Stewardship
Care for All of God’s Creation
A Legacy of Giving Back

One of the most interesting and powerful insights I have had recently concerns the monks of St. Procopius Abbey and the legacy of giving back that they have engendered in this University. As I prepared for a talk I was to give on the culmination of Benedictine University’s 125th anniversary celebration, I reviewed the history of the Abbey from its earliest days in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago to the present. While I have often reviewed this history, every reading produces a different result. This time I was struck by how the monks of St. Procopius Abbey engaged the culture in which they lived, prayed and worked.

The earliest example I can find is when local banks were struggling in the 1890s. Kaspah State Bank was reeling from a “run” on it by depositors. The customers were withdrawing funds at too fast a rate for the bank to keep up. The owner of the bank, a friend of Abbot Nepomucene Jaeger, O.S.B., (the first abbot of St. Procopius Abbey), asked him to fill a money bag, walk down the street and make a deposit. Abbot Jaeger did just that—stopping to speak with residents along his way to the bank. When people saw him depositing money rather than withdrawing it, the run on the bank was over. Abbot Nepomucene engaged the culture and averted a bank failure.

Another example is the decision of the Abbey to petition Rome to allow it to send monks for secular studies rather than the traditional theological discipline. The monks had declared early on in the 20th century that the century was going to involve a dialogue with the sciences, and they wanted to participate. What a dialogue it was!

While there are as many examples of the Abbey reaching out to the community as there are monks who have served there, these two examples make my point. We have been taught by our founders to reach out and to make a difference in our communities. In a very real sense, they have taught us to give back to the communities from whence we came.

This edition of Voices is a celebration of giving back to our communities. As Benedictine alumni and friends, I trust your experience at Benedictine heightened and possibly even engendered your sense of caring for the “other” no matter who the “other” might be.

— William J. Carroll, President

Benedictine students work alongside local villagers in the Philippines as part of a university service trip to build and repair homes for the poor.
Benedictines have a special calling—a calling to use our talents and gifts to the best of our abilities, not just for our benefit, but for the benefit of the greater community. This notion of selflessness is at the core of a Benedictine education—something that is communicated from the first time students step on campus to the time they leave and go out into the world.

It is no surprise that the Benedictine hallmarks highlight giving back and being of service in several ways. “Stewardship” defines Benedictines as responsible stewards of their resources and those of the Earth, using material things in moderation for the good of all—both present and future. Some say stewardship is part of being a leader. It is the willingness to be accountable for things larger than yourself. Benedictines believe the entire universe can reveal and mediate the work and word of God. This understanding manifests itself in the care shown to all people, material things and natural ecosystems. It combines with the other Benedictine values to encourage giving back to others and serving the greater good.

Over the years, this value has been put in practice by Benedictines throughout campus, the nation and the world. Collectively, our students and the University community have raised thousands of dollars and donated their time to the American Cancer Society, Ronald McDonald House charities and other nonprofit organizations to help the sick and the poor. Each year, students, staff and faculty collect thousands of pounds of food and personal items to support local food banks, volunteer to build homes for the indigent, teach in high-needs schools or travel abroad to share their expertise and improve the quality of health care in remote areas of Africa, South America, Europe and Asia.

Benedictine’s Center for Civic Leadership started the Hunger Team initiative this past year to bring more awareness to the plight of the hungry in our local area and find ways to help solve the problem. Our students and alumni do not dismiss or ignore the problems of the world. They insert themselves into difficult issues, ask hard questions and think about what they can do to help or initiate change.

Each year, our students hold activities for the disabled through the Best Buddies Club and serve the local community by preparing tax returns for low income families. Benedictine alumni like Mike Mantel, Ph.D., who works to bring clean drinking water to millions of people in developing nations, and Patrick Biancey, D.D.S., who provides free dental service to the people of Haiti each year, continue the tradition of giving back long after they have left campus.

These endeavors help us to pursue God, for his likeness is especially found in those who are most in need. We ask all who aspire to teach and lead, serve and study within the institution to make a real commitment to the well-being of others. This commitment is demonstrated by the dedication of Benedictines to pursue what truly kindles imagination and courage, what nurtures compassion and what gives lasting direction to a life’s vocation.

When the unemployment rate skyrocketed in 2010, Benedictine created the Illinois Back to Work program to provide a free education to adults who did not have a college degree. When recession gripped the nation in 2008, Benedictine froze tuition for undergraduate students to help them afford the cost of college. To lessen the impact we have on the environment, each year Benedictine sponsors “Sustainable Saturday,” partnering with the Village of Lisle and DuPage County to give area residents an opportunity to dispose of old electronics and other recyclable items.

Benedictine supporters contribute financially to the University to help students afford an education and to help improve facilities and programs. These are just a few examples of how we Benedictines continue to exercise stewardship, making a real difference in the community and in the lives of others.

Living a meaningful life includes living a life of balance, and that includes being of service to others. The old adage is true. It is through giving that you truly receive.
In 2006, Dave and Patty Bushland left a hospital in Madison, Wis., shaken and uncertain how they could begin to help their then 4-month-old daughter, Mary Rose. After weeks of examinations and consultations, a doctor finally gave the Bushlands the news.

“Sorry, your daughter is blind,” said the doctor, who then promptly left the room.

Not a word was mentioned about what they could expect or what additional services they might need for Mary Rose, who was diagnosed with Leber’s congenital amaurosis, a rare genetic disease that impacts the retina and its ability to process vision.

“It was a pretty dark and depressing period of our lives,” Dave Bushland recalled. “We found out about Mary Rose the same week my job was eliminated.”

With seemingly nowhere to turn, the Bushlands began reaching out to other families with visually impaired children. They soon realized how few resources were available. So they decided to launch their own organization to help parents connect and support one another to provide needed services and activities for blind children.

“We realized that the best resources more often than not were other parents who had children who were visually impaired,” Bushland said. “The problem is it was hard to connect with others who were out there.”

While living in Arkansas, they founded the National Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired (NAPVI) and it quickly grew into one of the largest organizations of its kind in the country. Through the association, they established programming for parents, conferences featuring national experts on blindness, camps for families and other adapted activities that were previously nonexistent. A few years later, the Bushlands relocated to Minneapolis and established a NAPVI chapter there.

During the past six years, the Bushlands have raised more than $300,000 to benefit blind children through the two NAPVI chapters and other organizations.

In November 2008, Bushland was asked to serve on the board of the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA), a U.S. Olympic multisport organization that offers outreach and training services for blind athletes. In November 2012, he was elected president.

As president, Bushland helps to set strategy and direction for the USABA. His priorities include expanding the Paralympic sport of goalball, in which athletes attempt to roll a 2.75 pound ball containing bells into a net for a goal. He also supports athletes who compete in other Paralympic and international events. Other priorities include fundraising and educating the general public on the athletic abilities of people who are blind and visually impaired, and expanding outreach programs so more of the blind have opportunities to participate in sports.

“There are 56,000 children in the United States who are blind and visually impaired,” Bushland said. “More than 60 percent of them do not participate in any physical education program or class, and unfortunately they are left on the sidelines or at home on the couch. We want to provide opportunities for these kids. Whether it is through a camp or in the form of information for teachers to learn how to adapt their classes to include blind students—the important thing is to get them in the game.”

Today, the Bushlands live in Dallas, Texas. In addition to Bushland’s work with the USABA, he is the vice president of Finance at J.C. Penney, where he is in charge of operations finance for 1,100 J.C. Penney stores across the country.
As a student at Benedictine, Bushland had a passion for sports and played on the football team. His children have followed in his footsteps. Mary Rose, who is now 7 years old, takes swimming lessons twice a week and may soon begin other activities like horseback riding, judo or cycling.

Bushland said the values that were instilled in him as a student at Benedictine have helped him to remain positive and overcome some of the challenges that the family has endured.

He feels that in many ways, Mary Rose is a source of inspiration for the entire Bushland family. Without her, they might never have become advocates for the blind.

“I would like to say I found this cause, but the reality is it found us when Mary Rose was diagnosed,” Bushland said. “As a result, we are in it for life. It has been the hardest blessing that God could ever give us, but I also feel he has given me gifts that I can use to make a small difference in the lives of others going through similar challenges.”

To read the full story, go to www.ben.edu/webextras.

Brian Saso, M.S.’02, Clinical Exercise Physiology

Internships Help Train Next Generation of Medical Professionals

After earning a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Clinical Exercise Physiology from Benedictine in 2002 and spending a few years in the field, Brian Saso became a leader in clinical diagnostics. Today, he is the manager of Cardiac and Rehab Services at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital and teaches graduate courses at Benedictine.

Three years ago, he extended semester-long internship opportunities to help students in Benedictine’s Clinical Exercise Physiology program by providing them with an opportunity to gain practical, hands-on experience.

Each semester, two students are selected for the internship. These students learn how to become more proficient in exercise testing and electrocardiogram (EKG) interpretation, and assess patient health regarding coronary artery disease, associated risk factors and symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath, syncope, heart palpitations and more.

During the 150 hours the students spend at the hospital, they also observe patients who have gone through or need non-invasive or interventional cardiology treatment.

“These experiences are critical for students who must take the concepts they learn at Benedictine and apply them to real-life situations,” Saso said.

“I want students to make a connection to the purpose of why we do what we do, and become appreciative of the one common theme I stress during our time together,” Saso said. “In health care, we are dealing with people’s lives, and we need to take what we do seriously.”

Saso said he offered to sponsor the internships to give back and support his alma mater, which helped him to be successful in his field, while helping to train the next generation of medical professionals from Benedictine.

“I want the experience at my facility to prepare them for the challenges they may face as a clinical professional so they can succeed in their respective fields,” Saso said. “As students graduate and take on roles in various workplaces, my hope is that they become a successful representation of the University.”

To read the full story, go to www.ben.edu/webextras.
Moses Allen has handed out food to the homeless living along Lower Wacker Drive in Chicago, organized awareness and fundraising campaigns to support cancer research in Springfield, and assisted underprivileged children in many places across the world.

His motivation comes partly from personal experience. When he was a child, he and his mother relied on a food pantry to get through hard times. It is just one of the many reasons the Benedictine alumnus never turns down an opportunity to lend a hand to those in need.

“I grew up well below the poverty line,” Allen said. “I remember those conversations with my mom explaining that we did not have the money for a new winter coat, bicycle or a video game system on birthdays or Christmas. I remember getting a box of food before Thanksgiving from the Illinois Food Bank.

“Now, I am happy to be able to give time and volunteer for many of those same worthwhile charities and programs that I benefitted from,” he said.

Allen’s generous spirit was evident as an undergraduate student at Springfield College (now Benedictine University at Springfield). He became involved in the student activity council and helped plan community programs like Easter egg hunts and safe Halloween events where parents could bring their children. A few years after his aunt passed away from breast cancer in 2005, he started an airplane flying contest for children from his old elementary school to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The contest eventually became an annual event at Benedictine University at Springfield, and with the assistance of the Illinois Pilot’s Association, Allen was able to award a free airplane ride to the winner of the contest.

“Most of the children at the school had never been on a real airplane and probably didn’t even dream that they would ever have the chance,” Allen said.

“I wanted to inspire those children to greater aspirations. I wanted interest to drive their passion for their studies.”

Allen also found time to insert himself in the political process at the University, writing some of the bylaws for the University’s first student government association. When Benedictine announced a merger with Springfield College in 2004, Allen volunteered to sit on a committee to promote positive relationships between student groups on both campuses.

Later that year, he went on his first service learning trip to Glenmary Farm, a mission serving one of the poorest counties in Kentucky. There, he learned about the culture and traditions of people living in Appalachia and developed an understanding for the causes of poverty, oppression and injustice. The trip inspired him to continue serving those who were poor or underprivileged.

“That experience whet my appetite for helping others,” Allen said.
The following year, he traveled to Armenia where he provided physical therapy and rehabilitation services for handicapped children living in an orphanage.

When he returned to the United States, he became involved in an urban outreach program to feed and help the homeless in Chicago. Every Friday evening, Allen and a few friends would drive around the city handing out brown bag meals to homeless people living under viaducts and other places.

In 2006, he studied abroad for five months in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico, and volunteered as a tutor at an orphanage there. The next year, he traveled to Ndola, Zambia, where he assisted with health screenings, building a new schoolhouse and implementing a food program which helped increase enrollment at the school from 50 to 350 students.

When he returned to the States, he took a serving job at Mariah’s Restaurant in Springfield, and interested in pursuing a career as a lawyer, interning at the Springfield law firm of LaBarre, Young and Behnke. He later took the Law School Admission Test and was accepted into law school.

As a reward for his hard work, he went on a solo backpacking trip across Ireland, England, France, Italy, Greece, Egypt and Jordan. While on the trip, he worked on an ecofarm where he helped build reed pools for a water purification system and a house from recycled materials with a team of other traveling volunteers.

But his plans of attending law school changed shortly after returning home. His grandmother’s health had begun to decline.

“I decided that my responsibilities to my family were more important than my immediate career ambitions,” Allen said. “As a result of my grandmother’s declining health, I decided to put off law school and stayed in Springfield.”

Allen continued working at the law firm and enrolled in Benedictine’s Master of Arts in Education program. His grandmother passed away in 2009. In 2010, he graduated from the program and began working as a substitute teacher. In his new role, he felt he was able to make an impact on children as a positive male role model.

After a few months, still determined to provide help to those in need, he pursued a teaching position overseas in Italy and helped to open a trilingual library in his grandparents’ name in Oaxaca, Mexico. He is currently in a one-year teaching position near Seoul, South Korea.

Next fall, he plans to pursue a doctorate in Educational Linguistics at the University of New Mexico with a sociological focus on preserving indigenous cultures and languages. With his degree, Allen will work to preserve native languages and cultures in developing nations.
seven years ago, Nirav Ashok Shah was swimming in mounds of jewels and gems as a diamond creator for Rapaport, one of the world’s largest diamond trading networks.

But after a few years in the business, he realized jewelry-making was not what he wanted to do with his life.

When Shah lost another job in the industry, he took it as a sign and decided to try something different—something that would honor the life of his father, who died after a long bout with stomach cancer when Shah was only 10 years old.

“Seeing what my dad went through was devastating,” Shah said. “Ever since then, I have always wanted to do something to assist cancer patients. I decided it was time I tried to make a difference.”

On the recommendation of a friend, Shah enrolled in Benedictine’s Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) program. He also volunteered at the American Cancer Society (ACS), providing rides to cancer patients throughout DuPage County to and from radiation sessions and other appointments at area hospitals.

After graduation, he received a job offer from the North Shore Region of the ACS in Evanston, where he worked as a patient services representative. At the ACS, Shah oversaw the same program for which he once volunteered and helped patients navigate through the treatment and recovery process.

Some of the programs Shah managed offer free transportation and counseling support services, while others, like the “Look Good, Feel Better” program, provide female cancer patients with free wig and makeup services. He also sat on cancer committees at Saint Francis Hospital and worked alongside clinical staff members at North Shore Evanston Hospital to eliminate barriers to care for their patients.

“Every cancer patient is different,” Shah said. “After they are diagnosed with cancer, there are 100,000 questions going through their head. That is when the ACS comes into the picture.”

In addition to his patient support responsibilities, he also assisted with a nationwide cancer prevention study called CPS-3, inviting men and women ages 30 to 65 with no personal history of cancer to participate.

The goal of the study is to enroll 300,000 adults from various ethnic and racial backgrounds to better understand the factors that cause or prevent cancer.

In March, Shah left his job with the ACS and joined the Peace Corps to further pursue a passion for preventing disease in impoverished and underserved communities throughout the world.

He will spend 27 months in Zambia, where he will attempt to introduce and promote preventive health care strategies to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and typhoid, and communicate effective health practices for pregnant mothers and infant children.

He will also work to improve food security, organize a neighborhood health committee to create voluntary medical counseling and testing services, and provide guidance to the Ministry of Health. In his spare time, he is planning to reach out to children and teach them math, science and English, and has set his sights on reaching the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Shah became interested in global health the day he witnessed firsthand the disparity in the number of trained health care professionals, supplies and equipment, and the poor quality of education, food and water in other countries. These factors, he learned, perpetuated a deadly epidemic of HIV/AIDS and other diseases in places like Tanzania, which he visited as part of a Benedictine service trip.

There he saw large-scale pain and suffering—nuns who were dying at age 32 due to complications with high blood pressure and breast cancer, and children struggling to survive.

“It was shocking,” Shah recalled. “We saw a lot of infants diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, and that was really scary to me. I did not expect that, and that really shook me.”

After leaving Tanzania, Shah began an internship with a non-government organization called SOTENI Kenya, and was sent to Kenya to help the local community combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic. There he evaluated a plan for improving the quality of drinking water, dispersed medication and introduced a comprehensive health manual to community health workers in several villages.
Shah credits Benedictine with preparing him for a more rewarding and life-affirming career.

“Coming from the diamond business and going into health care, I never felt that I was the odd one out,” Shah said. “Professors were always there to help guide me, always there to listen. They saw my strengths and appreciated my work, and that meant a lot to me. That is where it all came together, and without the support of my friends and my professors, I would not be doing what I am doing.”

Shah plans to establish an award at Benedictine in honor of his father. He would like the award to provide an M.P.H. student with airfare and other travel expenses to visit the Imiliwaha convent in Tanzania, where Shah’s passion for public health was born.

“It all started with that trip,” Shah said. “That is where I found my true calling.”

Shah does not miss his days serving clients in the lucrative diamond industry. Today, he is working to save lives, a value that, much like his education from Benedictine, cannot be measured in carats.

in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work” (Second Cor 9:7-8).

A number of commentators on “The Rule of St. Benedict” have made the claim that the Rule is fundamentally a commentary on the Scriptures. In “RB 1980: The Rule of St. Benedict in Latin and English with Notes,” Fr. Angar Kristensen, in Appendix 6, “The Role and Interpretation of Scripture in the Rule of Benedict,” provides the report of Rupert Hanslik who found 88 citations and 57 allusions from the Old Testament and 65 citations and 100 allusions from the New Testament contained within the pages of “The Rule of St. Benedict.”

As one can see when examining “The Rule of St. Benedict,” the sharing of goods and concern for the poor is quite evident when St. Benedict speaks of a “wardrobe for the poor” (RB 55:9). He sees the members of the monastery’s community as people who are ready to help those in need. As a Benedictine University, it should seem evident to us that the sharing of goods, especially to others who exhibit some genuine need, is an activity that every member of the University community—whether present or past—should be engaged in.

When we speak of “transforming tomorrow,” we can readily understand the planned activities that will be necessary if we are to make a difference in the world surrounding us. A Benedictine education in and of itself provides a foundation from which every individual can make a contribution that will benefit the people who come into contact with our alumni and community members. The nature of the individual is not really a point at issue because no matter what the position in life one may have, there is always room to make a contribution that will enhance the lives of many.

—Fr. David Turner, O.S.B.
Mike Mantel is the president and CEO of Living Water International, a nonprofit organization that provides clean drinking water to impoverished communities around the world. In 1998, seeking ideas to help him expand Living Water’s reach, Mantel enrolled in Benedictine’s doctorate program in Organization Development.

Since his last Voices interview in 2011, Living Water International has provided 3,000 additional wells serving 1 million people across Guatemala, Uganda, India, Kenya, Haiti, El Salvador, and Rwanda. From its founding, Living Water International has provided nearly 13,000 wells, changing the lives of millions of people in 23 developing countries.

However, the need for clean drinking water remains great. Today, 783 million people across the world still do not have an adequate source of drinking water, Mantel said. To address this need, Living Water International has set a goal of repairing or installing up to 6,000 more wells by the end of 2015.

It costs $3,000 to rehabilitate a well and $12,000 to build a new one. Living Water International relies on volunteers to help in a variety of ways, including assistance at the well location and developing the resources to pay for a project. Many volunteers come from student and church groups in the United States and Canada.

Mantel said his Benedictine education enabled him to leverage the knowledge and skills of others in order to provide concrete solutions to a global problem.

“The Ph.D. in Organization Development program continues to underpin our efforts,” Mantel said. “I love being able to work with highly engaged change agents who are saving and changing the lives of millions of thirsty people—those who lack water in the Americas, Africa and India—and those who invest their minds, networks and resources to make a difference here in the United States and around the world.”

Patrick Blaney, D.D.S., C76, Biology

In 2005, Patrick Blaney provided 200 people with free dental care through the Baudin Haiti Fund, a nonprofit dental mission and clinic. While he still runs a dental practice in Westmont, he has now become the president of the mission and has participated in 14 trips assisting an estimated 1,600 people from all over Haiti.

The mission has helped to provide oral hygiene education for adults and children, Blaney said, and with assistance from other outreach services and missions, the area has witnessed a dramatic improvement in the overall quality of health.

“When we first started going down there, there were people who were malnourished and there was not very good drinking water,” Blaney said. “That’s all changed. Other groups have instituted a water purification system and a school lunch program. Together, these have increased the health and vitality of the people there.”

However, many villages still lack adequate dental care, which is why Blaney doesn’t plan to walk away from his volunteer work any time soon. He is currently studying to become a deacon and attempting to establish a new mission through his church to serve another impoverished area of the country.

“I plan on continuing as long as I am physically able to do it,” Blaney said. “I don’t plan on stopping any time soon. “One of the biggest accomplishments has been what this has done to my heart—it has changed my heart for good,” he said. “It just set me on a different spiritual path than I was on, and made me appreciate everything I have here. If I didn’t (go on the dental mission trip in 2005) I would not be on the road I am on now. Going to Haiti has helped me understand how we can be the hands and feet of Christ to other people, and how at the same time, other people can be Christ to us.”

Michael J. Mantel, Ph.D.’01, Organization Development
In 2003, Christopher Mickus volunteered for the Birch Family Camp, a facility run by the One Heartland organization, which provides a week of fun and activities for families and children affected by HIV/AIDS. Since volunteering for the camp, Mickus has become a member of the organization’s board, helping to direct several other camps and programs across the country for children and families who are facing significant health and other life challenges.

In addition to his work with One Heartland, Mickus serves on the board of the Intercultural Montessori Language School in Oak Park, and with the help of family and friends, he and his wife, Keeli (Ellison), C97, raise money for the American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA) through its annual 5K run in Chicago. The funds they raise support brain tumor research, education and support for individuals and families affected by brain tumors.

“The volunteer work that we do, the pro bono legal services provided through my law firm and the money we raise for the ABTA are some of the most rewarding experiences in our lives,” Mickus said. “We have met wonderful people and recognize that volunteering time, energy and resources to something important helps us stay focused on how lucky we are to have what we have and understand that others may not be so fortunate.”

Martin J. Bernard III, Ph.D., C66, SPA’62, Physics and Mathematics

Martin Bernard’s volunteer work building homes for families displaced by Hurricane Katrina in 2007 led to a new passion. Today, he volunteers his time restoring and renovating historic railroad freight and passenger cars, streetcars and other transportation artifacts for museum displays and operations around the country. He discusses his work with visitors, explains the significance of each artifact and answers questions. He is currently volunteering at a museum in North Carolina, restoring a 90-year-old railroad coach built by the Pullman Company on the South Side of Chicago.

After earning his degrees from Benedictine and a doctorate in transportation systems engineering from Northwestern University, Bernard worked for 40 years as a systems engineer on transportation, energy and environmental issues as an analyst, project manager and program director of a multimillion-dollar program at the Chicago Regional Transportation Authority, the Department of Energy’s Argonne National Laboratory outside of Chicago and as a private consultant in California.

He said he will never forget the Physics classes he took at Benedictine, as they were instrumental not just in his career, but in many other aspects of his life.

“Physics taught me how to solve problems—almost any problem—and how to carefully think through an issue, analyze it and develop a solution,” Bernard said. “Problem-solving in physics taught me how to think through and fix a power tool, why a piece of software would not work or why an organization was failing.”
Extra-Curricular Clubs Help Students Make A Difference

Benedictine University students are serving the sick and poor at home and abroad. Their efforts include helping to provide clean drinking water in developing countries, sending small loans to poor businessmen and women in Africa, donating items to food banks and raising money for area hospitals.

Nearly half of the University’s 40 student clubs either raise awareness on important issues like drug use and bullying, volunteer in children’s hospitals, or actively fundraise to provide donations for a variety of charitable organizations such as Feed My Starving Children or the Loaves and Fishes food pantry in Naperville.

More students have joined clubs that focus on fundraising and supporting the wellbeing of others than in recent memory, according to Chris Smith, coordinator of Student Involvement.

“They’ve really started to take on more of a giving back, educational approach,” Smith said. “There’s been a big shift.”

Kiva Club is one of the newer organizations on campus. Students work alongside the national nonprofit to raise money and provide people in developing countries with small loans to help them purchase anything from farming tools and equipment to livestock and other commodities, which will help them to either sell goods or grow a business.

UNICEF club students are taking on global health and are working to support water quality enhancements in other countries. Last fall, UNICEF members held a “water walk” demonstration and fundraiser where participants entered a relay race of sorts, collecting water from pools into jugs and racing with them across campus. The exercise was meant to show how people in developed countries take things like modern plumbing and water filtration systems for granted. The event raised $670—enough to provide clean drinking water to 74 thirsty children for an entire year through UNICEF’s Tap Water Project. The club has raised $2,500 for UNICEF since its founding last year.

Benedictine students also develop a greater understanding of global issues from visiting students who come to Benedictine from all over the country and the world.

Thuy-Vu Do, a Health Science major and UNICEF club president, was born and raised in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. There, poverty wasn’t hidden—it was on nearly every street corner. Knowing how not only poverty, but disease, starvation and a lack of health care threatens the survival of children in countries all around the world, Do believed he could make a difference and organized the UNICEF club at Benedictine.

“When I first got involved in UNICEF, the number of children dying in Africa each day from preventable causes was 24,000,” Do said. “Today, it is 19,000. I am exceptionally proud to be part of that change, and the life lessons I have gained have been extremely valuable. I have become much more sensitive to my surroundings and discovered much about my leadership style. I hope that our determination to reduce this number to zero will continue to spread throughout the Benedictine community.”

To support the elderly, who depend on home health care services, students from the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) host an annual 5K race. Last year, after promoting the race, fundraising for prizes and coordinating the event with the University community, students raised $1,200 for Cadence Health home healthcare services.
By participating in a service-oriented club, students learn what it takes to transform an idea for a fundraising activity into a reality, Smith said.

“It’s all student planned,” Smith said. “They plan and organize everything, they handle registration, they find sponsors and donations for the raffles. Part of the learning process is that they need to go out and do it by themselves.”

Other new clubs on campus include Everybody Loves Everybody, a student group that provides anti-bullying presentations to area schools, and Care 2 Cure, a club that presents information about diseases and is attempting to raise money in support of cancer research.

While many student clubs give back to the community, there are many things the students themselves receive in return, according to Marco Masini, vice president of Student Life.

“Students are able to apply some of the same philosophies, skills and tools taught in the classroom to lead and problem solve, and share them with the larger community through their service efforts,” he said. “This is an invaluable experience that helps students receive a more well-rounded education, which will prepare them for future challenges in their communities.”

When they aren’t busy preparing for exams or practicing for their next game, student-athletes at Benedictine University at Springfield are giving back to their community.

Once a month, the women’s basketball team (pictured right with head coach Wanda Nettles and associate coach Fred Nettles) volunteers at the Kumler Outreach Ministries food pantry to stock shelves and package supplies for clients. In October, team members supervised a group of children making arts and crafts and participated in team-building games as part of the Illinois State Museum’s “Where Are the Wild Things” annual Halloween event.

Members of the men’s baseball team raised money to finance a special field trip to Busch Stadium in St. Louis for a fourth-grade class from Pleasant Hill Elementary School. On the trip, children not only watched a Cardinals game, they were able to learn about the stadium and apply math, science and English skills to the sport of baseball, its athletes and other facts about the Cardinals franchise.

After a tornado rocked the small town of Harrisburg, Ill., last year, coach Steve Torricelli and the men’s baseball team donated a collection of old uniforms to Harrisburg High School, whose mascot is also the Bulldogs. The high school served as an important gathering place for residents after eight people were killed and nearly 250 homes and business were destroyed.

The entire Athletics department participated in a food collection drive in November, supporting a campus-wide initiative for the Holy Family Food Pantry. Student-athletes each contributed items, filling 20 baskets of food which they personally delivered to the pantry. Athletics is currently raising money to support the American Cancer Society in Springfield through the sale of T-shirts, pledge cards, bake sales and ticket sales at home games.

While there are several organizations that serve the community, it’s important student-athletes have an opportunity to serve as well, said Nikki Bull-Eguez, athletic director for Benedictine University at Springfield.

“Giving back builds character, respect, fellowship and many life skills which are necessary for student-athletes to be successful after college,” she said. “We wanted to provide a way for them to submerge themselves in the act of giving so that they also experience the reward that comes with the act.”
Imagine living in a community without a supermarket, bank, pharmacy or police station. The nearest gas station is a 15-minute drive, the grocery store is about half an hour outside of town, and you are fortunate if you have running water and heat.

It sounds like life in a developing country, but it is not. It is right in Benedictine University’s backyard.

The place is Hopkins Park, Ill., located one hour south of Chicago. Poverty seemingly has a stranglehold on the 2,000 predominantly African-American citizens who live there. Many studies have been conducted on the area in an attempt to address the problem, but the influx of jobs and other improvements have been either nonexistent or notoriously fallen apart.

For the last six years, Benedictine students, led by Br. Rick Poro, O.S.B., assistant campus minister for University Ministry, have visited the town. By working with the local Sacred Heart Mission Parish, students lend a hand to help make life a little easier for residents.

“It is always amazing when I bring students out there for the first time,” Br. Rick said. “It is really eye-opening for them because we are so used to seeing shopping malls and grocery stores—everything that we take for granted—and then they see these areas that are really rundown. They just really cannot believe what they are seeing.”

According to a 2010 report by the Chicago Tribune, the average household income in Hopkins Park is around $14,000, compared to more than $50,000 nationwide. In nearby Pembroke, 98 percent of school children qualify for free lunches.

The Benedictine values often come up on the trip, making it a great segue into a discussion with students about their importance, Br. Rick said.

“This is about trying to enhance the students’ understanding of the Benedictine values,” he said. “Whenever we go out there, I talk about the values of hospitality, searching for God—all the values—and the importance of incorporating them and making them come alive in their lives. We see the values displayed on campus, but it does not really come alive until you do something outside the University walls.”

Br. Rick and University students make trips to Hopkins Park about once per month to help the sisters of the Servants of the Holy Hearts of Mary with a variety of tasks, such as distributing food or helping residents with yard work. Some students also choose to visit Hopkins Park during their spring break, spending five days there to help residents with larger projects.

Chris Kordick, a junior Health Science major, helped to restock a resident’s food pantry, rearrange furniture and prepare a garden for spring planting.

As he worked, he was able to meet many residents who not only impressed him with their upbeat spirit, but gave him a new perspective on his own life.

“While the locals did not have much, they radiated happiness, contentment, righteousness and a sense of accomplishment,” Kordick said. “These people do not measure success in material goods, but rather by spirit and character. Because of them, I was able to focus less on what I was trying to show others and more on how I could serve them.”

Kordick believes that while service activities do improve a student’s resume, there are several other benefits that are far more important and substantial that students can expect.

“For every trip that I have taken, I have changed that much more as a student, friend, brother and son,” he said. “This trip is the ideal of Benedictine values, and I cannot imagine myself without the impact that Hopkins Park has had on me. It is truly a life-changing experience.”
Welcome Weekend Giving Back Project: packing food for kids against hunger.

Biannual Campus Beautification.

Dupage Cares, Community Service Day.

The New Student Ambassadors volunteer for many events and service projects on campus.

Stewardship in Action on Campus

The university ministry van allows volunteers to deliver food and goods to the needy.

Collecting donations for West Suburban Community Pantry.

Blood Drive.

The Family Weekend Cindy Cebrynski Memorial 5K Run raises money for a scholarship in her name.
very year, dozens of students set aside their studies, extracurricular pursuits and leisure time to live out a part of the Benedictine experience that is a fundamental component of the University’s mission and values by giving of themselves and committing to a wide range of service activities.

On weekends, they volunteer to stock and pack goods at local food pantries in Naperville and other parts of DuPage County. They visit with the elderly at nursing homes or serve dinners to terminally ill children and their families. During spring break, they travel to West Virginia to build homes for people struggling with poverty or visit Hopkins Park, Ill., to paint or clean homes and assist with food drives.

Students learn about the Benedictine tradition of service to others and how they can make this value a part of their lives through the Office of University Ministry, which organizes service-related activities for students to assist the needy in the local, national and international community.

“Anybody can do service, but the question is why are we doing service?” said Mark Kurowski, director of University Ministry. “The answer is because it is part and parcel of our Catholic heritage. We want people to have an integrated life so that they live their faith throughout all facets of their life. We want them to live a life of service, and we are hoping that a service trip can plant that seed.”

Kurowski says the goal is not necessarily accomplishing a task, such as serving food or providing labor to those who need it. The important thing is that students connect with the Benedictine values, such as living in solidarity with the people on the receiving end of their work.

“They are not only going to help those who need it, they are going to live where they live, live how they live and experience life how they experience life so that students can start asking the question, ‘Living this kind of life, how would I want the world to treat me?’” Kurowski said.

For students, the experience helps to break down stereotypes and motivates them to think about how their actions, such as leaving a light switch or water faucet on, might affect other people, according to Carrie Roberts, University Ministry’s pastoral associate for outreach.

“They are building a relationship,” Roberts said. “Students are realizing that those who are poor are not simply numbers. You see the image and likeness of God in which they are created. Finding that relationship and fostering that in their service work is essential.”

Recently, Roberts accompanied eight students on a trip to the Philippines where they built brick homes and expanded a school in an area where resources are scarce, drinking water is unsanitary and disease runs rampant.

“The students experienced poverty like you could never imagine and were very much affected,” Roberts said. “In many ways, it really helps them to think about who they want to be and what kind of life they want to lead when they leave Benedictine.”

Before embarking on the trip, students must raise most of the $2,200 necessary for travel and other accommodations. Jessica Clodi, a sophomore English Language and Literature major, sent letters to people in her community seeking
donations, held a bake sale and spoke about her desire to participate in the mission trip to the Philippines with members of the Diocese of Joliet to raise the money.

When Clodi and other Benedictine students arrived at the village, they were shocked by what they saw. People were living in huts made out of bamboo, dried sugar cane and other materials. There was no bathroom, running water or electricity. Children ran through polluted water wearing old flip-flops and tattered clothes.

“It was truly heartbreaking for me to watch,” Clodi said. “It is one thing to hear about developing countries and children starving and struggling, but you do not really understand it until you see and experience it. We have a tendency sometimes to forget about our brothers and sisters and focus only on ourselves, and I think that was something that I definitely did before I went on this trip.”

In spite of these challenges, the people were welcoming and joyful, Clodi said.

Clodi and another student, Zack Oesterreicher, a sophomore Chemistry major, both said one of the most valuable things they received from the trip was a renewed outlook on life.

“There are many areas of my life that have been changed by this trip, but the most noticeable is the way I prioritize my everyday life,” Oesterreicher said. “The little things I used to worry about are not important. This is because I have been able to see all the gifts that we take for granted. I know this is a common effect that happens on trips like these, but I could not have anticipated how intense it was. You come away with a different view on life, and somehow everything becomes so much simpler and easier to understand.”

Benedictine students, in conjunction with the Gawad Kalinga organization, have completed 60 new homes in the Philippine village. However, about 500 are needed to serve the entire population. A new group of students is expected to return to serve the area in January 2014.

Benedictines are catalysts of change, transforming not only the lives of their neighbors across the street, but the lives of complete strangers halfway around the world. They embody one of the fundamental teachings of Benedictine life—being of service to others. The University is thankful for all our students and alumni who leverage their talents and skills for the greater good, and encourages others to contribute—in ways both big and small—to the continuing pursuit of stewardship, one of the most rewarding and highest callings in life.

Do you know a Benedictine community member who is doing something in the Benedictine tradition of giving back? Let us know about them by contacting Linda Hale at lhale@ben.edu.
In March, Benedictine University and the Office of Alumni Development hosted the inaugural “Top 40 Under 40” celebration. The evening honored and inducted some of our most generous, accomplished and successful alumni into a new society. The individuals chosen for this inaugural event were from a group of alumni whose careers and lives are on the rise and whose stellar achievements shine a light on their education from Benedictine University.

The list of honorees is a list of names to watch—a who’s who across many industries and professions. The honorees truly embody the Benedictine spirit with their support of education, professional fortitude and benevolence. These top 40 will be featured on the Alumni and Friends Web page under “The Winner’s Circle.” This section will honor our rising stars and showcase current and future award winners with their photos and profiles.

Sam Biafora ................................... 1997
James Chivilo ................................ 1997
Joe Coots ...................................... 1998
Ronelle Deshazer .......................... 1998
Kari Gibbons .................................. 2003
Tim Gilles ...................................... 1997
Timothy Greene ............................. 2001-2004
Stuart Hacker ................................ 1996
Tracy Hough .................................. 2000
Rich Kraetsch ................................. 2009
Megan McNulty ............................. 1997
Martin Meenaghan ........................ 2006
Chris Mickus .................................. 1996
Diane Moore-Enos .......................... 1996
Rick Munaretto ............................... 1997
Chris Murphy .................................. 1999
Yadav Nathwani .............................. 2007
Michael Nuyles ............................. 1998
Amy O’Rourke ............................... 2009
Jason Parikh .................................. 2003
Ross Perak ...................................... 2000
Renelle (Galang) Ramos Corral ......... 2012
Yvette Reyna ................................. 1997
Mandy Semenik .............................. 2007
Aheed Siddiqi ................................ 1998
Kim Skarr ...................................... 2000
Michelle (Lagatuz) Slimko .......... 1998
Laura (French) Smetters ................ 2005
Adam Soline ................................... 2003
Ron Stefanski ................................ 2010
Amy Tibbetts .................................. 1998
Chris Trifilio ................................ 1999
Edna (Manteca) Uribe ..................... 1999
Yuri (Manteca) Wagner ................. 1998
Brian Walker .................................. 1996
Jason Ward .................................... 2003
Brian Wellner .................................. 1998
Maura (Scholl) Whiston .................. 2000
Jannine Wilmoth ............................. 2006
Dana Wright ................................. 2010

Second from top: Dana Wright accepts her award from Executive Vice President Charlie Gregory; bottom: Gregory with Aheed Siddiqi; above: Yvette Reyna, Edna (Manteca) Uribe and Yuri (Manteca) Wagner.
Phillip Phillips made the sold-out Dan and Ada Rice Center his “Home” on Saturday, April 13 to the delight of a cheering crowd who came to listen to the “American Idol” winner perform. Not only did he sing his wildly successful single, “Home,” but he also serenaded the crowd with several songs from his first album, “The World From the Side of the Moon.”

The Benedictine University Alumni Association congratulated the Class of 2013 by sponsoring the event and offering all graduating seniors a free ticket to the concert.

Stay tuned for details on our next big concert event, BenFest, on August 24 when we welcome our newest students—the Class of 2017.
The Physical Science Alumni Achievement Award

As the Eugene Higgins Professor of Physics at Yale University, Appelquist’s research has focused on the theory of elementary particles. His contributions include predicting the existence of the J/Psi particle, the formulation of the decoupling theorem in quantum field theory, the study of quantum effects in Kaluza-Klein theories, the development of the electroweak chiral lagrangian, the proposal of walking technicolor theories, the idea of universal extra dimensions and the study of conformal symmetry in gauge field theories using lattice simulations.

The Mathematical and Computational Sciences Alumni Achievement Award

Stablein is a statistical editor of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute and a fellow of the American Statistical Society. He serves as a member of multiple data and safety monitoring boards, including the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units Network. He was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to serve on the National Advisory Commission on Organ Transplantation and has more than 100 publications to his credit.

The Biological Sciences Alumni Achievement Award

Wyma has led a unique and impressive career that includes pharmaceutical consulting, project management and operations. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention where he worked on Rift Valley Fever and Ebola viruses. Wyma has spent almost a decade in various leadership positions within the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. intelligence community. He currently works at AbbVie, a biopharmaceutical company, as assistant director of planning and portfolio support. In this role he is currently leading the drug development process from discovery to product launch.
Mark Walsh, C73, Sociology
Football
One of the top football players during the early 1970s, Walsh (right) was a four-year starter at center. Considered one of the best offensive linemen in school history, Walsh was a Little All-American in 1972 and part of a team that was a national leader in total and rushing offense. He was also a three-time National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) All-District 20 Team member in 1970, 1971 and 1972.

James Meehan, C66, Mathematics
Deceased, Friend of Eagle Athletics
A longtime mathematics teacher at the University, Meehan had a profound impact on the campus as a student, educator and benefactor. Meehan joined the faculty at Benedictine in 1971 and continued to volunteer as a math tutor after his retirement in 1998. He served as official scorer for the men’s basketball team for several years. His estate also made a very generous donation to the renovation of the Dan and Ada Rice Center in the fall of 2011. His lifelong interest in team sports began with Little League Baseball. While at Benedictine an undergraduate, he participated in a variety of intramural sports. His passion for athletics even included a train ride that left him stranded in a blizzard while en route to North Dakota to support the men’s basketball team as a student. His support for Benedictine never stopped.

James Tracy, C77, Physical Education and Psychology
Football, Basketball, Track and Field
A top three-sport athlete at Benedictine, Tracy (below with Director of Athletics Mark McHorney) earned 11 varsity letters and received all-conference, all-district and all-state academic as well as all-district football honors. He also finished second in the 110-meter high hurdles and fourth in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles in the NAIA District 20 meet his senior year. Tracy graduated with cum laude honors. A Blue Key National Honor Society member, Tracy was active in the Sunday Recreation Program for Developmentally Disabled Adults and also started a chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Benedictine. After Benedictine, Tracy became a successful high school head basketball coach at the De La Salle Institute and Reavis High School in Illinois. He won 269 games at Reavis, a school record, and has won 427 games in 24 years as a head coach. Tracy has received numerous coaching honors, including Chicago Catholic League, Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) District 2 and District 7, South Inter-Conference Association North and Southtown Economist Coach of the Year awards. Tracy has been on the IBCA board of directors since 1989. He served as president of the IBCA from 2007 to 2009 and currently is the assistant executive director. He is a member of the IBCA Hall of Fame as well as the Hall of Fame at St. Laurence where he attended high school.

1993 Benedictine University Softball Team
The most successful softball team in Benedictine history, the 1993 squad (above) finished 34-5, won the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) regional tournament and advanced to the national semifinals where they took third place. The team featured three All-Americans and a number of players who earned All-American or all-region recognition during their time at Benedictine. Ten team members received All-American recognition and 14 were named all-region. They were the top-ranked team in the NCAA Division III Midwest Region most of the regular season. Today, the team is still well represented in the NCAA Division III record book.
The 19th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing presented by U.S. Bank will be held on Monday, June 24, at Cantigny Golf in Wheaton. The special guest will be David Feherty, former professional golfer and spirited commentator.

The outing will begin at 10:00 a.m. with registration. Golfers will be sent off promptly to the course at 11:30 a.m. by Benedictine President William J. Carroll.

A reception and dinner program will follow the day on the course with a presentation by Feherty, who will share his entertaining view of the world of golf. All proceeds fund scholarships for Benedictine students. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for the University and provides the largest amount of aid to our students. This is a great opportunity to play a challenging course, meet a former Pro golfer and raise much needed scholarship funds for deserving students.


For more information on sponsorships, golf fees or dinner-only tickets, contact Deb Smith at dsmith@ben.edu or (630) 829-6080.
Meet your Alumni Board of Directors

The Alumni Association Board of Directors works closely with the University to set goals for the Alumni Association each year. They help alumni stay connected to the University, bring benefits to members, and volunteer to help Benedictine reach its goals and support its alumni.

President
Daniel Martinez

Martinez earned a Bachelor of Arts in Management and Organizational Behavior in 2006 and a Master of Business Administration in 2010 from Benedictine. He was a member of the soccer team, and currently resides in the Chicago area.

Vice President/Secretary
Phillip Caponigro

Caponigro (not pictured) earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1972 and went on to earn a Master of Public Administration and Public Policy at another university. He is currently working on a doctorate in Public Policy and Administration with a specialty in Homeland Security. Caponigro and his family live in Iowa.

Treasurer
Robert Siltman

Siltman earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and Organizational Development from Benedictine University at Springfield in 2008 and a Master of Business Administration in 2011. He and his family reside in Springfield.

If you would like to get involved and support the University with your time, talent or treasure, or are interested in finding out more about the Alumni Association and the Board of Directors, please contact Pat Ariano, executive director of University Development, at pariano@ben.edu or (630) 829-6003. There are many ways you can catch up and reconnect with your alma mater.
Alumni Sees Affects of Hurricane Sandy Firsthand

ours after Hurricane Sandy tore through the East Coast, leaving dozens dead, thousands of homes destroyed and millions without power, David Klinger was summoned to begin the arduous task of helping the storm’s victims rebuild from the catastrophe.

As a senior field claims representative for Farmers Insurance, Klinger was sent to some of the hardest hit areas of the storm to help homeowners file property insurance claims.

What he saw shortly after landing in New York looked like a war zone. Once stately seaside homes had either completely disappeared or were underwater. Boats had run aground during the onslaught, which was accompanied by 20-foot coastal storm surges. Several vessels even washed further ashore, coming to rest in nearby gas stations and streets.

“As I got closer to my intended destination, I was struck by all the debris that lined the roads,” Klinger said. “Many people had standing water in excess of six feet or higher in their basement and what they had stored in their homes now had lined the streets.”

Klinger was able to help dozens of people by issuing checks to help them repair or save their homes. In some cases, he handed out granola bars and water to people who lost their homes and nearly everything they owned.

“It was hard for me to see many of these people suffering and see aid come so slowly to them,” Klinger said.

“It is still difficult for me to conceive being without power in the beginning of winter for four weeks, or how that is even possible with the technological advancements we have.”

DESPITE ALL OF THE CHAOS, HE WAS STRUCK BY HOW NEIGHBORS AND EVEN STRANGERS CAME TOGETHER TO HELP ONE ANOTHER GET BY.

“People often do not think they have a great life because they may not be the richest person, have the largest house or all of the latest gadgets,” he said.

“It is important to realize we all have gifts and give thanks for them as at any moment, as with the victims of this storm, these could all be taken away.

“That being said, our relationships with loved ones and friends can prevail through anything,” Klinger added. “And seeing these communities stand together in the wake of this storm has been nothing short of inspirational.”

Klinger, a quarterback for the Benedictine Eagles from 2007 to 2009, came to the University as a transfer student. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2009, and wanting to continue his football career, stayed to audit a class in the graduate Management and Organizational Behavior program.

At Farmers Insurance, Klinger primarily handles wind and hail claims, but will also work on claims for fire, hurricane and flood damage. His work often requires him to travel to different locations across the country.

In 2011, he traveled to Virginia to handle claims after Hurricane Irene struck and was dispatched to Colorado Springs, Colo., where he helped people whose homes were damaged by hail and the Waldo Canyon fire, which displaced more than 30,000 people and destroyed 346 homes.

His decision to go into a profession where he could help people was reinforced by his Benedictine education, he said.

“From the time I set foot on campus, I truly felt like I was home and that the community was one large family,” Klinger said. “The continued emphasis of Benedictine values helped me grow not only as a student, but as a person. Each day within my work and my life, I focus on retaining the tradition of hospitality and carry myself with the utmost respect and dignity.”

“Despite All of the Chaos, He Was Struck by How Neighbors and Even Strangers Came Together to Help One Another Get By.”

Alumni Focus | David Klinger
M.S.’11, Management and Organizational Behavior, C09

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“I talked with countless people, who despite having major losses, were grateful to be alive,” Klinger said.

Klinger was sent to the area two additional times to help process the backlog of property damage claims. When he went back in December 2012, there were some signs of progress, but many people were still struggling to rebuild and keep warm. Klinger was deeply affected by the experience, seeing how slowly it took some families to return to a sense of normalcy.

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“It is still difficult for me to conceive being without power in the beginning of winter for four weeks, or how that is even possible with the technological advancements we have.”
Donor Awareness Month

Tuition Freedom Day
Tuition Freedom Day marks the point in the academic year where students’ tuition dollars stop covering the cost of their education, and donors pick up the rest, or one-third of the cost of EACH student’s education. Students said a collective “Thank you” to the donors, writing special notes to them on a canvas board which is displayed outside the Office of Alumni Development.

Honoring Donors
Hundreds of red ribbons were displayed around campus in March and April, marking areas that were made possible through donations in recognition of Donor Awareness Month. The ribbons were placed on artwork, classrooms, lab equipment, buildings, trees, benches and other amenities that would not grace the University without the generous support of donors. Signs were also placed around campus asking students to imagine campus without these enhancements to emphasize the impact donors have on the University.

Scholar’s Society Celebration
Donors were able to see the notes students wrote on the Tuition Freedom Day canvas for the first time at the annual Scholar’s Society celebration in April. The event is a wonderful opportunity for donors to meet the students they are helping and for the students to thank them in return for making their education possible.

For more information on giving to the University, contact Pat Ariano at pariano@ben.edu.

CLASS GIVING MATTERS

Where is your Class?
Number of alumni who donate makes a difference.

When an alumnus makes a gift to the University, the educational experience and reputation of the school improves. In addition to considering the quality of the education and the employability of graduates, sources that rank the desirability of universities and colleges look at the percentage of alumni who provide financial support (not total dollars).

The logic behind this measure is that if the school provides what alumni value, then alumni will gladly support it. And when alumni support the University in large numbers, it sets the University up for additional funding opportunities. Therefore, even the smallest donation makes a big impact.

According to the Council for University Aid, the average participation rate for alumni giving across the nation was 9.2 percent in 2012. Many Benedictine class years have met and exceeded that amount (some are at as much as 25 percent) and the class of 2012 is already at 9.2 percent.

A study compiled by the consulting firm of Gonser Gerber Tinker Stuhr suggests most people donate to a university or college to improve the community, repay the support they received while attending or they have a family tradition of giving. These are all great reasons to give, and there are so many more. Whatever your reason, remember any amount you give helps the University reach its goals of providing students with a quality private education founded in Benedictine and Catholic values.

If you want to know the giving percentage for your class, make a donation and/or help lead the charge to increase your class year’s giving, please contact Pat Ariano at (630) 829-6003 or pariano@ben.edu.
In February, the Alumni Board of Directors, on behalf of the Alumni Association, hosted the second annual Casino Night event. The event was a great success. Alumni and friends enjoyed an evening filled with food, beverages, laughter and a bit of luck at the poker, roulette, blackjack and craps tables in full Las Vegas style.

The dollars raised helped to fund the Alumni Board Scholarship for Adult Education. Those in attendance also participated in a raffle and silent auction for a chance at winning donated prizes such as an overnight stay and brunch at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville hotel, four passes to the Seven Bridges Ice Rink, a White Sox bat signed by Paul Konerko, Chicago Fire pennant and tickets, a Seasons 52 gift card, necklaces designed by Jainn Jewels and a Kindle. Alumni and former classmates reconnected and made new friends as all gave their support to the University.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Casino Night 2014 on Saturday, February 8.

The Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL) at Benedictine offers adults (age 55 and older) access to a wide variety of enriching arts and humanities classes specifically tailored to the older adult. There are no grades, tests or admission requirements. Learning options include lectures, seminars, expert and peer-led discussions, and educational trips. There are a variety of classes available, including courses in history, art and art appreciation, architecture, culture, health and wellness, literature, religion, technology, sociology, travel and science. A majority of the classes are held at Benedictine’s Moser Center in Naperville.

Classes vary from single to multiple sessions over a period of two to six weeks. Sessions are held one day per week from one to two hours, depending on the course or activity. Students are asked to bring with them a desire to learn, inform, reflect, contribute and share with others.

Registration for summer classes begins in May. Most classes are $40. For more information and a complete list of courses, visit www.ben.edu/CLL or call (630) 829-1384.
18th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast
Veteran Encourages Community to Engage One Another

Jill Morgenthaler energetically called on nearly 600 attendees to respond “Hooah” at the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast held in the Krasa Student Center at Benedictine University in January. Explaining that “Hooah” is Army talk for “I got you. I understand. OK. It will be done,” Morgenthaler, a retired U.S. Army colonel from Des Plaines, motivated the crowd “to go out and have the backs of other Americans, whether black, white, gay or Muslim.”

Morgenthaler was one of the first women to train as an equal with men in the collegiate Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship program at Penn State University. She served as the first woman battalion commander in the 88th Regional Support Command, was the first woman brigade commander in the 84th Division of the U.S. Army Reserves and was also Illinois’ first Homeland Security advisor.

She recounted some of the verbal abuse she received as a woman while going through basic training, and how an African-American sergeant helped her by putting a stop to some of the more abusive tirades from her superior officers.

Morgenthaler returned the favor one day when she stood up for a group of African-American lesbians who were unfairly facing a dishonorable discharge.

Morgenthaler warned that not talking to the other (meaning groups different than ourselves) not only creates societal disharmony, but at its worst can lead to violence.

“Start the conversation,” she said.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund. Two Benedictine University students, Maraee D. Mason, a senior Communication Arts major, and Sydney Van Alstyne, a sophomore Health Science major, were honored as recipients of King scholarships, which are awarded based on a number of criteria including community service.

Festival Brings Asian Tradition, Cuisine and Kung Fu

Each year, Feifei Li, an international student from China, looks forward to all the entertainment, food and quality time with family during the Asian Spring Festival.

This year, however, Li celebrated the holiday some 3,400 miles away at Benedictine’s sixth annual Festival of Asia, an event held to showcase Asian culture and recognize the University’s diverse community.

“The Festival of Asia is an interesting way to connect people from different cultures,” Li said. “I met people from China, India and France—all different parts of the world. It shows how diverse our University is and it makes me feel very proud to be a part of it.”

Festival attendees competed against one another in table tennis tournaments while others sampled traditional Asian dishes prepared by international students. Attendees also flocked to an Asian-style market where they could purchase clothing, jewelry and art.

The event included musical performances in English and Chinese, as well as an intercultural dance performance.

Dipal Desai, a junior majoring in Health Science, wanted to share something from her Indian heritage and presented a combination of modern Bollywood and traditional Hindu-inspired dance.

Later, all eyes turned to members of Illinois Shaolin Kung Fu, who stunned the audience with amazing stunts and acrobatic moves. At one point, Grand Master Yang Cheng, an expert in Shaolin-style kung fu, demonstrated the power of the martial arts discipline when he took two metal rods and broke them in half over his head.

The Festival of Asia was first held in 2008 to recognize and celebrate the University’s budding Asian programs as well as the handful of Chinese students who came to study at Benedictine. Since then, the University has expanded its academic programs in China and Vietnam. Today, 110 Asian students are enrolled throughout Benedictine’s Lisle and Springfield campuses.

Read more about these events at www.ben.edu/webextras.
Lecture-Free College Model Blazes Path for Next Generation Learning in Mesa

Active learning, student engagement and interactive learning environments have become popular buzz words in academia. Now, the notion of the traditional lecture-based classroom is being challenged with a new approach that boosts student involvement, understanding and even enrollment. The emerging trend in which colleges are reporting success in these areas is the application of lecture-free classes.

Starting in September, Benedictine University at Mesa will offer this new interactive learning model. Faculty will champion a curriculum that is problem/issues-based and focus on application, decision-making and problem-solving. Professors will use innovative techniques in the classroom to challenge students to actively learn, utilize technology and apply acquired knowledge.

“This approach is being designed to promote skilled communication as well as learning that is deeper, collaborative, self-managed, cross-disciplinary and technology-enhanced,” said Mick Carroll, Ph.D., dean of Benedictine University at Mesa.

“This is an interesting shift that is shaking the traditional approach to teaching and lecturing. At its core, this methodology uses highly interactive technology that allows for remote learning 24 hours per day, seven days per week. This exciting and innovative approach to teaching and learning is becoming an expectation for today’s students, and Benedictine University at Mesa is embracing it.”

Lecture-free classes are a response to growing criticism of the traditional, often passive lecture-based college classes which some educators say are a turn-off to students, leading to aggravation and poor grades.

Features of Next Generation Learning

- 24/7 access to learning tools.
- “Flipped” classrooms focus on teamwork and engaging scenarios.
- Faculty guide, inform and excite student learning.
- Integrated technology is portable, personalized and flexible.
- Multiple digital learning formats with easy access to tools like tablets, e-books and downloadable lectures.
- Classes are relevant, engaging, collaborative and interactive.
- Students apply, create, discuss, compare, evaluate and justify learned concepts.
- Hands-on learning builds critical-thinking skills and leads to better career preparation.
- “Learning Communities” include small groups of students who share learning experiences and participate in interactive problem solving across disciplines.
- Learning labs allow students to engage, experiment, discover, apply and evaluate learned concepts.

This paradigm shift in higher education teaching increases academic engagement, fosters stronger relationships among students and faculty, and improves learning and success.

The use of technology is a major component to the success of the next generation learning style, creating what some are calling the “flipped classroom,” where lectures and materials are accessible 24 hours per day, seven days per week and the traditional shape of classroom space is changed to reflect small-group discussions focused on interactive problem-solving. Additional innovations include enhanced one-click digital tools for easy connectivity and communication with classmates, professors, professional networks and social media.

All classes will follow a learning lab approach. Like a science laboratory class, students will engage, experiment, discover, apply and evaluate learned concepts. Every class will have a problem, issue or project to solve and the semester will be spent learning not only solutions, but exploring what the most effective processes are to discover solutions.
n a few months, the very first Benedictine University at Mesa students will begin their educational journey when they walk through the doors to the academic building at 225 E. Main St. in downtown Mesa.

Much is in store for them. At Benedictine University at Mesa, students will not only attend classes enriched by Benedictine’s strong liberal arts programs, they will become immersed in an environment that emphasizes next generation learning and living a life of balance, according to Tony Siebers, director of Student Services for the branch campus.

“Today’s job seekers require critical thinking, people skills and applicable experience,” Siebers said. “By combining the out-of-class and in-class college experience into an accelerated learning opportunity, Mesa students will gain real-world experience before they leave school, making them even more competitive and well-rounded.”

Students will gain an appreciation for the same University values that have been instilled in students for 126 years at the main campus in Lisle. Learning how to think, not what to think, will be a critical aspect of guiding Benedictine at Mesa students through their educational pursuits and the search for God.

To bring this important exploration on faith to life, Student Life staff will work with local church groups to provide students with opportunities to participate in interfaith councils and other ministry-related clubs. With more than 12 faith-based institutions and churches nearby, there is no shortage of resources for young adults looking to learn about other faiths or deepen the understanding of their own.

Other initiatives are underway to reinforce the Benedictine value of living a life in balance—mind, body, spirit.

Through a developing partnership with the Mesa Family YMCA, first-year students won’t have to stray far for exercise or intramural athletics. Students will also benefit from the proximity of the academic building to several music and arts opportunities.

When it comes to service and outreach, students will be able to choose from a variety of clubs and activities that will allow them to gain a greater perspective on life, and encourage them to enter into dialogue with students from different backgrounds.

**Students will put the Benedictine values of stewardship and welcoming the other into action through service projects, community roundtables and mentorship programs. They will be challenged to come up with ideas that will lead to a positive and real impact on the community. Throughout the first year, students will support two major charities—Mesa United Way and Catholic Charities of Phoenix—working to improve the lives of the disadvantaged.**

In addition to academics and extracurricular pursuits, students can also expect to find a career planning support system that will help them prepare for life after college. Through the next generation learning curriculum, Mesa students will develop, practice and refine business skills throughout the course of their educational career. This will include supplemental courses in workplace etiquette, resume and cover letter preparation, interview techniques and networking skills provided in classroom and simulated professional environments. Students will also be invited to attend round-table discussions and other events with community and business leaders. By taking advantage of networking opportunities, students will begin to identify future employment interests and pursue them as early as possible.

The overall student life experience in Mesa will include opportunities to maximize students’ academic achievements while preparing them for success in the Benedictine tradition.

**Learning Communities Enrich Overall Liberal Arts Experience**

All incoming Benedictine University at Mesa freshmen students will participate in a yearlong “Learning Community,” a shared learning experience with a group of students from a variety of academic disciplines who identify an overall theme or issue to explore.

Through a combination of shared coursework, service projects, journaling and discussion groups, students in the inaugural fall 2013 class will investigate how the Catholic Church’s teachings impact service to society and love of God, self and neighbor. The 2013-2014 academic year will focus on the theme, “Is God’s Love and Justice Making Any Impact on Society or on Me?”

Students will register for a cluster of the same academic classes and participate in experiential learning opportunities that will prompt a variety of perspectives on the theme, allow students to apply new knowledge and demonstrate understanding with opportunities for personal reflection and growth.

Learning by doing is a large part of the learning community and occurs both inside and outside the classroom. Professors will coordinate certain shared experiences such as seminars, discussion groups and service projects within the local community.

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Men’s, Women’s Lacrosse Teams Make Debut

After two years of planning and preparation, the men’s and women’s lacrosse teams at Benedictine University took the field for the first time in March 2013. Lacrosse is an exciting, fast-paced sport that has enjoyed dramatic growth in recent years. Benedictine’s men’s and women’s teams compete in the Midwest Lacrosse Conference, which includes Augustana, Aurora, Beloit, Carthage, Concordia, Defiance, Elmhurst, Fontbonne, Hanover, Mt. St. Joseph, Milwaukee School of Engineering and Sewanee University of the South.

The men’s lacrosse team is headed by Jason Farrell, who was hired in 2011 and spent the past year building the program from the ground up. Farrell joined the Eagles after coaching for two years at Adrian College in Adrian, Mich., where he served as the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. Farrell, a native of Mahopac, N.Y., helped lead Adrian to a 25-6 overall record, two Midwest Lacrosse Conference championships and the school’s first-ever appearance in an NCAA tournament during his tenure.

Elise Manzie came aboard in January 2012 to launch the women’s program. Manzie previously worked as the recruiting coordinator for the lacrosse team at North Central College, where she holds every lacrosse goalkeeping record.

Basketball Seasons End in NAC Tournament

The men’s and women’s basketball teams finished the 2012-13 season on a strong note after advancing to their respective Northern Athletics Conference (NAC) postseason tournaments.

The men reached the NAC tournament by winning their last four games, including the regular-season finale against Rockford College. The victory was the 999th in program history.

Benedictine earned the seventh seed in the tournament after Wisconsin Lutheran lost to Concordia University-Chicago. However, old foe Aurora University snapped Benedictine’s win streak, defeating the Eagles 87-67.

The future looks bright for the men’s team, which has a solid base of young players on which to build including sophomore Mike Woolf, who was named honorable mention all conference.

The women’s team continued to improve under second-year head coach Kristen Gillespie. The goal from the beginning of the season was not just to make the conference tournament, but to earn a top-four seed.

The Eagles won their final two games of the season handily, including a winner-take-all contest with Concordia University Chicago, to earn a first-round home game.

The women’s team opened the conference tournament with a 53-42 victory against Alverno College, but fell in the semifinals to Wisconsin Lutheran, 69-47.

The women finished 14-13 after opening the season 0-5 and graduate only one senior. Junior Michelle Gaede and sophomore Vincenza Ranallo were named honorable mention all conference.

Catch the Spirit! Stay connected to Eagles sports.

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Twitter | www.twitter.com/BenUEagles
Facebook | www.facebook.com/BenUAthletics
YouTube | http://youtube.com/BenUEagles

Read news about Springfield Bulldog athletics at www.ben.edu/springfield/athletics.
Distinguished Alumni Recognition Awards

Each year at Homecoming, the Benedictine Alumni Association presents awards to honor three alumni. The Alumni Board of Directors is currently accepting nominations for the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Recognition Awards. Benedictine alumni and friends are invited to submit nominations.

The following categories are open for nominations:

1. **Distinguished Alumni Award**, in recognition of outstanding achievement in a career field or personal endeavor.

2. **Alumni Service Award**, in gratitude for current or past service to the University or the Alumni Association.

3. **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 or professional life.

Nominations must be received by July 1, 2013. For nomination forms or more information, visit www.ben.edu/alumnifriends. You may fax nominations to (630) 829-6313.

St. Procopius Academy/College

- **63**
  - **Gerald Stacy**, Literature and Communication, teaches Greek mythology at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA, and plans to teach grammar next fall.

- **67**
  - **Michael Phelan** (1963-1966) is a deacon at St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church in Sun City, AZ, and ministers at the Intensive Care Unit at Boswell Hospital.

- **68**
  - **Tom Begg**, Economics, was recently elected president of the Special Agents Association for 2013. He is director of security life safety for the Aon Center in Chicago and is a certified fraud examiner who has lectured at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA, on many occasions.

- **69**
  - **Ted Steiskal**, Sociology, recently retired after almost 30 years with the Memorial Park District in Bellwood. He is currently president of the Bellwood Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Board of Governors for Elmhurst Memorial Hospital.

Illinois Benedictine College

- **71**
  - **Gale Dreas**, Sociology, has been working as a clinical social worker for more than 30 years. She has been married for 30 years and has two adult sons.

- **73**
  - **Valerie (Calwson) Feld**, Philosophy, retired as a lieutenant with the Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District after 26 years of service. She is a paramedic and emergency medical technician instructor at College of DuPage.

- **74**
  - **David J. Peiffer, M.D.**, Biology, is a staff physician at the George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salt Lake City, UT. He plans to retire in June. He has two daughters, Leslie, C'09, and Erin. Erin also plans to attend Benedictine.

- **79**
  - **Dan Marchetto**, Business and Economics, is vice president of business development at ICOM Integrated Communications, a cloud-based collaborative video conferencing solution provider based in Chicago. Marchetto has two daughters.

- **80**
  - **Kenneth Nelson, M.D.**, Biology, was named the 2012 Family Physician of the Year by the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians.

- **81**
  - **Annette Ferrek**, Sociology, joined the Chicago Police Department in 1982. She has been a homicide, gang and sex crimes detective for the past 10 years and is expected to retire in November.

- **83**
  - **Bill Lisowski**, M.B.A., was named vice president of operations at Springwise Facilities Management late last year. He and his wife, Sue, live in Naperville and recently celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary.

- **84**
  - **Joe Barlow, Music, and Nancy (Pictor) Barlow, C'66, B.S.N.,** have seven children. Joe is a pastor at Family Life Christian Center and has recorded several albums. Nancy is attending Charis Bible College in Bensenville while working part time in nursing. Their oldest child, Sarah, recently photographed singer Taylor Swift’s album, “Red.”

- **87**
  - **Laurie Troup, D.O.,** Biology, lives in Naples, FL, where she practices internal medicine at Physicians Regional Medical Center-Collier Boulevard.

- **93**
  - **Gary Scheiner, M.S.** in Clinical Exercise Physiology, recently published his fifth book, “Until There’s a Cure...The Latest and Greatest in Diabetes Self Care.” One of his previous books, “Think like a Pancreas,” was a best-seller in the diabetes community for nearly 10 years. He continues to run a private diabetes education practice near Philadelphia for people who use insulin.

New and Improved Throwback Alumni Wear

The Office of Alumni Development and the Alumni Association Board of Directors have gone back to the drawing board and created new and improved Alumni Throwback Wear, made with environmentally-friendly materials and products made in America. Our inventory includes white “We Are Ben” T-shirts, gray Illinois Benedictine College (IBC) T-shirts and black St. Procopius College (SPC) polos. T-shirts for IBC and Benedictine University are $15. SPC polos are $30. Purchase your shirt today by contacting Adrianna Saccone at (630) 829-6045 or asccone@ben.edu.
‘95
James P. McCann, Marketing, currently runs Francis Properties LLC, where he provides architectural, construction and land development services in southeastern Wisconsin. He and his wife, Sandi, have three children.

Benedictine University

‘96
George “Bud” Aquilla III, Organization Development, is the CEO of the Gazelles 200 Program, an executive education program, in Burr Ridge.

‘98
Tina Powers, M.P.H., is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator working with Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox, IL. She has been married to her husband, Joseph, for 19 years and they have two sons.

‘99
Katherine Obmsacik, M.B.A., won an excellence award from the Chicago chapter of the Society for Technical Communication for the brochure she wrote and edited, “Technology Development & Commercialization at Argonne National Laboratory.”

‘00
Michi Dubes, Psychology, has two children graduating this year. Her daughter, Stephanie, will graduate college and plans to pursue a graduate degree at Benedictine, and her son, Kevin, will pursue an undergraduate degree at Benedictine.

‘06
Melissa (Manley) Hansen, Accounting, is a senior accountant. She married in October 2012 and has two stepsons, Jonathan, 7, and Matthew, 6.

‘07
Jason Alice, Accounting and Marketing, and his wife, Jennifer (Abel) Alice O8, Elementary Education, welcomed a son, Giovanni, on September 12, 2012.

‘08
Steve Keck, M.B.A., joined Amazon.com in 2009 and led its financial applications team for three years. He currently manages the corporate applications project management office.

‘09
Bill Mannaberg, M.B.A., and his wife, Dina, welcomed a son, Liam Patterson, this year.

‘11
Heidi Ann (Monk) Ford, M.P.H., was recently promoted to senior research assistant on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s “Best Practices User Guides” project at the Center for Public Health Systems Science at Washington University in St. Louis. She also co-authored “Diffusion of Complete Streets Policies Across U.S. Communities.” She and her husband, Dan, welcomed their first child, Natalie, in 2012.

‘12
Joseph Cislak, Management, was named director of events and operations for Brio Tuscan Grill in Lombard.

Ephataya (Taya) Elery, M.B.A., is starting a financial aid and career consulting business for educational planning directed toward high school students and their parents.

Raquel Hernandez, M.P.H., is the resource coordinator/case manager for Valence Health. She plans to pursue a health education specialist certification.

Kevin R. Leitch, M.B.A., accepted a position as manager of engineering and business development for UTC Aerospace Systems in Goleta, CA, in September 2012.

Erica Sokol, M.S. in Clinical Psychology, is the program director at the National Alliance on Mental Illness DuPage, a nonprofit organization that strives to improve the quality of life for individuals with mental illness and their families. She also works part time as a counselor at Fox Bend Counseling in Oswego.

Springfield Junior College

‘59
Ervin Bridges and his wife, Ida Mae, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on October 25, 2012. He worked at Pillsbury Mills for 19 years.

‘62
Mary Kay Smargiassi and her husband, Donald, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 27, 2012. She retired from the Sangamon Area Special Education District in Springfield after 20 years as a teacher’s aide and 13 years as a day care director.

‘63
Eldon Muench and wife, Elizabeth, of Sherman, IL, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on December 18, 2012. He is a lifelong grain farmer and retired pork producer.
Springfield College in Illinois

'07 The Most Rev. Kevin Vann, A.A., was installed as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Orange, CA, in December 2012. He is fluent in Spanish and Vietnamese. His parish is Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, CA.

'09 Becky Beyers, A.A., received the 2012 Colleague of the Month award in September from St. John’s Hospital in Springfield.


'01 Patrick Henn, A.A., and wife, Danielle, welcomed their daughter, Adelyn, on October 12, 2012.

Benedictine University at Springfield

'05 Christopher Michael Venvertloh, A.A., and Brenna Coffman were married in October 2012. He is employed by Accountable Search and both live in Chicago.

'06 Travis Heckenkamp, A.A., was promoted to assistant loan officer at the Bank of Springfield’s Chatham, IL, branch in January 2013.

'08 Jade Leinberger, A.A., is an exercise physiologist at the Prairie Heart Institute in Springfield.

'09 Mikaela Fawns, Elementary Education, is a preschool teacher for the federal Head Start program. Justin Mason, A.A., is a financial consultant at Midwestern Securities Trading Company.

'10 Emily Alvey, M.B.A., and husband, Jeffrey, welcomed a daughter, Hadley Grace Alvey, on October 13, 2012. Lisa Kathleen Cobau, A.A., and Bradley John Homeier, of Springfield, were married on October 27, 2012. Homeier is currently studying to become a nurse.


JP Kain, A.A., is attending the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy in Charleston, WV, and plans to graduate with a Doctorate in Pharmacy in 2016.

'11 Rosalie Pecoraro, M.B.A., and Aaron D. Rath welcomed the birth of their daughter, Arabella, on September 26, 2012.

'12 Amanda Laager, Psychology, and Brian Lott were married in November 2012. She also accepted a position with the Rutledge Youth Foundation in Springfield in February.

Ronald P. Hampson, SJC’59, passed away October 14, 2012.
George Herder, SJC’62, passed away January 7.
Fred J. Impastato, Ph.D., SJC’49, passed away October 18, 2012.
Valentine Kerkilkar, SJC’48, passed away December 8, 2012.
Michael Kiely, SJC’58, passed away October 27, 2012.
Mary (Flagg) Koritz, SJC’50, passed away November 2, 2012.
Dorothy Murphy, SJC’41, passed away January 6.
Morton Sabath, SJC’47, passed away November 14, 2012.
Earle B. Searcy, SJC’49, passed away October 17, 2012.
Virginia (Maurer) Watt, SJC’41, passed away January 9.
Donna (Burton) Wolaver, SJC’52, passed away December 29, 2012.

Are You Receiving Duplicate Issues of Voices Magazine?

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

Voluntary Subscriptions to Voices

It’s always great to see that new issue of Voices in the mail. You can help supplement the cost of publishing and mailing the alumni magazine. Your tax-deductible gift of $25 helps defray the costs of production. This is strictly voluntary. You can enclose your donation in the attached contribution envelope.

St. Procopius Academy/College

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Springfield Junior College

Corrine (McRoberts) Albright, SJC’34, passed away December 10, 2012.
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IN MEMORY

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Springfield College in Illinois

James G. “ Slugger” Buscher, SCI’72, passed away October 20, 2012.
Richard Nejmanowski, SCI’68, passed away December 29, 2012.
Clarence Ramshaw, SCI’71, passed away January 5.
Donna Wheeler, SCI’76, passed away January 28.

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

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

Send your name and email address to Pat Ariano at pariano@ben.edu today!
The University community welcomes Pope Francis as the new head of the Roman Catholic Church, and wishes him well as he prepares to re-establish the Church as a modern moral leader. He will deal with many critical issues on the minds of Catholics, and it is our hope the new pope will challenge Catholic universities to continue their tradition of inviting people from all perspectives to an open dialogue.

Latin America has 39 percent of the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics, and his selection as the Church’s first-ever Latin American and Jesuit pope is a clear indication of a new age in the Church.
19th Annual President’s Invitational golf outing

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2013
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Honorary Co-chair, Bruce Bronge

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Sign up today to play!
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Rolling Out the RED CARPET

October 12

We will be rolling out the red carpet for our alumni, students and friends on Saturday, October 12. Homecoming plans are underway. It will be a family affair with fun for all ages. Children will love our petting zoo, bouncing house and photo booth. Enjoy music, good food, catch the football game and reconnect with former classmates and professors. Don’t miss this great chance to get back on campus and connect with the Benedictine community.

FOR DETAILS, VISIT WWW.BEN.EDU/HOMECOMING.
Upcoming Alumni Events

**June 24**
19th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing
www.ben.edu/golf

**August 24 • 7:00 p.m.**
BenFest
Village of Lisle-
Benedictine University
Sports Complex
Watch for details at
www.ben.edu/benfest.

**October 12**
Homecoming 2013
"Rolling Out the Red Carpet"
www.ben.edu/homecoming

**October 12**
Golden Eagles Reunion

Who will it be?

- 2010: The Fab Four
- 2011: Plain White T’s
- 2012: Neon Trees
- 2013: Stay Tuned
Patrick Flynn (Philosophy) served as a faculty observer at the Fifth Biannual Association for Core Text and Courses (ACTC) Student Conference at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago in March. Two Benedictine University undergraduate students presented papers and participated in the prestigious conference. Komal Mirza, a Philosophy major, presented “Plato’s Idea of the Good and Liberal Education Today,” and Mubashir Razvi, a Philosophy and Biology major, presented “A Reason to Think: David Hume’s ‘A Treatise of Human Nature.’” “They performed with excellence,” Flynn said. “They clearly gave a very good account of our institution.” The abstract proposals for these papers were refereed from a fairly large field of submitted proposals from undergraduate students at many other ACTC involved institutions across the United States and Canada. Thirty-six undergraduate students gave papers at the conference.

Vincent Gaddis (History) was awarded a grant to participate in the seminar “Vietnam: Consensus, Conflict, Contradiction and Change” as part of the AsiaNetwork Faculty Enhancement Program, “Deepening Asian Studies in the Liberal Arts,” at the 21st Annual AsiaNetwork Conference in Nashville, Tenn., in April, and was among eight faculty nationwide selected to attend an international training seminar this summer in Vietnam. The AsiaNetwork is a consortium of about 160 North American colleges that strives to strengthen the role of Asian Studies within the framework of liberal arts education to help prepare succeeding generations of undergraduates for a world in which Asian societies play prominent roles in an ever more interdependent world.

Joan Libner and Alison Ridge (Nursing) gave a peer-reviewed podium presentation at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing 2013 Master’s Education Conference in Orlando, Fla., in February. Their presentation, “Constructing a Bridge from the Community to Graduate Nursing Education,” focused on a new initiative in the Department of Nursing and Health, the RN to B.S.N. to M.S.N. Academic Bridge Option. The option offers a diverse population of community college associate degree nursing graduates the opportunity to seamlessly transition from the on-ground Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) completion program into online Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) education, thereby addressing the overwhelming need for future nurse executives and nurse educators.

Phil Novack-Gottshall (Biological Sciences) presented a talk in November titled “Trilobite survivorship during the Late Ordovician mass extinction is associated with geographic, environmental and ecological breadth” at the national meeting of the Geological Society of America in Charlotte, N.C. The presentation was an outgrowth of undergraduate research he mentored with students Emily Miofsky and Chris Castle (Biological Sciences), who were co-authors, and was supported by a Summer Research Grant from the Faculty Development Committee. While at the conference, he also participated in the executive council meeting of the Paleontological Society as the editor of their newsletter, Priscum.

James Pelech (School of Education) was installed as president of the Association for Constructivist Teaching at its annual convention in October. The Association for Constructivist Teaching is an international organization with members from across America, Mexico, China and Poland. Members include practicing teachers, school administrators, teacher educators, psychologists and students. Pelech also presented a breakout session titled “Using Four Basic Teaching Strategies to Structure a Constructivist Lesson: From Theory to Classroom Practice.”

Michael E. Salatino (Benedictine Police) was invited to speak about campus security operations at the International Conference of the American Society of Industrial Security in September at McCormick Place in Chicago. Chief Salatino was also invited to address the law enforcement perspective on gun violence and firearm regulation at a program titled “Gun Control Strategies After Newtown and President Obama’s Policy Statement” in March at Oakton Community College.

Alandra Weller-Clarke (Education) presented a peer-reviewed paper in January at the Hawaii International Educational Conference in Honolulu. Her paper, “Preservice Special Education Teachers Use Their ’I’s (iPads, iPods, and iPhones): Creating Individual Behavior Interventions with Video Modeling” examined preservice special education and teachers’ experiences in creating individual behavior interventions with video modeling, which is required in the Methods for Teaching Students with Social, Emotional and Behavior Disorders course. Specifically, this study focuses on how traditional video modeling created with “i” technology affects preservice teachers’ beliefs regarding behavioral theories and their attitudes toward teaching with that technology.

Jan Writer (Education) was selected to give a peer-reviewed presentation and paper at the 2013 Arc of Illinois State Convention in April. Her interactive workshop, “Believe in Me! Overcoming Barriers to Inclusion for Students with Autism and Low Incidence Disabilities,” was featured in the Education strand of the convention. The workshop provided parents and educators with information and skills pertinent to diverse strategies and tactics for promoting the successful integration and inclusion of children and youth with autism and other low incidence disabilities (e.g., intellectual disabilities, orthopedic impairments and multiple disabilities) within public school settings. The Arc of Illinois is a branch of The Arc, a national organization that advocates for and supports persons with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Writer was also invited to present a two-hour featured workshop at the 2013 Pacific Rim Conference on Disability and Diversity in Honolulu, Hawaii in April. Her session, “Talk WITH Me: Communication Strategies for Students with Significant Disabilities,” has earned her “noted speaker” status in the preconference flier. A former consultant for the U.S. Department of Education in the U.S. Pacific Trust Territories and American Samoa, Writer has been active in the Pac Rim conference since its inception in 1986.
In 2006, Dave and Patty Bushland left a hospital in Madison, Wis., shaken and uncertain how they could begin to help their then 4-month-old daughter, Mary Rose. After weeks of examinations and consultations, a doctor finally gave the Bushlands the news.

“Sorry, your daughter is blind,” said the doctor, who then promptly left the room.

Not a word was mentioned about what they could expect or what additional services they might need for Mary Rose, who was diagnosed with Leber’s congenital amaurosis, a rare genetic disease that impacts the retina and its ability to process vision.

“It was a pretty dark and depressing period of our lives,” Dave Bushland recalled. “We found out about Mary Rose the same week my job was eliminated.”

With seemingly nowhere to turn, the Bushlands began reaching out to other families with visually impaired children. They soon realized how few resources were available. So they decided to launch their own organization to help parents connect and support one another to provide needed services and activities for blind children.

“We realized that the best resources more often than not were other parents who had children who were visually impaired,” Bushland said. “The problem is it was hard to connect with others who were out there.”

While living in Arkansas, they founded the National Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired (NAPVI) and it quickly grew into one of the largest organizations in the country. Through the association, they established programming for parents, conferences featuring national experts on blindness, camps for families and other adapted activities that were previously non-existent. A few years later, the Bushlands relocated to Minneapolis and established a NAPVI chapter there.

During the past six years, the Bushlands have raised more than $300,000 to benefit blind children through the two NAPVI chapters and other organizations.
While looking for a new speaker to present at a conference, Bushland discovered the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA), a U.S. Olympic multisport organization that offers outreach and training services for blind athletes. After speaking with association members about his efforts to benefit the blind, he was asked to serve as a board member of the USABA in 2008. In November 2012, he was elected president.

As president, Bushland helps to set strategy and direction for the USABA. His priorities include expanding the Paralympic sport of goalball, in which athletes attempt to roll a 2.75 pound ball containing bells into a net for a goal. He also supports athletes who compete in other Paralympic and international events. Other priorities include fundraising and educating the general public on the athletic abilities of people who are blind and visually impaired, and expanding outreach programs so more of the blind have opportunities to participate in sports.

“There are 56,000 children in the United States who are blind and visually impaired,” Bushland said. “More than 60 percent of them do not participate in any physical education program or class, and unfortunately they are left on the sidelines or at home on the couch. We want to provide opportunities for these kids. Whether it is through a camp or in the form of information for teachers to learn how to adapt their classes to include blind students—the important thing is to get them in the game.”

Today, the Bushlands live in Dallas, Texas. In addition to Bushland’s work with the USABA, he is the vice president of Finance at J.C. Penney where he is in charge of operations finance for 1,100 J.C. Penney stores across the country.

As a student at Benedictine, Bushland had a passion for sports and played on the football team. Naturally, his children have followed in his footsteps. Mary Rose, who is now 7 years old, does not sit on the sidelines. She takes swimming lessons twice a week, and may soon begin other activities like horseback riding, judo or cycling.

“She has her own bicycle, trampoline and even her own goalball,” Bushland said. “Given that I have always been involved in sports, I knew how important it was in my upbringing and for my older kids. I wanted to make sure Mary Rose had those same opportunities.”

He feels that in many ways, Mary Rose is a source of inspiration for the entire Bushland family. Without her, they might never have become advocates for the blind.

“I would like to say I found this cause, but the reality is it found us when Mary Rose was diagnosed,” Bushland said. “As a result, we are in it for life. It has been the hardest blessing that God could ever give us. But I also feel he has given me gifts that I can use to make a small difference in the lives of others going through similar challenges.”

Bushland said the values that were instilled in him as a student at Benedictine have helped him to remain positive and overcome some of the challenges that the family has endured. “Benedictine’s influence on me is apparent every day,” Bushland said. “The Benedictine values that probably mean the most to me are ‘Awareness of God,’ as I have seen his influence in so many parts of my life and truly believe that you have to have faith in the plan he has for you. I also feel a deep draw to ‘Respect for Persons,’ as I have learned through Mary Rose and the world she has opened us up to that every person is God’s special creation and we need to respect that.”

Mary Rose has inspired the members of her family to either volunteer or enter professions that help the blind and disabled. In the fall, her older sister plans to begin a degree program to become an orientation and mobility specialist teacher for the visually impaired. Patty Bushland, who attended Benedictine from 1989-1991 and is a registered nurse, is also planning to go back to school to become a teacher of the visually impaired. Bushland’s son, Jason, is currently pursuing a degree in education to become an adaptive physical education teacher.
Jill Morgenthaler energetically called on nearly 600 attendees to respond “Hooah” at the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast held in the Krasa Student Center at Benedictine University in January.

Explaining that “Hooah” is Army talk for “I got you. I understand. OK. It will be done,” Morgenthaler, a retired U.S. Army colonel from Des Plaines, motivated the crowd “to go out and have the backs of other Americans, whether black, white, gay or Muslim.”

Morgenthaler was one of the first women to train as an equal with men in the collegiate Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship program at Penn State University. She served as the first woman battalion commander in the 88th Regional Support Command, was the first woman brigade commander in the 84th Division of the U.S. Army Reserves and was also Illinois’ first Homeland Security advisor.

She recounted some of the verbal abuses she received as a woman while going through basic training in the U.S. Army.

“I was called every vulgar name in the book and I had to stand there and take it,” Morgenthaler said.

However, during a few of the more abusive tirades from her superior officers, she felt a presence behind her. Each time she sensed this presence, the abuse would stop. One day she turned around to discover that the unknown figure was an African-American sergeant who was looking out for her and wanted to ensure she was being treated fairly.

Morgenthaler took the fortuitous relationship with the sergeant as a call for her to do the same, should she have the opportunity. One day, she offered counseling and support to a group of African-American lesbians who were facing a dishonorable discharge.

“The women told me, ‘Capt. Morgenthaler, we can’t hide the fact that we are women and we can’t hide the fact that we are African-American, but we sure can lie about us being lesbian,’ and they did and went on to have great careers in the Army,” Morgenthaler said.

“I told them, ‘I don’t see you as African-American soldiers—I see you all as soldiers,’ Morgenthaler said. “They told me, ‘If you don’t see me as an African-American soldier, then you don’t understand the depths of my pain.’”

Morgenthaler warned that not talking to the other (meaning groups different than ourselves) not only creates societal disharmony, but at its worst can lead to violence. She mentioned how clashes between different racial and ethnic groups led to bloodshed during the civil rights movement and the Bosnian and Kosovar wars.

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

Awarded a King scholarship were Maraea D. Mason, a senior Communication Arts major from Lombard, and Sydney Van Alstyne, a sophomore Health Science major from Island Lake.
EVERY YEAR, TWO BENEDICTINE STUDENTS ARE AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SCHOLARSHIP FUND. THIS YEAR’S WINNERS WERE SYDNEY VAN ALSTYNE (TOP) AND MARAEA D. MASON (BOTTOM).

BETH REESE (LEFT), PRESIDENT OF NICOR GAS, INTRODUCED SPEAKER JILL MORGENTHALER. THE REV. DR. JAMES F. MILLER (RIGHT), SENIOR PASTOR OF THE DUPAGE AME CHURCH, LED THE BENEDICTION AT THE EVENT.
Festival Brings Asian Tradition, Cuisine and Kung Fu

Each year, Feifei Li, an international student from China, looks forward to all the entertainment, food and quality time with family during the Asian Spring Festival.

This year, however, Li celebrated the holiday some 3,400 miles away at Benedictine’s sixth annual Festival of Asia, an event held to showcase Asian culture and recognize the University’s diverse community.

Li found the festival to be a great way to share some of her holiday traditions, like making dumplings, with people from all different backgrounds.

“The Festival of Asia is an interesting way to connect people from different cultures,” Li said. “I met people from China, India and France—all different parts of the world. It shows how diverse our University is and it makes me feel very proud to be a part of it.”

Festival attendees competed against one another in table tennis tournaments while others sampled traditional Asian dishes prepared by international students. Attendees also flocked to an Asian-style market where they could purchase clothing, jewelry and art.

The event included musical performances in English and Chinese, as well as an intercultural dance performance.

Dipal Desai (middle), a junior majoring in Health Science, wanted to share something from her Indian heritage and presented a combination of modern Bollywood and traditional Hindu-inspired dance.

“I wanted to represent my Indian culture,” Desai said. “I love learning about different cultures and I thought that this would be a great way to represent mine for the people in attendance.”

Later, all eyes turned to members of Illinois Shaolin Kung Fu, who stunned the audience with amazing stunts and acrobatic moves. At one point, Grand Master Yang Cheng, an expert in Shaolin-style kung fu, demonstrated the power of the martial arts discipline when he took two metal rods and broke
them in half over his head.

The Festival of Asia was first held in 2008 to recognize and celebrate the University’s budding Asian programs as well as the handful of Chinese students who came to study at Benedictine. Since then, the University has expanded its academic programs in China and Vietnam. Today, 110 Asian students are enrolled throughout Benedictine’s Lisle and Springfield campuses, said Elsie Yuan, executive director of International Programs and Services.

“This has been a great opportunity for Benedictine to provide this experience for Asian students while they are away from home,” Yuan said. “This provides them with the chance to celebrate the Chinese New Year, the Vietnamese New Year and the Asian Spring Festival with the local community.”
WebExtra

PHILLIP PHILLIPS

View more photos of this event at www.ben.edu/benhashpicks