What's your plan?
What the world

When our 511 Saint Ben’s graduates ventured into the ‘real world’ in May, they were confronted by an uncertain future. But, they were up to the challenge.

In fact, our recent graduates received fewer job offers this year because of the state of our economy, yet they are not sitting idle and waiting to see what the economy or job market does. They are not passively waiting for opportunity to knock. Instead, they are taking control of their lives and creating opportunities. Many are taking internships, volunteering here and abroad, pursuing an advanced degree, or starting their own businesses as an active next step.

When Andrea Carrow ’09 spoke to her classmates during her commencement address, she did not see the current job market as a deterrent. She addressed it head on by saying:

“Because of the education we have received and the cultural experiences we have collected, we have a unique status and unique responsibilities in helping this economic situation. Disregard the daunting suggestions...
needs now

that ... 2009 will not be easy. Ask yourself, what makes us come alive? And go after that.”

I just love that. This is a message of resilience. This is a message of critical and analytical thinking. This is a message of hope. It tells me that our graduates of today -- and of years past -- adapt to the world we live in now.

When we think about what the world needs now, the ‘now’ is a moving target. We cannot predict the next technological advance, the next pandemic du jour, the next financial setback, or the next global crisis. We might not be able to name the careers that our graduates will have in the next ten years. We can be certain of the challenge of change. Our graduates are up to the challenge.

Our global neighborhood needs citizens who are resilient. Our global neighborhood needs citizens who are critical and analytical. Our global neighborhood needs citizens who step up and step out of their comfort zones to confront change with broad perspective and compassion for the common good.

The liberal arts provide these skills. We do this through experiential learning, global education, and the Benedictine values which have been our rock since the school’s founding in 1913. The liberal arts prepare graduates for leadership and service in an everchanging global society.

Andrea Carrow is not sitting idle. She recently accepted a position in Monterrey, Mexico as a Latin American Development Lead for a Fortune 100 company based in Minnesota. She’s pursuing what makes her come alive.

At the College of Saint Benedict, we are alive and thriving as well. And we are infusing our students with the will, the know-how, and the compassion to be what the world needs now.

What the world needs now ... in addition to love sweet love ... is graduates and alumnae of Saint Ben’s.

Megan Hedstrom ’09 graduated with honors in May from CSB with a Communication degree. She recently started her “real job” as a Marketing Analyst at Vascular Solutions in Maple Grove. She is sad to not be moving back to St. Joe to start another year of college at CSB/SJU but is glad to not have endless nights of homework.

Louis D. Johnston is an associate professor of economics at CSB/SJU. He is a regular guest on Minnesota Public Radio’s Midday program and is special contributor to the 4th edition of Principles of Economics by Robert H. Frank and Ben S. Bernanke (2009), with responsibility for developing and writing the macroeconomics chapters. He is busy incorporating the causes and effects of the Great Recession into the 5th edition, which will appear fall 2010.
Saint Ben’s has a proud legacy of private support spanning nearly 100 years. As you look around campus, there are examples of that enduring foundation in every corner of the community. Every student experience and each fond memory has directly resulted from the philanthropy of those that believe most in the college. Every single parent, friend, and alumna that financially supported the college in the past year – there were 7,300 of them! – have demonstrated faith and trust in their investment. We invite you to share the rich heritage of giving that has made Saint Ben’s what it is today – and what it will become tomorrow.

www.csbsju.edu/csbannualgiving
Be content with living simply and finding balance in work, prayer, and leisure.
- Rule of Saint Benedict

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EDITOR: Heidi L. Everett

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Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

The mission of the College of Saint Benedict is to provide for women the very best residential liberal arts education in the Catholic university tradition. The college fosters integrated learning, exceptional leadership for change and wisdom for a lifetime.
The Rev. Robert Koopmann '68, OSB, has been named the 12th president of Saint John's University by the university’s Board of Regents. He began his official duties on July 1, 2009.

Koopmann has been a professor of music at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University since 1975, and served as fine arts division head from 2006-09. For the past four years, he has served on the Saint John's Board of Regents, and served nine years in a previous term on the board.

A native of Waterloo, Iowa, Koopmann professed as a monk of Saint John’s Abbey on Sept. 21, 1971 and was ordained a priest on June 6, 1981. He has advanced degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (master of music), the University of Iowa (doctor of musical arts) and a master of divinity degree from Saint John’s School of Theology Seminary. Koopmann did post-doctoral study with faculty of the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Juilliard School of Music in New York City. He is active as a concert pianist both in the U.S. and abroad, and has released a number of recordings since 1994.

Koopmann was chair of the CSB/SJU music department from 1977-83 and 1985-86. He has served as a faculty resident in the residence halls since 1981. Since 1998, he has served as a men’s spirituality group leader, and since 2000 has worked with the Saint John’s Benedictine Volunteer Corps. Koopmann also served as director of international studies programs to Salzburg, Austria and South Africa.

“I’m honored and excited to be selected president,” Koopmann said. “Saint John's has wonderful students, a first-rate faculty, a dedicated and highly competent staff, very committed board members, alumni, benefactors and friends, an amazing and creative partnership with the College of Saint Benedict, and a mission to serve the church and the world. I am eager to lead this institution which I love so much.”
Top Five Ways to Live Fearlessly

1. Have Confidence and Self-Esteem

“If you don’t have the best self esteem, fake it,” Lisa said. “Even if it is a new territory, present yourself with confidence.”

2. Be Prepared

“The junction at which preparation and opportunity meet is where you find success,” Lisa said. “Never go in cold to any situation. Be prepared. Have information about the company and the people. The better prepared you are, the more confidence you will have and can ask questions.”

3. Build Relationships

“Relationships are what it is all about,” Lisa said. “Learning from others’ experience is absolutely priceless. Some of the most important leadership lessons I have learned are from people in the trenches who have been there.”

4. Take risks

“Don’t be afraid to get out of your comfort zone.” Lisa said. “You can move forward at lightning speed or take time and enjoy it.”

5. Don’t sell yourself short

“It doesn’t matter where you come from, it is what you do with what you have to offer that matters,” Lisa said. “You can bring in fresh perspectives to the business world and add a new dimension wherever you end up.”
More than 500 alumnae came home to College of Saint Benedict for Reunion, June 26 to 28. The weekend was filled with laughter as classmates
Home
Reunion 2009

reminisced, learned the latest from campus, and enjoyed each other’s company. Bennies from the class of 1939 (bottom right) represented the most distant graduation year.
2009 Reunion Award Winners

Suzette Sutherland ’84
Distinguished Alumna Award

Suzette graduated with degrees in biology and German. She earned a Master of Science degree in exercise physiology from St. Cloud State University and then decided to embark on an eleven-year journey to earn her medical degree, at Case Western Reserve University, and all other degrees and residencies necessary to practice as a urologist and urologic surgeon.

Suzette is passionate about educating women about their bodies and health. She participates in many free community programs and radio shows and tries to open the door for women to ask questions that, to this day, are embarrassing for far too many women. She is also the first woman to serve on the board of the Minnesota Urological Society.

Suzette mentors women urologists, medical students at the University of Minnesota, and CSB students. She has published widely and also spends time educating other physicians and pushing the boundaries of available treatment options through working with companies like Medtronic, Pfizer, and Proctor and Gamble.

Amy Hertel ’99
Decade Award

Amy graduated with a degree in political science and an economics minor. As a Truman Scholar, she went on to earn a Master of Public Affairs degree from Princeton University. She continued her education at Stanford, earning her Juris Doctorate and serving as president and editor of the Stanford Law and Policy Review.

Amy then went on to the most prestigious clerkship so far achieved by any CSB alumna – with Chief Judge Mary Schroeder of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She came back to Minnesota to work, first as an attorney at Dorsey & Whitney, and now as an associate in the Minneapolis office of McKinsey & Company. This is an organization that advises Fortune 500 companies and other leading global institutions.

Amy can’t reveal who her clients are -- but she has worked recently on two business consortiums on strategic initiatives that impact major public policies in Minnesota.

Kelly deRosier ’74
Benedictine Service Award

Kelly Ann graduated with a humanities degree and later earned a Masters in Social Work from Minnesota State University in Mankato.

Kelly’s professional work has focused on helping couples create their families through adoption. She worked for Crossroads Adoption Agency for two years, Catholic Charities for five years and the Children’s Home Society for 16 years. She has helped to create more than 900 families. Her current passion is placing special needs children from China with Minnesota families. In 2004 Kelly Ann received the national Friend of Children award for her work in adoptions.

As a volunteer, Kelly founded programs as well as served as an exemplary volunteer in far too many organizations to mention. She implemented and coordinated the Families Moving Forward project to help newly homeless families stay out of the shelter system. She started an adoptive parents group called Our Korean Kids. And, not wanting her children to fear science, she started a Science in a Bucket program at their school.

Log on to www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/events/reunion to read their memorable acceptance speeches.
LECTURE NOTES

Understanding the Great Recession
by Louis D. Johnston

The U.S. economy is in the midst of the worst recession in 25 years. By the time it ends, this downturn may take its place as the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Some have already given it a name: the Great Recession.

What are the underlying causes of the Great Recession? What lessons can we learn from this experience? These two questions are intertwined, and we are only now in a position to sift through the evidence and begin to answer them both.

Causes of the Great Recession

Two events pushed the economy into a deep recession: the bursting of the largest house price bubble in American history and an oil price shock that sent the price of oil to its highest level ever.

The calamitous plummet in housing prices that began in the summer of 2006 is the primary culprit. The average price of American homes doubled between January 2000 and July 2006, the fastest sustained increase in average home prices in American history. This, in turn, fueled a consumption boom as homeowners borrowed against their increased home equity to buy bigger houses (thus pushing house prices higher) and to purchase new cars, flat screen TVs, computers, and other consumer goods. When the bubble burst, consumers stopped buying, sending the economy into a tailspin.

This story raises a critical question: why didn’t rising consumer borrow-

ing cause rising interest rates? Interest rates should have risen as more and more Americans tried to borrow money to purchase houses, cars, and the like. However, increasingly integrated international capital markets prevented this. Workers in China, India and other rapidly growing economies were saving large amounts of money, and this money needed a place to go. Given that financial markets in developing countries tend to be unstable and risky, much money flowed to the U.S. This increased the supply of resources available to American borrowers, and kept U.S. interest rates from rising and pricking the bubble, which had reached unsustainable levels by 2004.

The Federal Reserve could have acted against this inflow from abroad by increasing interest rates. Many economists urged this step; however, the Fed was deeply worried about the prospect of deflation, i.e., a fall in the general level of prices. Deflation had hindered economic growth in Japan throughout the 1990s, and the Federal Reserve knew that keeping interest rates low was the way to prevent deflation. Thus, the Fed waited until mid-2004 to begin increasing interest rates, and only then in ¼-percentage point increments. But it was too late: the housing market was out of control and headed for collapse.

As if this was not enough, the U.S. economy was hit with another shock: Crude oil prices more than doubled between January 2007 and July 2008, leading to rapid increases in the prices of gasoline, home heating oil, fertilizers and other petroleum-based products.

This combination of the oil price shock and the financial crisis produced by the collapse of the housing market was fatal to economic stability. Auto sales and new home construction, dependent on cheap credit and cheap oil, collapsed along with related businesses.

Lessons from the Great Recession

Two lessons stand out from this experience. First, we must recognize that the U.S. economy is fully integrated into the global economy, and that changes in the international economy affect the American economy. The saving decisions of workers in China and India, the movements of oil prices in Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, or Nigeria, and myriad factors around the world can and will affect the American economy for good or ill.

This leads directly to the second lesson: the U.S. must get its economic house in order.

Reforming mortgage markets so as to minimize fraud and create conditions that reduce the likelihood of bubbles would be a good start. Encouraging higher rates of personal saving would be another smart step, one that would help us manage longer-term problems such as the retirement of the baby-boom generation. By taking actions like these, when the next economic shock hits – and it will – the basic foundation of our economy will be sound.
The call changed her life. Not for the better.

Sandy learned her husband of nearly 30 years died of a massive heart attack. He was on a trip for work. The two had been talking about retirement. Trips to Europe. Golfing. Lazy afternoons snuggling with grandchildren. Now, she faced an uncertain future without her best friend.

As Sandy wrestled with the loss of her husband, the children stepped in to help ‘take care of business.’

“Mom, what are your monthly bills?”

“I don’t know.”

“Did Dad have life insurance?”

“I’m not sure.”

“Do you have savings?”

“Your father handled that.”

When questions were finally answered, Sandy realized she had to sell the home they had raised their children in. She also had to take a part-time job for the first time in her life. As it turned out, they had no life insurance policy and little in savings. Her husband had also amassed some debt on credit cards, and Social Security payments weren’t going to cover the monthly expenses. Sandy experienced heartbreak upon heartbreak in the year that followed.

Her experience is not all that uncommon.

“When I started my career 18 years ago, I often heard women say, ‘my husband handles this,’” says Janel Halverson Goff ’91. “Now, more women understand the importance of being involved in their personal finances.”

She should know. Janel is First Vice President of the Goff Investment Group at Merrill Lynch. She helps individuals and business owners achieve their financial and retirement goals. Janel also hosts a monthly executive women’s luncheon series titled, “Invest in Yourself.”

Trust and estate attorney Marlo Weber Turcotte ’95 has witnessed a shift in men’s thinking, too. She helps clients draft wills and trusts, and she administers the plans following someone’s death. “It used to be pretty common for men to leave assets to their wives in trust and name a third party as trustee,” Marlo says. “They didn’t think their wives could handle the investments.

Despite the changing trends, many women are not as involved in the family finances as they should be.
Today, men are much more likely to appoint their wives as trustee." Despite the changing trends, many women are not as involved in the family finances as they should be. Janel and Marlo have some simple advice for changing that.

**She shoots, she scores**

Janel and Marlo agree that setting goals is the first step in financial planning.

Goals can be immediate, like paying extra money towards a principal each month or giving 10% of your income to charity.

Goals can be short term, like paying for a grand family vacation in a year or trading in your old car for a newer model soon. Setting up a reserve account for financial hardships might be a short-term goal, too.

Long-term goals might include paying off a mortgage in 20 years, financing part or all of a child’s education, caring for aging parents, or retiring at a specific age.

Finally, Marlo recommends having contingency plans in place. “You need to know what would happen if there was a significant change in income due to a death or disability,” she says. Whether it is life insurance, retirement savings or investments, you need to know where the money is going to come from if the unexpected happens.

Identifying the goals that are important to you can help set a realistic budget and achieve goals.

**Shave and a hair cut, two bits**

Monthly grooming expenses. Are they a ‘must have’ or ‘nice to have?’ That depends on whom you ask and which services you get. Hair cuts might be necessary, but coloring, waxing and nails? Maybe not. Either way, these expenses are part of budget considerations.

Creating a budget is the best way to ensure you are spending within your financial means. Budgeting shows where money is going and allows for unnecessary purchases or payments to be cut out.

When creating a budget, document the following:

**Here and now**

What are your fixed expenses? These amounts don’t change from month to month. House, car, insurance, and some utility payments fall under this category.

What are your variable expenses? These payments fluctuate each month. Credit card, electric, and phone bills usually fall under this category.

What other monthly expenses do you have? Include groceries, daycare, fees for kids’ extra curricular activities, grooming costs, pet expenses, prescriptions, charitable donations, and ‘fun’ money (dining out, movies, a latte every Friday on the way to work, etc.).

**Storm clouds overhead**

Cars break down. Kids break bones. Roofs leak. And, today more than ever, people lose jobs or get work hours cut. Reserve funds can take the sting out of life’s unexpected moments. Consider setting money aside each month for rainy days. Every bit helps to build peace of mind.

**Look, kids, Big Ben . . . Parliament**

Dream vacations, early retirement, or truly owning a house don’t magically happen overnight. Meet-
ing these goals takes dedication and diligently sticking money away. Whether investing in a retirement account or dropping spare change in a carboy, include these long-term expenses in your budget.

**Curse of the golden handcuffs**

Once you’ve crafted your long list of expenses, analyze the numbers. Do you spend more each month than the net income you bring home? Or, is it really close? This may be a good time to really look at what expenses you have and make some adjustments.

Examine which are ‘must haves’ versus ‘nice to haves.’ Think about what could be cut. Perhaps dining out once a month is better than four times month. Does the household really need a landline and cell phones for every family member? Perhaps the satellite television can be replaced with family game night. And, could the $20 spent each month on lattes be better used elsewhere? Sure, these things are nice, and we’ve grown accustomed to them. Learning to live below your means opens plenty of opportunity to rebound from unexpected hardships later. Living below your means also allows you to meet your financial goals. The key here is to “keep emotion out of it,” Janel says.

Once you make a budget, Marlo’s advice is simple: “Make a budget and stick to it.”

**The devil is in the details**

Keep an eye on interest rates. Marlo says you need to know how much you are paying in interest and how much you are earning. “Do whatever you can to avoid carrying a balance on high interest rate credit cards,” Marlo advises. “If you are keeping a nest egg in a savings account, consider investing in a series of rolling CDs to earn a higher interest rate.”

Janel encourages you to really understand your investments. She says, “Make sure they are diversified with the right mix of cash, fixed income and equities to meet your financial goal.”

Marlo says taxes are another essential area to examine. You need to know where you stand with respect to estate taxes and income taxes. “I have seen clients make decisions to avoid probate by giving away assets during life without realizing they lost the ability to set-up the basis of those assets at death.”

When it comes to life insurance policies, wills, and other estate plans, make sure your beneficiaries are up to date and reflect current goals, Marlo advises.

Births, deaths, and divorces may change estate plans. Personal goals can impact estate plans, too. For example, parents might ensure their young children are provided for in estate plans. Once those children are grown with children of their own, estate plans might change to include grandchildren. Or, plans might list charities as beneficiaries.

**Stupid question? Not a chance**

Learn about interest rates, retirement options, investment opportunities, market performance, and more by asking industry professionals in banking, financial planning, tax preparation, and estate planning. “It is never too late to begin asking financial questions you have never understood,” Janel says. When it comes to investments, for example, she says to ask about and understand how risky your personal investment choices are. After all, it’s your money you’re asking about.

Books, websites, and magazines also offer useful information.

Ask yourself tough questions, too. There’s an old adage that couples don’t always agree on three things: money, raising kids, and . . . well, you know. Marlo encourages women to have the sometimes-difficult conversation about how family finances are being spent. “Know where the money goes,” she says. Only then will families be able to set goals, make plans to achieve them, and do just that.

**Don’t let your instinct become extinct**

Marlo and Janel agree that being involved in family financial matters is essential for women.

“Women have good intuition about people, and they are very discerning when it comes to hiring advisors,” Marlo says. “When women get involved,” Janel says, “they stay focused and committed to their goals.”

**Resources that make sense**

- [www.360financialliteracy.org](http://www.360financialliteracy.org)
- “Invest in Yourself” luncheon in the Twin Cities: 612-349-7892
Not a nickel to spare?

Woman of the Year understands importance of giving in tough economic times

by Jami Buntjer ’09

$2.50 a week.
It may not have been a lot, but to Krysta Arnold-Shultz ’06, the allowance offered a wealth of opportunities. At her mother’s request, $.50 went to the church offering, $1.00 went to savings, and the remaining $1.00 she could spend as she wished, which usually turned out to be on something for someone else or to some sort of cause.

Since childhood, Krysta has been taught the importance of giving. In addition to sharing wealth, her parents encouraged the family to volunteer in their community.

Krysta’s parents couldn’t be more proud now as Krysta has been named the 2009 Woman of the Year by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS).

The LLS Man and Woman of the Year is a fundraising competition. People are nominated as candidates to raise the most money for LLS. Each candidate agrees to design fundraising events in ten weeks in order to raise the most money and be named the “winner.” Funds benefit programs and research sponsored by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

After learning of her nomination, Krysta was excited and committed to meeting her personal goal of $17,000.

For most, the current state of the economy would discourage them from publicly declaring such a generous personal goal amount.

Not Krysta.

The idea did not even occur to her. “You’re always going to come across road blocks when you’re doing something for a good cause or something that you love,” she said.

She didn’t let setbacks deter her.

“I think it’s important to have a heart to give,” Krysta said. “Even $5 makes a difference. It’s not about how much you give, but that you do give.”

During the competition, Krysta noticed a slight deficit in her fundraising compared to numbers in years past. She pushed forward by organizing a golf tournament, a luncheon at work, weekly hot dog stands, bake-offs and a live and silent auction. Her hard work and long hours paid off as she ultimately raised $17,069 in the ten weeks. The nine Minnesota nominees raised $125,000. Nationally, candidates raised an estimated $7.6 million.

“It was an amazing journey for me. It was one full of ups and downs along the way, but in the end it was the biggest sense of accomplishment,” Krysta said. She is grateful to her amazing support team of family and friends, as well.

On awards night, Krysta heard about the developments of current research, accompanied with the grateful words of those affected. She knew she was part of an amazing experience.

“Everyone in the room could feel how thankful the parents of the Boy and Girl of the Year were that all the candidates were raising money towards research, which will help their children,” she said.

The experience reaffirmed her dedication to philanthropy. As Woman of the Year, Krysta will gain media recognition in a USA Today advertisement and local ads throughout September. You may also spot Krysta on your way to work, as her picture will be on the side of 20 metro buses in the Twin Cities.
Space permitting, the class notes section will contain milestones or professional updates. Marriages, births and deaths will be printed if they have taken place in the past 12 months.

For a full version of class notes, please check www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/classpages

For current updates from classmates and to post your notes go to the online community: www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/community

1974
Sue Kaiser Nordquist retired on May 31, completing 35 years as an educator/coach at International Falls High School and Rainy River Community College.

1986
Ana Schnellmann was recently promoted to Dean of Humanities from Professor of English at Lindenwood University located in Saint Charles, Missouri.

1987
Angela Ursprung joined Strategic Guru, Inc. as Business Development Manager.

1991
Michelle Stenbeck graduated Magna Cum Laude from Regis University and Reuckert-Hartman College for Health Professionals with a Master's in Nursing with a focus in Management Leadership. She was also inducted into Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Society for Nurses.

1993
Kathryn Kucienski, attorney and Northbrook resident, began serving as Village Trustee of Northbrook, Chicago; she was elected to a four-year term.

2001
Beth Hartman made her debut with the Minnesota Opera performing in Charles Gounod’s “Faust.”

2004
Laura Cudzilo graduated from Crichton University School of Medicine in Omaha, NE in May.

Maria Kraemer Schwartz was awarded her PhD in Biological Sciences – Biomedical Engineering from Mayo Graduate School College of Medicine.

Angie Magnuson finished her Masters in Education program through Saint Mary’s.

Sara Sorell Svenby is now the Director of Middle School Faith Formation at Saint Hubert Catholic Community in Chanhassen, MN.

2005 Reunion! June 25 to 27
Eileen Hunter received her Master of Science degree in Global Media from the London School of Economics and her Master of Arts degree in Global Communications from the University of Southern California.

Christine Johnson and Laura Wilant ’06 rowed in the Boat Race for the Edinburgh University Boat Club in the Reserve 8, coming out victorious over rival Glasgow.

2006
Laura Wilant qualified and raced at the Henley Women’s Regatta for the Edinburgh University Boat Club in the Intermediate 8+ category.

2007
Anne Wessel received her MBA with a concentration in Leadership from Newman University on December 13, 2008.

Bridget Donnelly received a Graduate Teaching Licensure in Elementary Education from the College of Saint Scholastica.

From this day forward

1990 Tere Mak to Kurt Shiplett, May ’09
1994 Bethany Neeser to Michael Loesch, May ’09
2001 Barbie Walden to Daniel Gruenhagen, Oct. ’08
2001 Desiree Zimmerman to Jeffrey Ahlstrand, April ’09
2001 Liz Linhoff to Chad Pomplun, June ’08
2002 Katie Kopperud to Jeffrey Storms, Sept. ’08
2002 Stacey Lambrecht to Michael Leonard, April ’09
2002 Molly Goers to Nicholas Schorr, April ’09
2003 Anne Misukanis to Mike Bosick, 2003
2003 Sara McGerr to Christopher Simenson, Jan. ’09
2004 Laurie Christesen to David Wick, Oct., ’08
2004 Jennifer Conway to Brandon Muiracy, Oct. ’08
2004 Elida Veenis to Ali Moin ’04 Nov. ’08
2004 Maggio Reinhardt to Kevin Pittelko, March ’09
2004 Kristin Kattar to Luke Carlson, July ’08
2004 Megan Melby to Aaron Carranza, July ’08
2004 Elisa Ettesvold to Jeremiah Day, Sept. ’08
2004 Angie Magnuson to Brandon Paske, June ’09
2005 Megan Bjerke to Blain Kummer, Jan. ’09
2005 Megan Pavek to John Boyle ’04, Dec. ’08
2005 Elizabeth Siebenaler to Joseph Marinac ’05, Jan. ’09
2005 Annamarie Mittelstadt to Mitchell Tate, Jan. ’09
2005 Jessica Timm to Brooks West ’05, June ’08
2005 Megan Glady to Chris Evens, May ’09

Bundles of Joy

1987 Kirsten Muhvic Harrison & John Harrison, Girl, Mary, Aug. ’08
1990 Kelly Gleason Han & Shan Han, Girl, Annelise, April ’09
1991 Sara Cooney Preimesberger & Tom Preimesberger ’90, Boy, Ryan, Jan. ’09
1991 Paula Koshiol Kraus & Tom Kraus, Boy, Eli, April ’09
1991 Janel Halverson Goff & Brian Goff, Girl, Bianca Claire, Jan. ’09
1992 Ann Douvier Sura & Rick Trent, Boy, Fiji, Aug. ’08
1992 Jean Burns Wenshau & Scott Wenshau, Boy, Gunner, Feb. ’09
1992 Karen Moehrie Herrera & Cadex Herrera, Boy, Ryan, March ’09
1992 Amy Reilly Trent & Rick Trent, Girl, Flynn, March ’09
1992 Lea Piechowski Kirchner & Scott
Colette S. Peters ’93 was appointed to lead the Oregon Youth Authority, the state juvenile corrections agency responsible for incarcerating youth who cannot safely live in the community and providing supervision and treatment opportunities in all 36 Oregon counties.
ALUMNAE MILESTONES

2000  Amber Dryden Brigg & Adam Brigg '01, Girl, Mary, Feb. '08
2000  Katie Neunsinger Walter & Mike Walter, Boy, William, Sept. '09
2001  Karen Marketon Swartz & Brian Swartz, Boy, Benjamin, Sept. '08
2001  Ann Hobday Graeve & Matthew Graeve, Girl, Margaret, Feb. '09
2001  Alissa Verschaetse Salvato & Chris Salvato, Twin Boys, Alexander & Joshua, Nov. '08
2001  Kate Evon Haskins & David Haskins, Girl, Annabelle, May '08
2002  Holly Apland McGowan & Patrick McGowan '00, Boy, Noah, Aug. '08
2002  Megan Ahern Schmidt & Andrew Schmidt, Boy, Jacob, Nov. '08
2002  Laura Holton Hendrickson & Eric Hendrickson '02, Girl, Laney, Feb. '09
2002  Heidi Eversman Paulson & Brian Paulson, Boy, Adam, Jan. '09
2002  Deb Chelberg McCarthy & Mark McCarthy, Boy, Mason, Jan. '09
2002  Christine Dickinson Piersma & Tom Piersma '01, Girl, Eleanor, Dec. '08
2002  Melanie LaComb & Scott McMahon '01, Boy, Brennan, March '09
2002  Naomi Gillett Minder & Chad Minder, Boy, Elijah, Dec. '07
2002  Sadie Vagher LaFrance & Joel LaFrance '03, Boy, Noah, Dec. '08
2002  Jamie Laurich Omann & Andy Omann '01, Boy, Walter, April '09
2002  Courtney Wolff Messerich & Bradley Messerich '99, Boy, Owen, Feb. '09
2002  Molly Willson Lahr & Brian Lahr '03, Girl, Greta, Aug. '08
2003  Natalie Powers Miller & Adam Miller '01, Boy, Aric, Aug. '08
2003  Christine Nosek Quandt & James Quandt, Girl, Kayla, July '08
2003  Jackie Bye Boldt & Michael Boldt '03, Boy, Andrew, Jan. '09
2003  Amanda Schweinfurtor Silva & Eduardo Silva '03, Girl, Juliana, Feb. '09
2003  Amanda Boller Dykhoff & Chris Dykhoff '03, Girl, Elena, Feb. '09
2003  Brooke Phillips Hemenway & Joe Hemenway, Boy, Finn, May '08
2003  Sarah Madge Carey & Mike Carey '02, Girl, Grace, Feb. '09
2003  Mary Rasmussen Ahlers & Paul Ahlers '02, Girl, Leah, Feb. '09
2004  Julie Sandberg Greenslade & Jeffrey Greenslade, Girl, Olivia, Aug. '09
2004  Amanda Henning Stenberg & Paul Stenberg '04, Boy, Torsten, Nov. '08
2004  Gina Pustovar Hennen & Adam Hennen, Boy, Grant, Dec. '08
2004  Maria Kraemer Schwartz & Eric Schwartz, Girl, Madeline, Jan. '09
2004  Molly Christensen Efstrand & Kevin Efstrand '02, Girl, Madeline, Dec. '08
2004  Kristen Huber Johnston & Timothy Johnston '04, Boy, Lane, March '09
2004  Angela Wiering Kaczkowski & Jeff Kaczkowski '04, Boy, Maxwell, March '09
2004  Jennifer Renier Rolfe & Joe Rolfe '04, Boy, Iain, April '09
2004  Lisa Weinhold Overman & Brandon Overman '04, Girl, Isabelle, April '09
2004  Katherine Johnson Brown & Aaron Brown '02, Boy, Owen, May '09
2004  Katie Knewtson Deibele & Brooks Deibele '02, Girl, Mackenzie, May '09
2004  Christine Hirle Boisen & Nick Boisen '04, Boy, Cody Allen, May '09
2004  Denise Chambers Lecher & Justin Lecher, Girl, Peyton, June '08
2004  Annie Zauhar Deibele & Cole Deibele '04, Boy, Carson, March '09
2004  Erin Viere Lester & John Lester, Girl, Annabelle, April '09
2005  Megan Solors David & Andy David, Girl, McKenna, Oct. '08
2005  Ashley Fruth Baldwin & Christopher Baldwin '05, Girl, Madeline, Sept. '08
2005  Laura Zwach LaVoy & Scott LaVoy '06, Boy, Thomas, Dec. '08
2005  Ashley Blake Ford & Webster Ford '06, Boy, Seamus, March '09
2005  Erin Gruber Dohmeier & Gary Dohmeier, Boy, Carter, May '09
2006  Amanda Ruesewald & John Horsley, Girl, Miley, Jan. '09
2006  Anna Lynch Sandquist & Ryan Sandquist '08, Girl, Layla, May '09

In memoriam
1934  Lucille Malone Hiltner, April '09
1938  Margaret Dietz Polta, March '09
1939  Caroline Prom Brink, April '09
1939  Winnifred Clemens Boese, April '09
1942  Mary Ann O’Dougherty, daughter of Patricia Coyne Kast, Feb. '09
1942  John Kidwell '49, sibling of Lenore Kidwell Opalach, June '09
1943  Rita Mohr, sister of Gloria Welna Postierick, April '09
1943  Marian Stehly Beck, sister of Patricia Stehly Bradley, May '09
1944  Anacleta Seifert, March '09
1944  Dorothy Blakie O’Brien, April '09
1946  Ione Twomey Daniel, May '09
1946  Sr. Ancile Vertin, May '09
1947  Ralph Zachman, brother of Jean Zachman Salk, March '09
1947  John Kidwell '49, sibling of Patricia Kidwell Zapp, June '09
1947  Bob Pflepsen, son of Margaret Askin Pflepsen, June '09
1948  Brother Brian Spain, April '09
1948  Ione Twomey Daniel '46, sister of Renee Twomey, May '09
1948  Verne Bredeson, husband of Peggy McArthur Bredeson, June '09
1949  Marvin Schultz, spouse of Mary Martin Schultz, Nov. '08
1949  Lorraine Traybiatowski, Feb. '07
1949  Otto Sellner, husband of Dolores Rewitzer Sellner, March '09
1949  Ione Twomey Daniel '46, sister of Kathleen Twomey Peccia, May '09
1949  Ione Twomey Daniel '46, sister of Elaine Twomey Stramer, May '09
1951  Rita Mohr, sister of Nonna Welna Rassier, April '09
1952  Michael Willette, father of Allison Willette, March '09
1952  Michael Willette '52, spouse of Jeanne Heaton Willette, March '09
1949  Marvin Schultz, spouse of Mary Martin Schultz, Nov. '08
1950  Louis Stang, spouse of Mary Glatzel

Reunion! June 25 to 27
Class years ending in "0" and "5"

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1950 Mary Petters McCain, Jan. ‘09
1952 Steven Birk, son of Mary Lou Schrank Birk, Dec. ‘08
1952 Willis Dombrowske ‘51, husband of Rita Hintgen Dombrowske, April ‘09
1952 Fran Neussendorfer Muggli, April ‘09
1954 Ralph Zachman, brother of Marilee Zachman Cripe, March ‘09
1955 Del Hilde, brother of Delores Deane Wilkinson, Jan. ‘09
1955 Ernest Klimek, husband of Pattie Lanners Klimek, May ‘09
1955 Marmie Deegan Fricke, June ‘08
1959 Sr. Eleta Gapinski, May ‘09
1960 Ralph Zachman, brother of Darnell Zachman Klein, March ‘09
1960 Ione Twomey Daniel, April ‘09
1961 Mary Baumgartner Novotny, Dec. ‘08
1961 David Manuel, brother of Kippy Manuel Stuhr, March ‘09
1963 Edward Przybyski, husband of Marjorie Maher Przybyski, Feb. ‘09
1963 Dorothy Honer, mother of Pamela Honer Elter, April ‘09
1964 Lonnie Mathiowetz, sister of Janet Mathiowetz McCauley, Jan. ‘09
1964 Herbert Becker, father of Kathryn Becker Lange, Feb. ‘09
1965 Father of Suzanne Shaw Schweich, Jan. ‘09
1965 Terrence Fowler, Jr., son of Rose Anne Schmit Fowler, Oct. ‘08
1965 Terrence Fowler, Sr., spouse of Rose Anne Schmit Fowler, Nov. ‘08
1966 Joseph Kohl, husband of Bridget Smith Kohl, March ‘09
1966 Clair Meyer, father of Carol Meyer Hergott, May ‘09
1966 Mary Carol Sisterman, May ‘09
1966 Leslie Serwat Speicher, June ‘09
1966 Clair Meyer, father of Joann Meyer Cole, May ‘09
1966 Brian Hughes, sibling of Mary Hughes Mathews, May ‘09
1966 Gregory Woldach, brother of Ginger Woldach Mitchell, April ‘09
1967 Mary Cecelia Sullivan, May ‘09
1967 Monica Schleper, mother of Sr. Julie Schleper, March ‘09
1968 Clari Meyer, father of Ellie Meyer Doherty, May ‘09
1968 Brian Hughes, sibling of Sheila Hughes, May ‘09
1968 Juliana Kahl, sister of Margaret Maus, OSB, May ‘09
1968 Margaret Dietz Polta ‘38, mother of Claudia Polta Baldwin, March ‘09
1968 Kathleen Pfarr Macy, May ‘09
1968 Donna Kruse Tischer, April ‘09
1968 Dan Fiala ‘36, father of Mary Fiala Heins, May ‘09
1969 Anna Legatt, mother of Doris Legatt Karl, March ‘09
1969 Ruby Flicker, mother of Maureen Flicker McClarren, April ‘09
1969 Pfeifpens, brother of Sharon Pfeifpens Puetz, June ‘09.
1969 Steven Johnson, husband of Marcia Hermann Johnson, March ‘09
1970 Deb Hansen, April ‘09
1970 Monika Schieper, mother of Joanie Schieper Nei, March ‘09
1970 Anna Legatt, mother of Jean Legatt Yarke, March ‘09
1971 Al Holbach, father of Mary Rose Holbach Mittelstadel, Jan. ‘09
1971 Margaret Howard, mother of Diane Howard Hass, April ‘09
1971 Ann Yurcek Seifert ‘44, mother of Rosmary Seifert, March ‘09
1971 John Doll, father of Dianne Doll Sikkora, May ‘09
1972 Harriette Kaiser, mother of Sue Kaiser Nordquist, Dec. ‘09
1972 Wanda Flechsig, sibling of Diane Schackmann Evans, June ‘09
1973 Bob Pfeifpens, brother of Laurie Pfeifpens Johnson, June ‘09.
1973 Pauline Hemmer, mother of Jane Hemmer Hall, April ‘09
1973 William Mateer, father of Jennifer Mateer Meier, Jan. ‘09
1973 Peggy McConnell, mother of Patricia McConnell Beiswenger, March ‘09
1974 David Koehn, brother of Judy Koehn Dolan, April ‘09
1976 Donna Kruse Tischer ’71, sister of Jennifer Kruse Wohlwend, April ‘09
1976 Ruby Flicker, mother of Debra Flicker Bartos, April ‘09
1976 Marian Kremmer, mother of Mary Kremmer, April ‘09
1977 Margaret Dietz Polta ‘38, mother of Cathy Polta, March ‘09
1977 Dale Clausning, father of Ellen Clausning Alaba, April ‘09
1977 Michael Easton, brother of Patti Easton Clausning, April ‘09
1978 Marilyn Mahling, mother of Joanna Mahling Olesen, March ‘09
1978 Willis Dombrowske ‘51, father of Mari Dombrowske Hughes, April ‘09
1978 Anna Legatt, mother of Elaine Legatt Sperl, March ‘09
1979 Wendy Lee Kary, Feb. ‘09
1979 Deb Hansen ’73, sister of Mary Hansen Espenlaub, April ‘09
1979 Lucille “Sue” Offerman, mother of Patti Offerman Bartholomew, April ‘09
1979 Alfred Vogel, father of Patricia Vogel Zimmerman, May ‘09
1980 Robert Chevalier ‘49, father of Cathy Chevalier Lien, Feb. ‘09
1980 Glenn Imholte, brother of Joelle Imholte, March ‘09
1980 Michael Gaspur, brother of Marlys Gaspur Sand, May ‘09
1981 Patrick Lansing, brother of Mona Lansing, Feb. ‘09
1981 Jerry Lantry, father of Jackie Lantry, March ‘09
1981 Eugene Ascher, father of Debra Ascher Palmquist, March ‘09
1981 Ralph Fichtinger, father of Gayle Fichtinger, May ‘09
1981 John Schumacher, father of Jane Schumacher Hauer, June ‘09
1982 William Mateer, father of Trish Mateer Ludwig, Jan. ‘09
1982 Thomas Severson, sibling of Tammy Severson Emerson, Jan. ‘09
1982 Dwight Atherton, father of Becky Atherton Boosalis, Feb. ‘09
1982 Anne Marie Geisler, mother of Julie Geisler Giorgio, April ‘09
“I met Sister Firmin frequently in my college days since she was the Academic Dean, and I was fond of cutting classes. I spent an inordinate amount of time planning when I could sleep in, and in those days, a student needed a slip to return to class after a miss.

“Although Sister Firmin could seem austere, she and I had taken each other’s measure, and this was my first encounter with an authority figure who I felt gave me respect as a person and as a student. Over time I was in her office trying to change my curriculum to increase my science load and dump what I considered “dumb” courses. On occasion my plan prevailed; on others, her point of view prevailed, but she always listened. Her greatest concern was that I might have to fall back one day to a teaching career and would not have the credentials. Ah, my dear Sister Firmin, ‘I will dig ditches and eat worms before I ever SINK to teaching’! I told her.

“Twenty years later, I entered my first college classroom as the teacher. Hello, Sister Firmin; I owe you one. In the last twenty years I have seen my share of brilliant men and women, students who have worked their socks off, a few yahoos, and even some brash young thinkers who were much like I was. Above all, these learners were fun and funny and enlightening, and each deserved my respect as a student and a person. Okay, Sister Firmin, teaching was the most fun, and the best part of my career.

“Sister Firmin, you were a Wise Woman, a Fair Woman, and a real Educator. My success was enhanced by your presence in my life when I was a student at Saint Ben’s. I can only hope that I have done the same for the men and women I have educated.”

With deep affection,
Marie Louise Langenberg Smith
Professor of Nutrition

Sister Firmin (Fern) attended Saint Benedict’s High School in St. Joseph, Minn.. She entered Saint Benedict’s Monastery in August 1933.

In 1940, her association with the college began. She taught violin and other music courses, conducted an orchestra, founded the Campus Singers, produced operas, and was department chairperson. She also served as academic dean, director of the college Planning Program, and Dean of Fine Arts.

In the 1960s, Sister Firmin and a team of 3 sisters challenged the CSB community with an ambitious vision to build facilities for studio arts in what was then a cornfield.

The result: when the Benedicta Arts Center opened in 1964, the building could be used for theater, concerts, dance, large productions, lectures, classroom instruction, graphic design, painting, photography and metal sculpture. The BAC was a state-of-the-art educational facility as well as a destination and a provider for cultural events that the people of Central Minnesota might otherwise not have the opportunity to see.

S. Firmin retired to Saint Scholastica Convent in 1990 and played the violin for special occasions and continued her monastic life of prayer.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the:
S. Firmin Escher Endowment for the Arts
Office of Institutional Advancement
37 South College Ave -- Saint Joseph, MN 56374

Elizabeth O’Leary ’01 (right) graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School May 2, 2008. She then married Dr. Emmanuel Antonarakis in a 2-part ceremony: a Catholic Betrothal Mass in Minneapolis followed by a Greek Orthodox rite a week later in Athens, Greece. She currently is a surgical resident in Washington D.C.

1982 Lois Terhaar, mother of Jeanne Terhaar Larson, June ’09
1983 Jerry Lantry, father of Kathy Lantry, March ’09
1983 Marilyn Mahling, mother of Liz Mahling Wheeler, March ’09
1983 Viola Byrne, mother of Maureen Byrne Quam, March ’09
1983 Deb Hansen ’73, sister of Ginny Hansen, April ’09
1983 Joyce Hauskins, mother of Linda Hauskins Allen, April ’09
1984 John Bastien, brother of Joan Bastien, March ’09
1985 Donald Pulju, spouse of Laurie Kopische-Pulju, Oct. ’08
1985 Jim Cesnik ’58, father of Sara Cesnik Mejac, Feb. ’09
1985 Paul Wittkopf, father of Susan Wittkopf, April ’09
1985 Jennifer Wilson, sister of Jeannine Deal Baldry, March ’09
1985 Dorothy Honer, mother of Shelly Honer-Carlson, April ’09
1985 Franklyn Hentges ’51, father of Beth Hentges, April ’09
1985 James Hidding ’82, brother of Sarah Hidding Barthmaier, April ’09
1985 Jeff Trobec, brother of Bonnie Trobec Weske, May ’09
1985 Lois Terhaar, mother of Patty Terhaar Rosvold, June ’09
1986 Duane Pajunen, father of Dawn Pajunen, April ’09
1986 James Guckeen, father of Joan Guckeen Cichoski, April ’09
1987 Robert Chevalier ’49, father of Cecilia Chevalier-Larson, Feb. ’09
1987 Thomas Borchert, spouse of Julie DeRosier Borchert, March ’09
1987 Dick Gebhardt, father of Beth Gebhardt Anderson, March ’09
1987 Clair Meyer, father of Susan Meyer Munshower, May ’09
1987 MaryAnn Matusovic, mother of Michele Matusovic Lacy, May ’09
1988 Andrea Hanisch Nieters, March ’09
1988 James Guckeen, father of Nancy Guckeen Erkenbrack, April ’09
1988 Nora Motzko, mother of Sandra Motzko Frahm, April ’09
1988 William Boldt, father of Julie Boldt Schulke, June ’09
1989 Jerry Keohen, father of Katy Keohen, Feb. ’09
1989 Duane Pajunen, father of Anne
The Alumnae Association and Alumnae Council of College of Saint Benedict recognizes and thanks Laura Kelly Lovdahl ’85.

For ten years, Laura provided outstanding support and selfless service through leadership of the Alumnae Association and Alumnae Council; Laura was committed to educating alumnae about the College, serving as the voice of alumnae to the Board and administration, promoting philanthropy, enhancing the Bennie Network, and showing others how to take ownership in the ongoing advancement of the College of Saint Benedict. For her thoughtful ideas, talents, and wonderful, warm heart generously given, we thank her.

Tonya McNamara Dolezal ’93 began her presidency of the Alumnae Association and Alumnae Council on July 1, 2009. Tonya has been on the Alumnae Council for 6 years and has served as Chair of the Alumnae Connections Committee for the past 3 years. She has been a strong advocate for programs that bring Saint Ben’s alumnae together and has hosted events in her home to support mentoring programs for alumnae. Tonya will also represent the Alumnae Association on the CSB Board of Trustees.
Work towards what you love

Undergraduate major and minor
Studio Art/Ceramics

Additional Education
M.A. University of Iowa-Iowa City, Fiber and Hand-Papermaking;
M.F.A. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Fiber and Material Studies, Merit Scholar.

Current Employment
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Design Studies and African Studies, Assistant Professor;
Perpich Center for Arts Education, Consultant for public school arts integration;
HARK! Handmade Paper, Proprietor;
Studio Artist, national and international exhibitions;
Workshop facilitator at Art Centers and Universities nationally.

Describe your work in a way that intelligent people who are not in your field will understand.
I have three parts to my work. Each part informs the others and is often hard to see separately, but each also can stand alone.

As a production papermaker, I specialize in small editions of high quality flax and linen papers. Of great interest to me is the collaborative nature of fine press publications and artist books. Working with a book designer, a binder, or artist, I consider the text or the concepts of the artists I am working with, and I make papers that support the essence of the project.

As a studio artist, I make 'constructed paintings'. These pieces hang on the wall, and may be quite small, like a page in a book, or very large – ten feet by fourteen feet – like a curtain or blanket. The works are constructed from handmade paper, with cloth and other materials. These pieces allow me to explore the intrinsic properties of handmade paper, absorbed color and highly textured surfaces. I am able to consider ideas that are dark and earthy, as well as luminous, airy and elegantly fragile.

As a teacher, I work at a large research university. In this role, I am an artist-scholar. The university supports me as I make new artworks, contribute to professional conversations with colleagues internationally, curate exhibitions, and write about my area of expertise. I am bringing the ideas and activities I am involved in to my classroom. My classes consider what a textile is and how it can be used in a meaningful artistic way.

I also work with teachers and artists in elementary and high schools to support the integration of arts throughout the curriculum.

How did you end up doing what you are doing?
I always had the inclination to do creative work. As a child I was picked out as good at visual art, and I got out of school-work by making posters for my teachers in subjects I did not want to spend time studying! I also was enrolled in summer art classes and other creative activities.

But it took a long time to understand what it meant to be an artist. It is much more than having the facility to accurately draw a line.

At Saint Bens I made pots, and I loved the process – the way the clay felt and the water and the time involved in making forms. I made a lot of bowls, and people loved my bowls and I felt loved, but it wasn't really my work. It wasn't until I had experienced some of life, both good things and
more difficult things, that I began to bring something of consequence to my work.

In graduate school, I had tremendous teachers who supported my development and asked hard questions about content and motivation. I was really pushed to consider what I was making in new and challenging ways.

I also must acknowledge my parents. My father was a college professor, and a great reader. I am sure his example was a powerful influence on my drive to make a life in education. And my mother is a creative, artistic person. The environment I grew up in was full of small, beautiful touches that we took for granted. I realize now how powerfully the environment my mother created informed my aesthetic values.

**What is exciting or rewarding to you in your work?**

I love to teach, and at this point in my life I have things to share beyond the technical and material aspects of the work. My students and I become collaborators in the studio classroom – this is something I value, and learn from.

As a teacher I try to create a space where young artists – and non-artists – can take risks, can share things in their work and in the discussion surrounding their work that is true and meaningful.

In my studio practice, I am engaged in activity that I really want to be doing. It is often hard, and it takes real focus and energy to do it well, but to spend your life working with the ideas and materials you most love is an incredible blessing. It is not lost on me how lucky I am.

Most recently I have been able to travel to West Africa several times a year. I am part of a small group of international artists who are setting up a small press and book arts studio in the Kumasi area of Ghana. The Kumasi Center for Book and Paper Arts will publish its first book this year under the press name TakeTime. With this first publication we will print on handmade paper developed from plants in the region and showcase the work of two Kumasi printmakers. I also have ongoing research with the textile community here which started when I was a Fulbright Research Scholar in 2006. Being able to spend significant time -- and make authentic friendships in a place so different from where I live and work at home -- is a wonderful and unexpected aspect of my professional life.

**Does the public typically misunderstand your work?**

Trying to live an artful life is not always understood. You often stand outside the market place; you are not always working for the money. I now have a very good position at the University of Wisconsin, but for many years I lived without significant income. “A rich life but a cash flow problem” was what I told my kids!

Artists are problem solvers, can make do, and be inventive with what they have. The priorities are time to work, materials, and the beauty that comes with the ongoing involvement in a creative life. I do not make my work to sell. I make it to explore an idea, show it, to share, and if someone buys it that is great. For me it is dangerous to be too dependent on the sale of the work. Beyond that, I think because I am a teacher at heart, I am interested in communication, in the sharing of ideas, I don’t feel so misunderstood. As an educator, I am always talking with people about my work, my ideas, others artist’s work, the students ideas, etc. Communicating effectively is something that you are always working at as a teacher.

**Advice for students who might be interested in a life in the arts:**

Pay attention to what you love. Find good role models. Be willing to take risks. Read broadly. Travel when you can. Work very hard (but don’t always take yourself too seriously. Humor is critical). Get into the best graduate school you can. Work as much as you can, and not always for financial reward; work towards what you love.
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Join the Grammy-winning, legendary a capella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock for an inspirational night of music that ushers in the 2009-2010 Fine Arts Series

Saturday, September 12, 7:30 p.m.
Petters Auditorium, College of Saint Benedict
Tickets: $28, Senior $24, Faculty/Staff $18, Youth/Student $10

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