band the Plain White T's. This is a great opportunity to see these local boys turned international superstars perform their top charting hits like "Hey There, Delilah" and "The Rhythm of Love." The day will start with the annual alumni/student picnic at 4:00 p.m. and the concert will start at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy this fun event in BenU’s own backyard!

Ticket Prices:
Reserved seating $40
General admission $30
Student general admission $15

For more information go to www.ben.edu/benfest or for ticket information go to www.ben.edu/benfestix.

October 5
College of Business Alumni/Student Workshop

October 7-9
Homecoming

Make sure you don’t miss this great opportunity to reconnect with friends, teachers and the entire Benedictine community. The weekend of October 7-9 will be filled with activities for family and friends. If you would like to get a group of classmates together for this event, contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu. She can help you contact people and organize your day. You can also contact her to volunteer your time during the event.

July 17
Alumni Day with the Cubs

The Cubs will host the Florida Marlins at 1:20 p.m. We will be sitting in the Outfield Terrace Reserve—which is the lower section from where we have sat in the past. Ticket-only prices are $40 and with bus transportation the price is $60. (The bus will leave from the Krasa Center parking lot.)

To purchase tickets and/or reserve a space on the bus, contact Eric Guthrie at eguthrie@ben.edu or (630) 829-6081.

August 28
Alumni Soccer Game and Reunion

Milwaukee Chapter Kick-off Event

On November 19, a small group of alumni met at Libiamo Restaurant in Milwaukee, Wis. Attendees shared stories of their times at Benedictine as well as made plans to host future events in the area. Milwaukee and the surrounding area is home to almost 200 Benedictine alumni. Think about all that “connecting” power!

In an effort to reach out to other alumni in the area, a few attendees took on leadership roles for the group. The Chapter representatives are Phil Caponigro, C72; Tiff Pua, C00; and Christine Vanhulle, C08.

“I am excited about our potential as a group and what we might do to help BenU reach its goals for the future. We are hoping to see a lot more area alumni join our efforts,” said Caponigro.

For more information on the Milwaukee Alumni Chapter, contact Eric Guthrie at eguthrie@ben.edu or (630) 829-6081.

Longing to start your own alumni chapter? Or ready to join one of the chapters in Washington, D.C., Phoenix, Ariz., Florida, Chicago, Springfield or Will County? Contact Julie Nelligan to jump-start your BenU connections at jnelligan@ben.edu.
What can alumni relations do for you? We want your input.
The Office of Alumni Relations strives to offer Benedictine alumni benefits and services that we hope will enhance your life. We are proud of our alumni and we want you to know that you can turn to your alma mater anytime. You will always be connected here.

In an effort to get to know you better, we are asking you to offer ideas and suggestions for even more services the University can provide. A few highlights of offers available to our alumni are featured below (a complete list is available at www.ben.edu/alumni/benefits).

**Take a few minutes to look them over and then contact Julie Neilligan (jnelligan@ben.edu) with your suggestions.**

- Career Workshops offered three times per year
- Free career services provided by the Office of Career Development
- Low-cost property and casualty insurance through Liberty Mutual Insurance
- Discounts on moving expenses through National City Van Lines
- Low-cost short-term health care coverage through USI Affinity Collegiate Insurance
- Use of the Rice Center, Library and Coal Ben

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Alumni Award Nominations Needed

Each year at Homecoming, the Benedictine University Alumni Association presents three distinct and unique awards to members of the Benedictine alumni family. Nominations are now being accepted for the following awards: Distinguished Alumni Award—in recognition of outstanding achievement in a career field or personal endeavor; Alumni Service Award—in gratitude for current or past service to the University and/or the Alumni Association; and Benedictine Spirit Award—presented to an alumnus who has exemplified the Benedictine values of service, hospitality and dedication to a given cause in their personal and/or professional life.

All awards are open to alumni in good standing who have completed a minimum of 48 credit hours at St. Procopius College, Illinois Benedictine College or Benedictine University. All award nominees must have graduated from Benedictine at least 10 years ago.

**Nominations must be received no later than August 1, 2011.**

Please use the online nomination form at www.ben.edu/awardnominations. You may also fax a copy of the form to (630) 829-6313.

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Complete the upcoming alumni survey for a chance to win an iPad.

During the summer, you will receive an alumni survey via email. Our staff is examining how we can better serve your needs and how to ensure that you stay connected to your alma mater. We are reviewing improved benefits and services, as well as exploring the meaning of “The Alumni Association” and the affects our alumni have on the growth of the University and its vision.

We urge you to take a few moments to complete the survey so that we can use your input in strategizing the future direction of alumni relations. Your feedback is IMPORTANT. This is a perfect opportunity to be heard. Results will be posted on the alumni website.

**Complete the survey by July 31 and you will be entered into a drawing for an Apple iPad.**

**NOTE:** If you are not on our email list, now is a good time to add your information so you can be a part of this important survey. Send name and email address to jnelligan@ben.edu as soon as possible.

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Feeling Left Out? Snail-mail making you miss out on news, events and opportunities at BenU?

**Send Us Your Email Address and Get into the Action!**

As the University cuts back on mailing 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 Neilligan at jnelligan@ben.edu today!
When Jay Ward attended Benedictine University, he built strong relationships on campus with teachers and classmates, was involved with the African American Student Union (AASU) and the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and was a member of the football team.

Upon graduation, he continued to be involved with planning events through the AASU and hosting events through his fraternity on campus, as well as organizing several community service projects. During his periodic visits to campus, he began to notice a decline in student involvement in extracurricular activities, especially with the minority population on campus. It was something that he wanted to change and he knew he had to take action.

“I decided to join the Alumni Board to see how I could help the school. One of my dearest friends, former Alumni Board member and fraternity brother, Torian Richardson, gave me some insight on the board and how great the people were. He told me that everyone can’t donate big amounts of money all the time, but donating your knowledge, energy and time will go a long way with the people at Benedictine. I knew this would give me the opportunity to strengthen and build connections with alumni and students. My job on the board is to rebuild the connections that I had with many people during my time at Benedictine and get them involved to build connections with current students,” Ward said.

Ward joined the board to help others, but he got something more than he expected in return. “I can’t say enough about how excited I am to be around a great group of individuals from numerous backgrounds and various careers. Exciting things are going to be happening with this current board and I wouldn’t pass on the opportunity to be involved.

“It’s important our alumni make an effort to connect with their classmates. Losing contact with people is always disheartening, especially when you made some great friends. Benedictine is going through many changes and it is very exciting to know that I will be a part of it all. I want to make a difference, and what better way to be remembered than by making a positive impact on someone’s life and career,” Ward said.

Ward taught for five years at West Aurora High School and earned his master’s degree in Educational Leadership. He is currently the dean of students at East Aurora High School, the head coach for the Kane County Chaos minor league football team, and coaches his son’s youth football and basketball teams. The impact his college experience had on his life has not escaped him. He realizes how his time at Benedictine opened his mind and his opportunities.

“Benedictine opened the door to my first job right out of college. I graduated in December and West Aurora High School interviewed me in January. Additionally, I believe the University added credibility to my career moves. The people I met and the courses that were required helped shape my life and career. Having many conversations with several professors, having an open mind, and viewing the world from different perspectives strengthened my relationship with the school and our society,” he said.

Athletics has always been a big part of Ward’s life. “I met so many wonderful people at Benedictine and was coached by many greats, like one of Benedictine’s best football players, David Swanson. I learned so much from Coach Swanson and was able to take those tools and apply it to my game. I continue to apply those techniques in my own coaching philosophy.

“In addition, so many faculty and staff members at the school have had a big impact on my life and I can honestly say they are good friends of mine. People like Dr. Vince Gaddis, Rev. Linda Owens, Fr. Philip Timko, Denise West, Marco Masini and others who I failed to mention—made a difference in my journey through college. One person who had the largest affect on my life and career was the late Dr. Charlotte Ross. There is so much to say about this outstanding woman that I could write a magazine article on the impact she has had on my career alone. She taught me patience, perseverance and to be the best you can be through compassion. “Even if you didn’t have the chance to open yourself up to the positive effects this school can have on your life while you attended—it’s not too late. Come back as an alumnus and you will be welcomed and encouraged to be the best person you can be,” Ward concluded.

Ward has an 8-year-old son who he believes is the best thing that has ever happened to him. He is also very excited about the latest big news in his life, his marriage this past April to his “lovely wife,” Marisol. •

Would you like to volunteer your time at the University to help students and make a difference? Contact Julie Nelligan at (630) 829-6077 or jnelligan@ben.edu. Discover all the benefits you can receive by donating your time, talent and treasure to help others.
Attend An Event—Be Involved

Spring has arrived and it’s time for new beginnings. It’s time to get outside and enjoy fresh air, family time and renew acquaintances. And it’s time for you to come back to Benedictine.

As my presidency comes to a close, I have been reflecting on the last three years of where we have been and where we need to go as a vibrant alumni association. When I took on this role, my intent was to share my time and talent with the University that I love. I wanted to “lead by example” and show others that it doesn’t take much of your spare time to attend an event, mentor a student, assist in organizing a reunion or become a board member. My goal was to increase alumni participation in time, talent and treasure. I’m pleased to say we have accomplished that goal, but there is still much work to be done.

My parting message to all Benedictine University alumni is to make it a point this year to attend at least two to three alumni-related events. That might include attending BenFest this August for the alumni picnic and/or to see the exciting Plain White T’s concert; coming to one, or all, of the activities at Homecoming this October; or attending one of the reunions held throughout the year. All of those events can include your family and friends and are guaranteed to be a lot of fun.

If you are unable to attend events on campus, consider volunteering for, or hosting, an event in your area or perhaps making a financial donation to aid the school’s needs. Whatever you can do, do it and stay involved. You will make a difference in your life and other’s as well.

As this will be my last letter to you as Alumni Board President, I want to thank you for allowing me the privilege of representing you. It has truly been an honor that I will never forget. I wish you all good health and happiness, and please stay in touch with the Alumni Association. Please give the new president support by offering helpful suggestions with regard to alumni services, as well as attending and supporting alumni events.

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

Enrich your life and others—volunteer.

A Storybook Affair
Homecoming 2011

Once upon a time in a land far, far away stood a royal University called Benedictine in the Village of Lisle. Benedictine had many successful subjects, and during the month of May more joined them through commencement. Each year during the season of autumn, a large celebration was hosted by the noble president and his court. This year, he has issued his majestic proclamation for all of his subjects to come back to the royal University and celebrate “A Storybook Affair.” The celebration will be held the weekend of October 7-9, 2011.

The Benedictine Eagles football team will take on the Aurora Spartans beginning at 1:00 p.m. with tailgating to begin at 10:30 a.m. The younger subjects will enjoy the Emie’s Eagles’ Royal Playland featuring arts and crafts, movies, pony rides and a photo booth. Three outstanding alumni will be awarded with a royal proclamation (Alumni Awards) at halftime of the game. On Sunday, a Mass at the Abbey will be offered in honor of alumni, and a brunch will be held to honor the Alumni Award winners and the Golden Eagles.

Take a moment to send us a story or two. Tell us the story of how you met your “Prince or Princess” at Benedictine, or where your story has taken you since you finished the college chapter of your life.

Please upload one or both of these stories to our Homecoming website for all of us to enjoy at www.ben.edu/HomecomingTales.

Make your plans now to attend “A Storybook Affair.” Find out about the latest royal goings-on at www.ben.edu/homecoming.
What are you doing in your career?

I am an information specialist/exercise physiologist for the National Center on Physical Activity and Disability (NCPAD). NCPAD is a nonprofit organization funded by the Centers for Disease Control and located at the University of Illinois in Chicago within the Department of Disability and Human Development. The primary focus of NCPAD is to improve the health, wellness and quality of life of people with disabilities by promoting and facilitating increased participation in physical activity and recreation.

In my current position, I work on a variety of projects that align with the goals of promoting healthy behaviors for people of all abilities. I am still fresh out of my graduate program and am already going to national conferences, performing speaking engagements across the country, and have met and worked with experts in the field that I previously read about in papers and journals. Without my internship and experience at Benedictine, I would never be where I am today. I am excited to see where my career will take me from here.

How did your Benedictine experience make a difference?

My experience at Benedictine truly made a difference in my career—and my career is just starting. The smaller class sizes, more individualized approach to teaching and more opportunities for hands-on experience allowed me to have a certain level of experience early on in my career that put me a step above other people when it came to job searching and interviewing. More opportunities for networking also played a major role.

Having teachers with a variety of experiences in the field gave me and my classmates the opportunities to discover different career paths within our field. The adjuncts and professors in the Clinical Exercise Physiology program were always extremely helpful and approachable and more than willing to share experiences and knowledge with all of us.

What have you done in your career since graduation?

I have not only been working at NCPAD, but I have also been traveling across the country to conferences and teaching Inclusive Fitness Trainer workshops. These workshops are attended by a variety of professionals in the health and fitness industry and give a more in-depth look at varying disabilities and how to safely and effectively create exercise and wellness programs for those individuals.

I am also a strategy supporter for the National Physical Activity Plan and meet several times a year with a working group to maximize use of current parks, recreation, fitness and sports facilities to increase physical activity opportunities for less active groups. I collaborate with transportation agencies to monitor and promote the use of trails for recreation and transportation purposes. I coordinate facility and program development that encourages appropriate leisure time physical activities while minimizing environmental impact and reducing reliance on motorized vehicle use. I also develop partnerships and programs such as “green gyms” that promote physical activity through volunteer environmental stewardship opportunities.

I have also adapted the Army Strong program to include students with disabilities. The program is a physical activity challenge currently presented to schools in the Chicago area by the U.S. Army. Recruiters are now planning on introducing this challenge to several schools that have large disabled student populations. I also continue to write a monthly newsletter for NCPAD and have been re-published several times in the Ejournal for the American Academy of Health and Fitness.

What advice do you have for current students in the M.S.C.E.P program?

The field of exercise physiology is broad. I always imagined myself in cardiac rehab or a diagnostics department and never expected I would be traveling the country, working on national policies and creating programs for underserved populations. My experiences at Benedictine opened doors for me that I never thought possible and for that I will always be grateful. For anyone interested in this field, I encourage them to dive deeper than the more commonly known professions; it is an important and growing field. The American College of Sports Medicine’s campaign “Exercise is Medicine” really says it all, and it’s important to know that this doesn’t only happen in a fitness center, rehab facility or hospital.

In addition, after you graduate, try to stay connected. I continue to have contact with my teachers and I actively read emails and publications that come from the school. I think it’s important to stay connected to the University environment, but even more important to stay connected to your mentors at the school. They will always be a valuable resource.

Are you making the most of your Benedictine degree? Let us know about it for a possible Alumni Focus. Contact a favorite teacher, the alumni director (jnelligan@ben.edu) or the Voices editor (lhale@ben.edu) with your story.
Keeping Tradition Alive:

**Founders’ Day Bash**

These are just a few of the questions that challenged current students during the University’s Founders’ Day Bash, an annual event that encourages students to learn more about their school, its valued traditions and rich history. (Faculty and staff participate in a separate Founders’ Day event based on the same goals.)

Students received treat bags filled with items highlighting the history and traditions of the University, including a deck of playing cards with interesting facts about Benedictine over the past 124 years. Founders’ Day events encourage pride in the University and a greater understanding of what it means to be Benedictine.

**We have a big year coming up in 2012: Be sure to stay informed about plans to celebrate Benedictine’s 125th anniversary!**

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A) Eight (Fr. John Nepomucene Jaeger, O.S.B.; Fr. Ilephonse Wittman, O.S.B.; Fr. Anastasius Reber, O.S.B.; Fr. Procopius Neuzil, O.S.B.; Fr. Valentine Kohlbeck, O.S.B.; Fr. Valerian Havlicek, O.S.B.; Br. Godfrey Stibr, O.S.B.; and Br. Anthony Jana, O.S.B. These eight Benedictines signed the petition in 1887 requesting independence for what was then St. Procopius Priory from its founding house, St. Vincent in Latrobe, Pa. The University was then founded in 1887. The key figure was Fr. Procopius.)

B) Ernie the Eagle (We became the Eagles because an eagle is pictured in our school seal. The first Ernie was David Zucker, CB93, and the first time he appeared in costume was at a football game in 1991.)

C) Hall, Benedictine! (1996)

D) St. Procopius Abbey (After leaving Benedictine Hall, the monks moved to their new home at the Abbey in June 1970.)

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**Send us a tradition:**

What is your favorite SPC/IBC/BenU tradition? Email Julie Neillgan at jnNeillgan@ben.edu with your favorite tradition and it may be featured in Voices and/or a web page where other alumni can join in the discussion.

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**Want to golf with a legend?**

The 17th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing, presented by U.S. Bank, will be held on Monday, June 27, at Cantigny Golf in Wheaton. Honorary chair William Bartlett II, University Trustee, and co-chair Maureen Beal, University Trustee, will welcome very special guest, legendary golfer Lee Trevino.

The outing will begin at 10:00 a.m. with registration and the putting and longest-drive contests. The golfers will be sent off promptly at 12:30 p.m. by President William Carroll. Participants will enjoy seeing Trevino on the course and having their foursome’s photo taken with him. Cocktails, dinner and program will follow. The program will feature Trevino talking about his time on the pro tour.

All proceeds of this event go back to Benedictine students in the form of scholarships. This is a great opportunity to play a challenging course, meet a golf legend and raise funds to help students in need. For more information on sponsorships, golfing or dinner-only tickets, contact Debbie Smith, University events director, at dsmith@ben.edu or (630) 829-6080.

**www.ben.edu/golf**

**Thanks to Our Major Sponsors**

- U.S. Bank • Event Sodexo • Dinner
- Benedictine University Online • Gold Tee
- Benedictine University Board of Trustees • White Tee
- William Bartlett II, University Trustee • Celebrity
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- International Contractors, Inc. • Red Tee
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- University Services Staff • Lunch
- Benedictine University Alumni Association • Golf Bag Tag
- Paul Gauvreau, University Trustee • Tee Bag
- Will Gillett, Chair University Trustees • Driving Range

Sponsorship Information as of March 22, 2011.
Phonathon Helps Provide Renovations, Program Funding and Scholarships

Between caller I.D. and people opting out of land-line phones in favor of cell phones, a phonathon can be a challenge. Despite this, the Benedictine University Phonathon is still vital. It’s not only a substantial way to bring in needed donations for scholarships and necessary programs, but it is one of the main ways that information is checked and gathered. Our alumni, parents and supporters are important, and therefore maintaining correct addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and other key information helps us bring University news, events and opportunities to our Benedictine family.

This year, we were challenged to inspire our past donors to increase their giving, and for those who had never given, to give even just a small amount for the first time. We have been very blessed with the success of this campaign. The fall 2010 phonathon had more than 100 donors increase their giving. The final numbers for spring 2011 are not in yet, but everything indicates it was a success as well.

Thank you to all the alumni, parents and friends of the University who gave so generously this year. Without you, some renovations and program funding would not have been possible. Your support gave many students much needed scholarship funds, including our phonathon callers. Your generosity is deeply appreciated, and the students always enjoy the conversations they have with you.

Your Help Is Needed
Even with these increased donations, Benedictine’s annual giving is not where it should be for a university of this size. We are still behind in our fundraising needs that are essential to programs and students. We need more of our community to contribute donations of any size. Please consider making a donation to the fall phonathon to help raise our overall giving so Benedictine and its students can reach their full potential.

As a way to say “thank you” this year, those who pledged or gave through the phonathon and increased their previous gift by $25, $50 or $100 were sent a token of appreciation. Those who had never given before through the phonathon were given similar opportunities. This gave people tangible reminders of the University’s appreciation for their help.

BenU Gives Back: Students Take the Lead

Hope Scholarship
A difficult economy combined with a disease like cancer can take its toll on a student trying to earn a degree. With this in mind, the 2010-2011 Student Senate wanted to help a fellow student by starting a scholarship. The Hope Award is one of the many ways the senate gives back to the Benedictine community. Senators designed and sold a pink “B” T-shirt and held a Breakfast with Santa to raise $1,500. They will continue to raise money so the scholarship can be endowed.

The Hope Award will be granted for the first time during the 2011-2012 academic year. To be eligible, students must demonstrate a financial need and explain how their life has been affected by cancer, whether they are survivors, or a close family member has been impacted by the disease.

Disaster Volunteers
Another leadership opportunity was presented by the American Red Cross from the Reserve Corp. program. Fifty students completed the three-hour course which prepared them to be able to put “compassion into action” by learning how to give food, shelter and comfort to disaster victims. They would be called into action just a couple of weeks later when the blizzard of 2011 hit the Chicago area and the Rice Center became a shelter. (See photos of campus during the blizzard at www.ben.edu/Blizzard11)

Day of Service
Following the 2011 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, students were encouraged to follow in Dr. King’s footsteps by performing community service. Fifty-two student leaders cut their winter break short and committed to helping others through a partnership with Giving DuPage. Scholi Hall became a “shopping mall” of service opportunities. Nearly 400 community members descended on the Benedictine campus to work alongside students on an array of service projects.

Participants made blankets for the DuPage County Children’s Advocacy Center and DuPage hospice residents. Build-a-Bear kits were assembled and donated to the children’s ward at Central DuPage Hospital. Letters to the troops and Valentines for veterans were artfully decorated and written. Placemats for the residents at the DuPage County Convalescent Home were carefully designed and laminated. Visually-impaired veterans from Hines Veterans Hospital enjoyed listening to the teachings of Dr. King as read by our student veteran group members. Each veteran then accompanied student leaders throughout the building to participate in other activities.
Michael J. Mantel Ph.D.'01

“...When you reach outside your immediate survival and family responsibilities to do humanitarian or social impact work, you begin to find a network of tremendous people who positively affect the world.”

For Mike Mantel, giving back is a full-time job. He is the president and chief executive officer of Living Water International, a global implementer of water solutions in 24 developing countries. His everyday work makes a huge contribution to the greater good. So far, the company Mantel leads has provided impoverished communities around the world with 10,000 wells for clean drinking water, and it plans to double that in the next five years.

In addition to drilling new wells, Living Water International rehabilitates existing wells and has started to provide education on hygiene and sanitation measures. It is also providing training to nationals to fix and repair existing wells when needed. These efforts are changing the lives of millions of people.

Before the wells were in place, the people of these communities spent their days collecting water from faraway rivers and springs that are contaminated and not safe for drinking. Women and children risked their welfare by taking daily travels with only the containers they had the strength to manage. Their whole existence was to find enough water and food to sustain another day of life—there was no time for education or development, only survival. Almost a billion people around the world still suffer in this way each day.

Clean accessible water changes lives. Mantel has witnessed this transformation many times throughout his career. Once wells are in place, there is no need to go in search of unclean water just to survive. The community members can spend their day growing crops that become a food source right in their own village; they live fuller, happier lives with time for education.

Water was instrumental in changing the direction of Mantel’s life. He grew up working with his brothers in the hot California sun for his father’s landscaping company. They spent a lot of their time digging into the earth to install sprinkler systems. When they were done and the systems were up and running, Mantel would often find himself thinking about the miracle of water—how it could turn a once barren landscape into a lush lawn so quickly.

Mantel earned a business degree from Calvin College and went to work for Domino’s Farms in Ann Arbor, Mich. Through his job, he got involved in a community project geared toward exposing children to rural life. His project utilized windmills that demonstrated how water comes from under the ground. He was struck by how many children did not realize water was in the earth—to them it had always just come out of a faucet. He also convinced his employer to make a donation to a water project that was being tested in Senegal, West Africa.

He visited Senegal to see what this project had accomplished and was amazed by what he saw. One small well literally gave life to an entire community. Before the well, most of the children got sick and many of them died because of bacteria and parasites in their drinking water. After the well, these children lived healthy lives. Before the well, young girls spent much of every day walking four miles each way to a polluted spring to transport on their heads what little water they could carry. After the well, these same girls had clean water right outside their door and had time to go to school and get an education.

Mantel was so inspired by this project that he moved to Chicago to work for World Vision, one of the world’s largest humanitarian organizations. He worked there for 16 years, and during that time developed dozens of programs to install wells just like the one in Senegal.

In 1998, Mantel enrolled in Benedictine’s doctorate program in Organization Development in order to build the capacity he would need to expand his contribution at an executive level. In 2008, he joined Living Water International based in Houston, Texas, because he saw the opportunity to use his education and experience to bring the miracle of water to a whole new level. With a billion people in the world without access to safe drinking water, one of the United Nations Millennium development goals is to cut this number in half by 2015. Mantel and his organization are doing their part.

“We are able to bring safe water to 2,000 communities throughout the year. Water transforms a community—health, education, economic development—it has a multiplier effect. To know that hundreds, thousands, millions of people have life changes because of what we do is humbling. A lot of people, including student and church groups from the United States and Canada, are involved in these efforts to make a difference. It is very rewarding to see so many people wanting change and participating in it. By spending time with these volunteers we, as a company, have build strategy, structure, and business practices to help this ministry. We are seeing great leadership emerge from these groups of volunteers. To see people grow into their capacity and to do so in such a necessary ministry is very impactful on my life,” Mantel said.

In his follow-up travels to drilling locations, Mantel would notice after only a short time, crop seedlings were beginning to grow in the village, often leading to a surplus of food, which brings income for education, development and a productive life. The wells initiated growth and made a very real impact in the lives of people.

Anyone can get involved in these efforts by visiting Living Water International’s website to learn about ways individuals, groups, organizations and companies can help bring water to those in need. Some ideas include participating in awareness programs in your area, having a hands-on experience by taking a trip with
Living Water to participate in building a well for a needy village, or by picking a project and developing resources to pay for a well rehabilitation ($3,000) or for a new well ($12,000). When you participate in this way, you are kept aware of the status of the project by GPS coordinates, before and after pictures and comments from the community.

“God is at work in our lives all the time. Sometimes we just have to respond to our heart’s desire and react to opportunities that are presented to us. It’s important to know the hand of God when we see it and realize the impact it has. I have a thirst to see God’s hand move, and I pray for opportunities to see it happen. While in my 30s, I only intended to spend a few years in the service of others, but soon it lead to more years during which I have seen God’s hand move many times,” Mantel said.

Mantel also gives back to the University by volunteering as an advisory board member for the Center for Values-Driven Leadership (CVDL). He became involved in the Center because he believes it is a very important initiative and will have a widespread, positive impact on business leadership. CVDL helps leaders forge new paths to profitability through a values-driven approach to business. Values-driven companies succeed by focusing on the triple bottom line—people, planet and profit, and they consistently outperform their industry peers. This Center is a gathering place where top executives, entrepreneurs and thought leaders come together to innovate at the forefront of values-driven business practice.

“I encourage people to reach out and do something for others because it makes you feel more fully alive. I have been able to hang out with the movers and shakers making a difference in the world. I’ve learned that making a living is really important and you should do it with excellence; raising a family is great work and you should do it with everything you have; but when you reach outside your immediate survival and family responsibilities to do humanitarian or social impact work, you begin to find a network of tremendous people who positively affect the world.

“When you begin to work with these people, you start to think new thoughts; you go new places; you begin to have freedom from the day-to-day habits of life. Your mind becomes engaged and the world becomes a smaller place; you travel to different places, and you experience rich cultures. Soon the restrictions we put on ourselves, the need to accumulate more and more wealth, begins to lose its grip. Life is so much richer, filled with excitement and opportunities.

“You see incredible pain, want and struggle along the way, but at the same time you see heroism, divine intervention, sacrifice and joy. When you are engaged with these types of people, you find you have friends from multiple cultures and you begin to talk less about sports and movies, and more about political injustices and movements. Your life changes at a very personal level. Your kids and their friends watch you, and they begin to realize they can make a change. It becomes normal to think that way. Today, young people talk about change-making topics I didn’t know existed until I was in my 30s. That is inspiring,” concluded Mantel.

Mantel holds a Certification in Executive Training in Social Innovations and Global Change Management from Case Western Reserve University and also earned his Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) Credentials. He and his wife, Natalie, have four daughters who have traveled the world with him to serve others.

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

Whatever your degree and career may be, whatever your hopes and dreams are for the future, you can make a difference in the world and contribute to the greater good of humanity. Thousands of Benedictine alumni and community members are equipped to change the world by sharing freely of their gifts and talents. The world needs you in any way you are able to give back.
**Renovating Rice Update:**
Bringing Fitness Into the Future

When the Dan and Ada Rice Center was completed more than 30 years ago, it easily met the needs of the University’s sports teams and physical education program. However, as the campus and community have grown, so have the athletic and fitness needs at the University.

In March, Benedictine started work on the construction of a new and dynamic health and fitness facility within the Rice Center that will attract talented new students, increase service to current students, faculty and staff, and foster a greater awareness of the need to maintain personal health and wellness. The facility is expected to open this fall.

The new fitness center will feature a lower level dedicated to cardio and circuit training that allows patrons to complete all levels of training and fitness activities. The cardio center will feature elliptical trainers, treadmills and stationary bicycles. A private studio will provide ample space for fitness and yoga/Pilates classes.

A strength training mezzanine will provide athletes with a dedicated space to build the strength necessary to compete on an intercollegiate level. The additional weight training area will contain both free weights and strength training equipment to cater to a variety of users. Athletic teams will benefit from the additional equipment, and students, faculty and staff will have an area where they can work toward their own fitness goals.

The renovation of the Rice Center began in January 2010 with the installation of a new hardwood floor, giant scoreboards and island baskets in the basketball/volleyball arena. Installation of a new 1,679-seat telescopic bleacher system, including 450 preferred chair-back seats, was completed last August.

The newest phase of construction includes the exterior of the building with the renovation of the entrance and lobby. The lobby will get a facelift with plenty of windows to allow the flow of natural light into the building. The main lavatories in the lobby will also be updated, along with athletic offices and work spaces.

In addition, construction has begun on the Dan and Ada Rice Legends Center, which will house the Benedictine Hall of Fame and the Eagle Room, and a multi-functional classroom space.

Watch the construction on our live webcam: www.ben.edu/ricecam.

**DONATIONS WITH A PURPOSE: Making High-Quality Education Possible**

Beneditcine University alumni, friends, faculty and staff make gifts of all sizes to support the University’s mission of providing a high-quality education, programs and facilities to its students. The extraordinary support we receive ensures that Benedictine students, faculty and staff have the resources available to help them learn, teach, create and discover with excellence and innovation. Donors allow for the possibilities of students’ careers to develop and evolve, while the University encourages and aids in the birth of these future leaders. Benedictine is extremely grateful for each and every gift received and informs students from where those resources come.

**Scholar’s Society Dinner**
Scholarship recipients have the opportunity to meet their scholarship founders at an annual dinner. This face-to-face interaction gives the students the opportunity to say “Thank you” and allows the donor to see what an impact they have made in someone’s life.

**Tuition Freedom Day**
The University informs students about their educational financing, which includes all of the generous donors that make their education possible. Every year, the University hosts “Tuition Freedom Day” which represents the two-thirds point in the semester when tuition dollars stop covering the cost of a student’s education and the financial support of alumni, parents and friends begins covering the final one-third. The event is held on March 17 every year, and gives students the opportunity to say thanks to donors by signing a symbolic thank-you poster and writing thank-you notes that are displayed on campus.

**Benny the Bank**
The University also stresses to students and donors that no donation is too small, and that every dollar donated to the University goes toward educating our future leaders. Benny the Bank is a student giving program that was created to demonstrate that a little change can make a big impact. Each freshman receives a Benny the Bank piggy bank in their dorm room and is encouraged to donate their spare change back to the University. Last semester, more than $500 was raised through this program. Proceeds go to the Fr. Kevin Sheeran, O.S.B., Textbook Program which helps students, who have exhausted all other resources, afford textbooks. More
A significant portion of the funding and success for the Rice Center project came from contributions of all sizes from the Benedictine community. Several naming opportunities within the renovated facility still remain, starting with pledges at $10,000. Additional recognition opportunities are available for gifts of $100 or more. Every gift, large or small, makes a significant impact and plays a vital role in transforming the Rice Center into one of the leading facilities in the Chicago area.

To learn more about how you can help finish the renovations and/or obtain a naming right, please contact John Morris at jmorris@ben.edu or (630) 829-1812.

Go Eagles! •

Still an Eagle

Michael Shawn Robinson  
Communication Arts, CO3

“I challenge my fellow alumni to stop being spectators and find a way to get involved and help someone graduate.”

Why do you think it’s important to donate financially to the University?

My parents did the best they could, but I didn’t come to college with a silver spoon in my mouth, therefore I had to work extremely hard to make it through. I noticed when you commit to a goal that faith, favor and God move toward it as well. By the grace of God, a wonderful family, a great campus, supportive administration and a fantastic president, I made it through college. For me, it was very important to give back because I felt like I owed it to my football coaches, my family, Dr. Carroll and especially my grandmother. They all believed in me, so I felt it was important to help another young adult have a real shot at living the dream with their eyes wide open.

My goal in starting a scholarship is to include everyone on the vision of what The Power N-U-2 International Etta Lee Memorial Award is about and let them know how important it is for us to help young people finish college. I believe if you cast a vision and lead by example, then people will follow. So far that is what’s been happening.

Why is it important to donate your time and/or stay connected to your alma mater?

My pastor, Dr. Horace Smith of the Apostolic Faith Church, once said to me “A tree is only as strong as the root it bears.” I have always tried to make sure that my roots were strong because I know how important it is to have someone be a mentor to you along the way. We have to learn to share what we achieve and it makes sense to give back to the University that helped you succeed. It is imperative that we become good stewards of what Christ has blessed us with.

I make sure to take time to go to the football games, track meets, event lunches and anything else I can make time for. I have also had the privilege of being invited multiple times to give keynote talks to undergraduate students. I enjoy volunteering my time in this manner. I really love the feedback because it lets me know they appreciate what I am trying to impart into their lives.

How did your degree from Benedictine prepare you for life after college?

Getting a degree from Benedictine is definitely something to be extremely proud of because you have to earn it 100 percent. That’s the way it is in the real world—there are no hand-outs. You have to fight for everything that you have. I will always love BenU. I challenge my fellow alumni to stop being spectators and find a way to get involved and help someone graduate. Live your purpose! •

Michael Robinson is the founder and leader of three businesses. He is an independent associate with Pre-Paid Legal Services Inc.; he has a custom clothing line for men called Mr. Suits Michael Shawn Collection; and a motivational speaking/personal development business called Power N-U-2 International. He hopes his businesses help people become better in all areas of their life.
Cross Country Teams Earn All-Academic Honors

The Benedictine University men’s and women’s cross country teams earned University Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic status by earning a cumulative grade point average of 3.10 or better during the Fall 2010 semester. The men’s cross country team posted a 3.28 GPA while the women earned a 3.40 GPA.

Lacrosse at Benedictine

Benedictine University will sponsor NCAA Division III men’s and women’s lacrosse beginning in the spring of 2013, Director of Athletics Mark McHorney recently announced.

The growing popularity of the sport at the high school and collegiate level convinced University officials to make it available to Benedictine student-athletes.

“We are thrilled to establish lacrosse as an intercollegiate sport at Benedictine,” McHorney said. “With the popularity of lacrosse nationwide and in the Chicago metropolitan area, we are confident that we can build teams that will compete at the national level.”

Currently, 176 Division III colleges and universities field men’s lacrosse teams and 206 field women’s teams. Among the schools in the Northern Athletics Conference (of which Benedictine is a member), Concordia University (Wisc.) offers men’s and women’s lacrosse and Aurora University and Milwaukee School of Engineering offer men’s lacrosse.

Lacrosse will be the 10th women’s sport and the ninth men’s sport offered at Benedictine.

Both lacrosse teams will compete at the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex. The complex was the site of the 2006 NCAA Division II Women’s Lacrosse Championships.

“We feel strongly that the addition of these programs will allow us to recruit student-athletes regionally and nationally,” McHorney said. “We are excited to be part of the tremendous growth the University is enjoying.”

Men’s Basketball Wins NAC South Division Title

The Eagles men’s basketball team became the third Benedictine team to win a Northern Athletics Conference (NAC) championship during the 2010-2011 academic year. Football and women’s tennis won NAC titles in the fall.

The men’s basketball team, under the direction of head coach Keith Bunkenburg, won the NAC South Division title with a 13-3 record. The Eagles earned the No. 2 seed going into the conference tournament, and blew past Rockford College and Aurora University to reach the championship game against Edgewood College.

Benedictine defeated Edgewood 70-59 in front of an enthusiastic and overflow crowd at the Dan and Ada Rice Center to earn the league’s automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Men’s Basketball Championships.

The Eagles’ opponent in the first round of the NCAA tournament was No. 5-ranked College of Wooster (Ohio). Fans from throughout the Midwest travelled to watch Benedictine play nationally rated Wooster. Although the Eagles took the lead several times in the contest, the hosts prevailed 74-68.

The loss ended Benedictine’s season at 21-8. Three Eagles received postseason recognition. Cameron Snelling and Nate Green earned All-NAC First Team honors, while Jerrell Tribble was named to the NAC All-Sportsmanship team.

Snelling also joined the school’s 1,000-point club, while Bunkenburg earned his 250th career victory.

Catch the Spirit! Stay connected to Eagles sports.

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NEW DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY MINISTRY BRINGS TECHNOLOGY AND FAITH TOGETHER

Mark Kurowski, an author, preacher and spiritual director, is the new Director of University Ministry at Benedictine.

He brings a unique blend of talents to the position, including technologic proficiency in electronic media and social networking, a solid knowledge of academic development, and a multitude of experiences in interreligious and ecumenical concerns.

Benedictine is one of the most diverse campuses in the country with community members representing not only Catholicism and numerous other Christian denominations, but Jewish, Muslim and Hindu faiths as well. University Ministry is an integral part of student life, offering programs and services that assist in the spiritual growth of all students, staff and administration regardless of faith.

Kurowski is an inspiring preacher and insightful spiritual director who helps guide people through the questions of life in an easy to understand way. His inspirational talks and presentations contain his sincerity of faith, genuine spirit, enthusiasm and comical frankness that have changed hearts and minds.

“I hope that I have been a good witness of my faith and I want to use that to help others. I believe that the Catholic faith still has an incredible amount of things to say to the world. By God

inspiring through me, my hope is that the residential campus, the commuter campus, the online campus and our alumni—these groups that make up the one family of Benedictine University—can do exactly what our tagline says: Informing Today, Transforming Tomorrow. This thought is from the apostolic constitution on the laity. Lay people are asked to transform tomorrow by honoring God and by taking care of all people,” said Kurowski.

Kurowski earned a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Indiana University-South Bend, graduated magna cum laude with a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University in Durham, N.C., and earned a Certificate of Studies from Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Ill. He has served churches in Inwood and Bremen, Ind., and as pastor at churches in Roxboro, N.C., and Brookston and Gary, Ind., before converting to Catholicism. An award-winning author, his most recent publication is “A Simple Guide to the Spiritual Life,” a beginning’s guide to spirituality.

By using the Internet and other forms of media, Kurowski has been able to touch a larger audience. He founded MySpiritualAdvisor.com, on which he hosts a weekly blog, and has given spiritual advice and direction to people on five continents. He is a regular contributor to Catholic Radio International and Relevant Radio’s

“I want Ministry to be more than just a private thing. I want it to be a movement to change the world for the better.”

“On Call” program, and has appeared on “The Catholic Connection with Teresa Tomeo” on Ave Maria Radio, SiriusXM Satellite Radio’s Catholic Channel show, “Seize the Day,” with Gus Lloyd, and EWTN’s “The Journey Home with Marcus Grodi.”

Asked where he thinks he will take

University Ministry in the future, he responded, “I don’t know yet. I’m listening. I’m hearing the hopes and dreams of the community. God speaks to us from the community and I’m listening and discerning. Then I will spend time in prayer before I present what I think is the answer. I will then encourage discussion and dialogue.”

Kurowski and his wife, Sandra, have five children ages 12-20. They reside in Northwest Indiana and attend St. Victor Parish in Calumet City, Ill.

He succeeds Abbot Hugh Anderson, O.S.B., who was elected president of the American-Cassinese Congregation. Fr. Philip Timko, O.S.B., Br. Richard Poro, O.S.B., and Rev. Linda Owens will work alongside Kurowski to serve the University community through their ministry.
NEW PARKING FACILITY OPENS

The University unveiled a 427-spot, three-story, $7.8 million parking garage in January that has helped alleviate parking woes caused by continued growth on campus. Students had suggested a garage be built specifically to accommodate commuters as well as on-campus students who owned cars. As staff, faculty and student populations grew, this request became a necessity.

The 148,733-square foot facility, designed to blend with other buildings on campus and built over an existing parking lot, required 344 pieces of precast which were erected in 16 working days. The garage increases the campus’ overall parking capacity by nearly 400 spots.

The parking garage also provides additional office space for the University. The Benedictine University Police Department and the Department of Campus Services, which handles all the maintenance on the 108-acre campus, were moved to the facility in March.

The construction did make for interesting parking arrangements for several months, but the Benedictine spirit shined through as students, faculty and staff members volunteered to park at a remote lot and used shuttle buses to go back and forth to campus. The University thanked these volunteers through various programs, such as “Worth it Wednesdays,” where student participants received $10 in “Munch Money” each Wednesday they used remote parking. Volunteers were also entered into a raffle for a $500 or $250 cash prize at the end of the semester. In addition, random drawings were held.

The facility wasn’t scheduled to open until the Spring semester, but thanks to the outstanding work of the subcontractors, the facility opened early. The garage was designed by DLR Architects, who also designed the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex, and built by International Contractors, Inc. of Elmhurst.

Grant Awarded for Christian Perspectives on the Environment

Christine Fletcher, Ph.D., assistant professor of Theology at Benedictine, was awarded a $12,500 grant by the Lilly Fellows Program in the Humanities and the Arts to organize and direct a conference at the University that would explore Christian perspectives on the environment. Held this past April, “Faith, Science and Stewardship: Christian Pedagogy on the Environment?” was sponsored in partnership with Trinity Christian College and Lewis University, and intended for Christian educators and students.

The event sought to facilitate a dialogue between the various Christian perspectives on environmental issues as well as effective teaching of the Christian understanding of creation and stewardship. Environmental issues, particularly those related to water, are of serious concern to colleges in the Great Lakes region.

The Lilly Fellows Program seeks to strengthen the quality and shape the character of church-related institutions of higher learning.

Grant Expands Benedictine Arboretum

Benedictine was one of 30 nonprofit organizations in DuPage County to receive a 2010 Arts and Culture, Education and Environment Grant from The DuPage Community Foundation.

The $7,500 grant will help purchase trees and planting tools to expand the University Arboretum. The arboretum plan was developed in 2006 in consultation and partnership with the Morton Arboretum to help break down pollutants before they enter the watershed, provide a natural habitat for wildlife, provide an outdoor classroom and laboratory for students to study woody plant life indigenous to DuPage County, demonstrate how green spaces can be incorporated into the corporate culture, and be a place of refuge and respite in a busy suburban environment.
Springfield Campus Offers Discount Program through Chamber

Among the seven Benedictine values embraced by the University are a tradition of hospitality, an appreciation for living and working in community, and a concern for the development of each person.

That is why Benedictine University at Springfield established the “Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Tuition Discount Plan.” The plan provides a 25 percent tuition discount to immediate family members (spouse and dependent children) and full-time employees of chamber members.

“Benedictine University has a reputation of being a good neighbor and caring about the community it serves, and through this program we want to express our thanks for being welcomed into the Springfield community,” said Susie Doddek, director of community development and college advancement/alumni.

The discount applies to most undergraduate and graduate programs taken on the Springfield campus and cannot be combined with other student tuition discounts/institutional awards.

Thirty new students at Benedictine University at Springfield are taking advantage of the program, enjoying savings of more than $32,000.

“We work closely with Benedictine University staff and administrators on a number of different educational initiatives, and we are definitely excited to have the opportunity to partner with them and offer this benefit to our members,” said Gary Plummer, President and CEO of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. “We particularly encourage our members who are non-traditional students to explore this opportunity.”

For more information about the program, contact the admissions office at springadm@ben.edu.

In Remembrance of Sr. Beata Knoedler, O.S.U.
May 27, 1920 — February 7, 2011

For 46 years, Sr. Beata stood before students helping them build a foundation of knowledge in mathematics and chemistry. Teaching was her life. In addition to teaching a full course load, she served as an academic advisor, Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society advisor, proctor for ACT testing and the face of the annual Phonathon.

Sr. Beata had a hand in encouraging the careers of physicians, surgeons, dentists, chemists, engineers, teachers and countless other students over the years. She loved knowing that she had an impact on her students’ lives and was always amazed at how many students recognized her years later.

Upon retiring from teaching in 2004, she served as the alumni coordinator. Finally in 2008, after 50 years of service, she officially retired. At the 2008 commencement ceremony, President William Carroll awarded her an honorary Doctorate of Philosophy degree in gratitude for her years of dedicated service.

To commemorate her legacy, the school has honored her by renaming a campus building Beata Hall, hosting the annual Sr. Beata Scholarship Ball to raise scholarship funds for students in need, and creating the Sr. Beata Knoedler Scholarship Fund for incoming science students.

As we say farewell to our “Sr. B.,” we remember her exuberance for life, her willingness to accept challenges, her love of teaching and her devotion to God.

If you wish to honor and remember Sr. Beata with a donation to the Sr. Beata Scholarship, you may make a gift online at: http://springfield.ben.edu/giving or call Susie Doddek at (217) 525-1420, ext. 228.
Center for Lifelong Learning

The new Center for Lifelong Learning at Benedictine University’s Moser College of Adult and Professional Studies provides an opportunity for mature adults who want to be part of a dynamic, intellectual and social community, and who enjoy learning and sharing new ideas in an interactive, congenial atmosphere.

This is a chance to broaden your social and educational horizons in the company of other intellectually curious and friendly adults age 55 and older.

Women’s Institute Will Provide Global Educational Opportunities

Benedictine is introducing a new initiative that speaks to the global need for female leaders. The Women’s Institute for Global Leadership will afford a myriad of academic and non-academic educational opportunities for emerging and existing female leaders around the world who are seeking to obtain continuing education and/or degrees in the area of leadership.

The mission of the Women’s Institute for Global Leadership is to provide women around the world access to unparalleled educational opportunities in order to advance in leadership roles. An array of educational and practical motivational programs will include undergraduate and graduate leadership degrees, certificates, specialized training, seminars, special events, as well as mentoring, coaching and sponsorship.

Benedictine, Rush University Partner to Offer Clinical Life Science Major

Employment of respiratory therapists is expected to grow 23 percent through 2016, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The average salary is more than $58,000 per year. Respiratory therapy is just one of the exciting careers available to students who major in the new bachelor of arts program in Clinical Life Science at Benedictine.

The Clinical Life Science major is the newest undergraduate academic program offered by the University. Students who major in Clinical Life Science follow a three-year sequence of liberal arts and science courses. During their junior year, they can apply to Rush University’s master of science program.

Successful completion of the entire 3+2 program (three years at Benedictine, two years at Rush) results in a bachelor of arts degree in Clinical Life Science from Benedictine and a master of science degree in either Respiratory Therapy or Perfusion Technology from Rush.

The program provides students with hands-on experience at top-tier academic medical centers in Chicago and preparation for entry-level and advanced exams. Students also experience Rush’s innovative practitioner-teacher model in which faculty assume multiple roles as educators, researchers and practitioners.

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

Enriching Minds

There are no tests, grades or admission requirements in this non-credit program. The three-to-six week courses are highly interactive discussions of intriguing topics led by Benedictine faculty, visiting experts and Center members. Topics will include history, current events, natural and social sciences, technology, politics, and art and music.

The Center for Lifelong Learning is also an active social community. Members help organize classes and social activities, and can contribute their own expertise by leading study groups.

For more information, go to www.ben.edu/lifelonglearning.
The Center is located at the Moser Center, 1832 Centre Point Circle in Naperville. For more information, contact Stephen Nunes, Ph.D., at (630) 829-1372 or snunes@ben.edu.

Leadership Opportunities

The Institute is being developed as a result of an increased need to establish and cultivate female leaders in all industries, including higher education. Additionally, the Master of Science in Leadership continues to grow in demand and gain global exposure, thereby serving as a strategic channel for this endeavor.

By providing information and tools that address the needs of women locally and globally, the Institute can help them function effectively in a global society and therefore foster greater collaborative efforts to encourage a global female leadership community.

For more information about this new initiative, please contact Tanesha Pittman, executive director, Moser College of Adult and Professional Studies, at (630) 829-6125 or tpittman@ben.edu.
Honoring Our Diversity

Each year, the University honors the memory of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and celebrates the diversity of the student body by holding a breakfast presentation that gives voice to the ideals King held so dear.

Kareem M. Irfan says that we must reject the voices of hate and fear which seek to divide Americans based on religion, race or color. “We must love, serve and care for our fellow humans regardless of their race, religion or color. As Dr. King said, ‘We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools,’” he said.

Irfan was the keynote speaker at the 16th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, sponsored by Benedictine University, the College of DuPage (COD) and NICOR, attended by more than 500 people in the Krasa Center in January.

Irfan is the first Muslim to become president of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago. He has served in a leadership role in the American-Muslim community for more than 25 years and is past chair of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, an organization that represents more than 400,000 Muslim-Americans.

A practicing intellectual property and information technology lawyer, he is passionately devoted to inspiring fellow Americans to transcend religious, ethnic and cultural boundaries to collectively address emerging societal challenges. He is a frequent speaker on socially relevant topics like professionalism, ethics and integrity; inter-religious bridge-building; post 9-11 challenges of religious radicalism and extremism; and contemporary Muslim perspectives and relations with the Islamic world.

“The question for us today is how do we react when confronted by adversity?” he asked those attending the breakfast. “When hate and intemperance rear their ugly heads? The challenge for each of us is to identify our role and act upon it. We must pledge to reject the voices of hate and fear.”

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. Three Benedictine University students were honored as recipients of King scholarships, which are awarded based on a number of criteria including community service.

Awarded a scholarship was Maraea D. Mason, a junior Writing and Publishing major from Lombard; Idene S. Serushan, a senior majoring in Biology from Oak Brook; and Eric D. Taylor, a junior Business and Economics major from Chicago.

Abbot Austin Murphy, O.S.B., chancellor of Benedictine University, offered the invocation and the Rev. Julian E. Spencer, Ph.D., pastor of Main Baptist Church in Aurora, provided the Benediction. Musical entertainment was provided by the Praise Team of Main Baptist Church in Aurora.

New Research Symposium Enhances Student Learning

Students in the Scholars Program presented research projects on which they have been working in conjunction with their studies during a symposium in April. This year, for the first time, other undergraduate students were also discussing work they have done, including research projects, creative works, literature reviews, summaries of internship experiences, etc.

This initial symposium event, titled Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Arts (URSA), is part of a larger accreditation action project designed to increase the number of students working with faculty on undergraduate research.

“URSA is another way for the University to enhance student learning and allow students to work closely alongside faculty members,” said Jonathan Lewis, Ph.D., assistant to the provost for academic assessment.
College and high school student-athletes, area youngsters and even the senior leaguers who compete on the baseball and softball fields at Benedictine University can take pride knowing that they are playing on the best fields in the country. Benedictine’s baseball and softball fields have each been designated as the “Field of the Year” in their respective divisions by the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), a nonprofit, professional association for sports field managers.

“The Field of the Year Award validates the intense dedication of Benedictine University Grounds Manager Peter Charcut, Fields Superintendent Kari Allen [pictured above] and their crew,” said Kim Heck, CEO of the STMA. “Each year, we award no more than 14 Fields of the Year, so a very small percentage of our members are winners.”

The STMA Field of the Year Award program has a panel of judges independently score each entry based on playability and appearance of the playing surfaces, innovative solutions employed, effective use of budget, and the development and implementation of a comprehensive, sound agronomic program.

“The grounds department, along with student support through the Office of Auxiliary Enterprises and the Athletics Department, as well as coaches, all work well together to maintain the fields during the season. They also partner in restoring the fields at the end of each season,” said Jay L. Stuart, director of Campus Services at Benedictine.

During the busy season, it is not uncommon for the fields to host 10-12 games in a single weekend. Charcut has been the grounds manager at the University for five years and has more than 35 years of horticulture experience. Allen, who earned a bachelor’s degree in Turfgrass Management at Michigan State and is a Certified Sports Field Manager, has been the fields superintendent for three years. Both are employed by Sodexo, which supplies campus management services to Benedictine.
St. Procopius Academy/College

59 Col. Jaroslav Richter, M.D., Biology, has been living in Micronesia for years and is now planning to move to Mexico.

66 Michael Merscher, Mathematics, has been awarded the 2010 Distinguished Teaching Award by the Michigan section of the Mathematical Association of America. The award is given periodically to a college or university professor of mathematics in Michigan. Merscher is a professor at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, MI.

67 William G. Johnson, Political Science, recently retired from the New Hampshire legislature after two terms in office. Johnson and his wife welcomed their seventh grandchild, Cameron Michael Vezina, born to their youngest daughter, Kate, and her husband who live in Massachusetts. Johnson retired some years ago from his position as executive vice president of mortgage securities at Shearson Lehman Bros., NYC, and has been involved in the management of a number of nonprofits since moving to New Hampshire in 1991.

68 Owen E. Brady, Ph.D., Literature, has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece, where he will lecture and do research on African-American literature during the spring semester. In 1994, he held a Fulbright Fellowship at Hiroshima University in Japan. Brady’s second book on the versatile, award-winning African-American writer, Walter Mosley, titled “Conversations with Walter Mosley,” was published in March by the University Press of Mississippi in its Literary Conversations series. Currently, Brady is a professor of Humanities at Clarkson University in New York.

69 Hon. Francis J. Dolan, Political Science, retired as Cook County Court judge in 2009. From 2001, until the time of his retirement, Dolan was assigned to the Civil Jury Trial Section of the First Municipal District where he presided over highvolume, civil jury trial calls. During that period, he presided over 328 civil jury trials to verdict and developed a real time data collection system. Employment of this system led him to conduct a six-year study (2001-2007) of the first 300 jury trials. Publications based upon this study include: A manual for judges titled Judicial Case Management of Civil Jury Trials: Marshaling Information on Cases, Trials and Juries with a Modest Use of Information Technology (2003); Achieving Diversity on the Jury: Jury Size and the Peremptory Challenge (September, 2004); Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, Society of Empirical Legal Studies, Cornell Law School (co-author). Since retiring from the bench, Dolan has conducted a mediation practice through (and is principal of) Judicial Conflict Resolution, Inc., in Chicago.

Illinois Benedictine College

71 Dorothy Donner, English, is retired and keeping busy with household chores and repairs that keep her and her husband, Frank, challenged on a daily basis.

74 Geralyn (Klingler) Coleman, Elementary Education, has been living in Oshkosh, WI, for the last 25 years. Coleman spent the last 19 years teaching second grade at Oaklawn School. She has three children: Ben, 29 (who is getting married in June); Becky, 28 and Scott, 26.

75 Fr. Tim Navin O.S.B., Physics, is pastor at San Marco Catholic Church in Marco Island, FL. Navin states, “All the best to my old friends at Benedictine University.”

77 Ben Marchlewicz, Ph.D., Biochemistry, was named director of blood screening technical operations in the diagnostic division of Abbott Laboratories.

79 Michael S. Davern, C.F.A., Economics, is vice president of Nuveen Investments, where he serves as director of municipal management. In that role, he supports sales and marketing activity related to all of Nuveen’s municipal managed money products. He serves as one of Nuveen’s chief spokespersons for municipal bond investments, assisting high-net-worth investors and their advisors on risks and rewards of investing in the municipal bond market.

81 Joseph M. DeBoo, Physical Education, is currently a detail professional massage therapist/educator in the health, wellness and fitness industry with more than 20 years of expertise in customer service/sales. He has worked with high-profile and professional athletes, as well as with AAI sports organizations and high school athletic programs. He has a vast knowledge of the art and science of massage therapy and started the business Body/Image Massage Therapy. The goal is to help both individuals and athletes reach and maintain peak levels of performance, which is accomplished through the use of various modalities and specific exercises to identify areas of attention.

Stephen W. DeFilippis, E.A., Business and Economics, was named one of the “Chicago 2010 FIVE STAR Wealth Managers” in the November issue of Chicago magazine. The magazine formed a partnership with Crescendo Business Services to find out which of the more than 31,000 wealth managers in the Chicago area scored highest in overall satisfaction. The resulting list is an elite group, representing less than 2 percent of the wealth managers in the area.

Jim Norris, Ed.D., Psychology, has started a new company Propel Doors, LLC, along with a partner. They designed, and now sell, their patent-pending system that automates large sliding doors like the ones on barns and machine sheds.

Michelle O’Grady, Biology, is living in Ann Arbor, MI, and teaches at the University of Michigan in nursing. She is also a nurse-midwife. O’Grady graduated from nursing school at University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) in 1984 and worked as a nurse at...
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Email: jnelligan@ben.edu
(include your name, address, email, phone number, class year and degree, along with your news.)

3 chances to win a prize per issue.

“82 Jim Kerstern, M.B.A., has recently accepted an offer to join Diversified Labeling Solutions, Inc. as their chief executive officer.

“83 Tom Bicek, Mathematics, has begun a new career with Recourse Advisors, LLC. Bicek is the regional sales director, assisting telecommunications companies with cost reduction and tax recovery.

“Julie (Keefe) Del Monaco, Music Education, married her high school sweetheart 27 years ago and they are still happily married. They have two daughters, Colleen, 24, who is engaged to be married, and Lexi, 21, who is a senior in college. Del Monaco has five part-time jobs, including teaching piano, directing choir for fifth and eighth-grade students at church, doing organizational work at another church, working as an office assistant for a holistic doctor in Clarendon Hills and finally, editing and assisting a local psychotherapist write a book.

“86 Ed McNally, Accounting, was named 2010 Illinois High School Soccer Coach of the Year. He has been coaching at Mohler McAuley High School for 18 years. McNally was also nominated for the National High School Soccer Coach of the Year, National Soccer Coaches Association and for the National Private School Coach of the Year, National Soccer Coaches Association. He is currently teaching Biology/Forensic Science at Proviso East High School in Maywood, IL. He and his wife, Lisa, have three children, Eddie, Owen and Annie.

“87 Victoria (Pietryga) Lo, Literature and Communications, is now the business development project leader for Advocate Home Health Services and Advocate Hospice. Lo and her husband, Sal, live in Naperville with their two daughters, Emily and Madeleine.

“93 Isabella (Cowan) Birlinger, M.S.C.E.P., graduated summa cum laude at Samuel Merritt University School of Nursing in Oakland, CA, in 2010. Birlinger is also a distinguished member of Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society and a Coronary Observation Unit registered nurse at Brandon Regional Hospital in Brandon, FL.

“Andrew Papakostas, Health Science, has successfully grown a home business in nutrition that has expanded in 10 countries. It offers a healthy weight loss solution and products that are science-based. He also started the Olympic Soccer Academy in Plainfield focusing on kids ages 3-17.

“97 Linda L. Dinges, B.S.N., R.N.C., has been living in Hannibal, MO, for three years and is the director of two special units at Hannibal Regional Hospital. She has been a registered nurse since 1980, worked in maternal health for 30 years and in mental health for three years. She believes the combination has enlightened her understanding and compassion for quality, caring nursing in the 21st century.

“Katie (Forysthe) Keeley, Biology, and husband, Tim Keeley, C99, Marketing, welcomed a daughter, Fionnuala, to their family.

“99 Mary (Costello) Carde, Sociology, and her husband, Staff Sgt. Jonathan L. Carde, welcomed daughter Eliana Marie on October 21, 2010, at Fort Belvoir Army Medical Center. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long. They also have a 4-year-old son, Antonio. (pictured below.)

“00 Rebecca (Walker) Mathis, M.B.A., a financial expert with more than 16 years of health care experience, has been appointed vice president/chief financial officer at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. Mathis leads all strategic and tactical matters related to budget management, cost-benefit analysis, forecasting needs and all other financial needs for the hospital.

“01 Alexis Eckersall, M.Ed., is currently co-teaching at Glenbard East High School in Lombard. Ii Eckersall also teaches a physical science course which consists of units on forensics, chemistry, physics and earth science. Once the teaching day is over, Eckersall coaches the girls JV and JV2 gymnastics teams. On weekends she works for Baribzon Midwest, teaching modeling and self-improvement classes.

“Josephine Lewis, Psychology, recently taught English this past summer at an English camp in Torun, Poland. She worked with several other teachers and her students ranged in age from 16-18. Lewis enjoyed the experience and her time spent with the students.
Kevin Skinkis, Ph.D., M.Ed., will be the next superintendent of Riverside Brookfield High School. Skinkis was previously the principal for Bartlett High School and before that, the assistant principal at Mundelein High School.

‘03 Herb Anderson, M.A.A., joined Lisle School District 202 to teach Physical Science and Physics after working 11 years as a research and development chemist at Decode Genetics and teaching for five years at Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville School District 204. He is working on his second master’s degree at Benedictine, and is married with three children, Ian, 5; Jackson, 3; and Lily, 1.

Jim Volgt, J.D., Business Administration, appointed to the Board of Directors of the Palatine Chamber of Commerce for 2011. He is a lawyer at Lavelle Law, Ltd., a practice that concentrates primarily on new business formation and corporate maintenance and compliance. Voigt also operates a small business blog and is a frequent contributor to the “Chicago’s Legal Latte” podcast series. A member of the Illinois Bar Association, he also served on the Board of Directors of the Corporate Law Association at the John Marshall Law School. He and his wife have two daughters, Rebecca and Lauren.

‘04 Genica (Zdenek) Miller, Chemistry, and husband, Devon, welcomed their first child into their family. Mason Cole was born on October 24, 2010. Miller is employed as a nuclear medicine technologist at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove. (Pictured below.)

Patricia Sullivan, Accounting, was married to Jeffrey Colgren on January 22 at Old St. Patrick’s Church in Chicago. The couple honeymooned in Zermatt, Switzerland and reside in Bend, OR.

‘03 Elizabeth (Davis) Breese, M.B.A., and husband, David, had a son, Tyler, on December 27, 2010. Breese is a stay-at-home parent to Tyler and his big sister Emma.

Brandon Cade, Psychology, currently works as an engineering field operations supervisor for ComEd. Cade also played professional football in France for two years.

Julie (Sullivan) Franklin, Sociology, married Jimmy Franklin, C06, Marketing, in August 2008 and were expecting their first baby boy in March.

Linda Veleckis Nussbaum, Ph.D., has been named interim executive director of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO) and second violin for the orchestra. Nussbaum has performed with the IPO for 22 years and has worked closely with the administration to coordinate and contract individual artists as needed for various concerts.

Erik (Augello) Ruden, Management, M.S.M.O.B. ’08, currently works as a sales engineer for Moleskine in Lisle.

‘06 Mark-Louis Papryza, Nutrition, has been trading the S&P and SPX indices at the Chicago Board Options Exchange since 2008. Papryza also competes occasionally in amateur bodybuilding shows. He won the Open Bantamweight title at the 2010 Midwest Ironman and took second place at the 2010 Mid-States Muscle Classic.

‘07 James E. Kosatka, Management, has been named Lisle Village Police Chief. Kosatka has been the department’s deputy chief since 2002 and also served as acting police chief. He is a 31-year veteran of the department and progressed from police officer to patrol sergeant and detective sergeant prior to assuming the role as deputy chief, Lisle Mayor Joe Broda, C82, said, “Jim has a great police department in place and Jim Kosatka has played a significant role in making it that way.”

‘08 Lu A’Ku, M.Ed., is the chair of the Science department and a Physics teacher at Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy on the south side of Chicago. A’Ku has worked for the Chicago Public Schools for four years and is currently taking Physics courses at Chicago State University and studying Portuguese with frequent trips to Brazil.

Anthony (Tony) DeSanto, Business and Economics, M.B.A. ’09, was named the new recreation supervisor with the Oakbrook Terrace Park District. DeSanto also is a certified personal trainer. He resides in LaGrange Park.

Theresa (Harkey) Gronowski, Art Administration, married Gregory Gronowski on October 28, 2008. She currently works at Korzenowski Design in Elmhurst, IL, as an art and administrative assistant.

Yori Huff, M.S.M.I.S., published her first book in October 2010, “The Veil of Victory,” which is an account of her life from childhood to her legal victory over a sheriff’s police department. Huff is now working on a second book, “Testimony Time,” a superhero comic book. She also established a gift-basket company, Just for You Balloons, and is the owner of Executive Dry Cleaners Inc. In 2008, Huff became the founder, president, and CEO of Engendering Strength, Inc., a company devoted to inspiring and empowering women.

Patrick McGee, Management, retired from the Cook County Sheriff’s Police Department after 31 years of service. McGee became the first deputy superintendent of police for the Cicero Police Department in June 2009.

Amir Thaker, M.P.H., M.B.A., is employed at Edward Hospital as a planning project manager.

Robert Wollwerth, Management, has been promoted to the rank of commander of support services for the Kendall County Sheriff’s Department. Wollwerth oversees court security, investigations, evidence and training at the department. A 23-year veteran, he served as a patrol officer, community policing officer, patrol supervisor and was the office’s first full-time training coordinator.

‘09 Justin Duhal, M.B.A., is engaged to Rachel Snyder. They are both from Schaumburg, IL. The couple plans to marry on June 29.

‘10 Richard Burke, Computer Science, has been commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army where he is an air defense artillery officer. Burke reported to Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, OK, in February and then to active duty with the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade in Korea.

Steven Montalto, Political Science, is part of The White House Internship Program for the Spring 2011 session.

‘11 Amy Paulson, M.Ed., will be married on July 23, 2011. Paulson is a fourth-grade teacher for District 46 in Grayslake.

Springfield College in Illinois

‘88 Kristin M. Bliven is currently an assistant professor of English at Harold Washington College in Chicago.

‘03 Lara (Stremsterfer) Donovan and Mark Donovan were married August 21, 2010. She is the daughter of art instructor Marianne (Kohrus) Stremsterfer, SIC ’89.

In Memory

St. Procopius Academy/College

Raymond Kociosko, C49, Philosophy, passed away February 4, 2011.

David Mather, Ph.D., C62, Math, passed away January 8, 2011.

Nick Passino, Ph.D., C62, Physics, passed away March 2, 2011.

Dominic C. Castino, C63, Literature, passed away December 17, 2010.

Rosemary E. Rausch, C64, Literature, passed away December 14, 2010.

Tim Boltz, C67, Philosophy, passed away January, 2011.

Illinois Benedictine College


Greg Koubus, C72, Math, passed away December 8, 2010.

Catherine J. McDonald, C80, Business and Economics, passed away December 2, 2010.

Benedictine University


Springfield Junior College


Thomas L. Butler, SJC ’54, passed away December 3, 2010.

Glenn B. Finney, SJC ’51, passed away January 10, 2011.

William S. Green, SJC ’56, passed away December 9, 2010.


Lee Leone, SJC ’45, passed away April 6, 2010.


Springfield College in Illinois

Judith (Raisch) Bright, SCI ’72, passed away January 19, 2011.

Henry F. Dufelmier, SCI ’69, passed away February 11, 2011.

Robert J. Endres, SCI ’71, passed away February 10, 2011.

Janet (Baker) Gilsson, SCI ’86, passed away December 18, 2010.
St. Benedict’s Rule for Monks begins with a powerful imperative: *Listen.* And at Benedictine University, we believe in the importance of listening to one another. We therefore have named our magazine Benedictine Voices. We pledge that within these pages, members of the Benedictine Community will speak with candor about issues facing our University and our world. We cordially invite you to enter into dialog with us.

Don’t Forget to Read Voices WebExtras:
Find more articles, news and past issues of Voices online at: www.ben.edu/voices
In this issue:
- Years for the Environment
- Jurica-Suchy Museum
- BenU Cares: Asia Institute
- Visiting Scholar in Catholic Thought
- Simmer Nursing Grant Awards
- Hall of Fame—Full Story
Plus links to scholarships, alumni events, alumni wear and more!

Read Faculty Notes at: www.ben.edu/facultynotes
Keep up-to-date on our outstanding faculty. Visit faculty notes online to see their latest accomplishments.

A QUICK NOTE

**BenU Police Step-Up Campus Safety Measures**

The Benedictine University Police have taken several measures to ensure student, faculty and staff safety this past year including implementation of an intelligence unit, an anti-drinking program and a new canine officer.

**Intelligence Unit:** An intelligence unit has been organized to identify problems when they are still small. “Intelligence-led policing” is a proactive effort to engage community members, create relationships and gather information on potential problems within the community or about people outside the community who might pose a threat.

**Underage Drinking Grant:** The department was awarded a $5,000 grant by the Illinois Department of Human Services to combat underage alcohol use and impaired driving on campus. The grant will subsidize salaries and equipment, such as portable breath test devices.

**K-9 officer Sophie is the department’s latest addition:**
She is utilized as a public relations representative, educational resource and stress reducer. However, the two-year-old Golden Retriever also serves a more serious purpose — providing a safe environment for students, staff and faculty. She has been trained to detect illegal drugs. Everyone on campus has welcomed Sophie with open arms. The University is the only suburban private institution in the region which has this type of resource and support.
Plain White T’s

BenFest
AUGUST 27 2011

4:00 p.m.
Alumni/Student Picnic & Entertainment

7:00 p.m.
Plain White T’s Concert
at the Village of Lisle-Benedictine University Sports Complex

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

A Storybook Affair

October 7-9
Homecoming

Saturday
10:30 a.m.
Tailgating & Ernie’s Eaglets’ Royal Playland
1:00 p.m.
Benedictine Eagles vs. Aurora Spartans

Sunday
11:00 a.m.
Mass at the Abbey
12:00 p.m.
Brunch in honor of Alumni Award Winners and the Golden Eagles

Find out about the latest royal goings-on at www.ben.edu/homecoming.
Haven’t seen BenU’s new video yet? Or maybe you just want to see it again!

Who’s that chick?

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

Be sure to forward this video to all your friends and family!