Students Measure CSB/SJU Economic Impact at $112 Million

prepared by Glenda Burgeson,
Community editor

The economic impact of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University on the local economy has been estimated at $112 million, according to a study conducted by three Saint John’s University seniors.

Joe Gehlen, Brian Johnson and Jason O’Day conducted the study as a research project in an economics seminar taught by John Olson, associate professor and chair of economics. Ernest Diedrich, professor of economics, and Jamie Partridge, assistant professor of management, served as resource faculty. The study was partially funded by a $2,500 grant from the Initiative Foundation and commissioned by Miriam Ardolf OSB, director of community relations.

“We wanted to get an idea of what our economic impact is; so we secured a grant and recruited students to do the study,” Ardolf said. “Now, we want to let people in the area know the economic value our colleges have.”

The students used the Caffrey-Isaac Model as their primary research methodology; this methodology was used in an earlier study on the economic impact of St. Cloud State University conducted by Mary E. Edwards, SCSU professor of economics. Edwards provided oversight on the CSB/SJU study.

Using an input-output computer program called IMPLAN, the Caffrey-Isaac Model allowed the students to analyze a number of indicators. For example, they considered revenues that the schools bring in that are not related to academic activities, the amount of taxes that are forgone as a result of the schools being in the community, and the additional college-related taxes and fees that local governments collect.

Because no model yields a single figure to account for the variety of impacts a school has, the Caffrey-Isaac Model allows the user to isolate different aspects of the economy, Ardolf said.

Similarly, its disadvantage is that it cannot account for all economic factors, nor does it measure the impact of increased productivity that CSB/SJU graduates bring to the community as a result of their education. Community service by students, faculty and staff is not considered. Some values, such as the positive quality of life contributions by sporting and cultural events, are considered intangibles, as are negative quality of life issues. For these reasons, O’Day said, the impact estimates are conservative.

“We can’t measure everything,” he said. “I didn’t realize the overall impact would be that large,” Johnson said.

O’Day said he was impressed by the amount of property taxes paid by faculty and staff, measured at $28.7 million. In addition, another factor that caught his attention is the credit base of $76 million provided to area banking accounts by the institutions’ 1,001 employees.

Gehlen, Johnson and O’Day have presented their findings to the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce and the CSB/SJU Coordinate Cabinet. A copy of their report is available for review from Ardolf.
Wired for the Future: CSB/SJU on the Cutting Edge of Campus Connectivity

prepared by Jo Ann Shroyer, associate director of communication, CSB account manager

It’s easy to take it for granted. We sit down at our computers and send information racing around our campuses without really considering how all that data gets from here to there. The backbone of this information highway — that every year earns the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University high ratings on the Yahoo Internet Life Most Wired Colleges Survey — is the network of fiber optic cables that connect every building on each campus and span the 4.6 miles in between.

Last year CSB/SJU ranked 12th nationally among four-year colleges on the Yahoo Internet Life Survey, and Jim Koenig, director of information technology for our campuses, attributes it to some far-sighted thinking early on. “Since the early 1990s, Saint Ben’s and Saint John’s have had a vision for the future of technology services on these campuses,” he said, “and it is incorporated into every aspect of campus life.”

The first step toward that goal at CSB/SJU was to create the local area network (LAN) that would connect everyone on these campuses together. CSB/SJU used a combination of outside contractors and their own physical plant staff to install a state-of-the-art copper and fiber optic backbone connecting every building, office, classroom and residence room on both campuses. The system was designed from the beginning to handle all the anticipated high-speed data transfer needs of the two campuses. “We have a lot of infrastructure,” Koenig said. “The section of fiber that connects the two campuses was tunneled under 26 driveways, Interstate 94, and three county roads,” he added. “It cost a total of about $60,000 to install and has never failed in all this time.”

Another key factor has been CSB/SJU’s super server concept, whereby instead of many smaller servers spread throughout our campuses, high-speed servers were centrally positioned for more efficient support and maintenance. This approach was made possible by the high capacity physical network. These servers access more than two terabytes of disk space, and support the approximate 200 software applications, both academic and general, that we all use.

“So, today we have modern desktop PCs running the latest version of Windows, talking to very powerful servers that are running the latest version of Windows on an IP (Internet Protocol) backbone,” Koenig said. “The important thing is that wherever you go on campus you can access your data and applications. That was our vision from the beginning and it’s worked out well.”

Meanwhile, the speed of technical change continues to increase and CSB/SJU, like everyone else, will have to run hard just to keep up, Koenig said. “The future is going to look very different from today,” he predicted. “And I’m talking about as soon as three years from now.” The day of the desktop PC and the notebook computer as the student’s primary information technology toolkit may soon be over. As early as next year Koenig anticipates some students beginning to rely for most of their daily computing needs on small, less expensive hand-held devices that can download textbooks and other resources, provide e-mail and Internet access, cell phone capability and more. “They’ll be able to plug into our network anywhere on campus,” Koenig said. Eventually there will be wireless access zones throughout our campuses that will enable anyone with the right device to access our network without plugging into anything. Meanwhile, computer lab resources will be available for students with more intense research needs.

Fortunately for our institutions, Koenig noted, our biggest gamble came in the early 90s, creating the infrastructure and super server concept and sticking with our vision of universal access during the past decade when national trends sometimes pointed in a different direction. “I don’t think anyone was even thinking about national recognition at that time,” Koenig said. “But we ended up doing pretty well.”

CSB/SJU
May Bowle Takes a Hiatus

Editor’s note: May Bowle, the annual fund-raising sponsored by the College of Saint Benedict, Saint John’s University and St. Cloud State University, will not be held this year as scheduled at St. Cloud State University. The event, which typically rotates among the three institutions, is a St. Cloud tradition where the three sponsors welcome guests to celebrate spring, connect with others and contribute to a good cause, a scholarship fund for fine arts, music and theater students at the three schools. The event also celebrates the institutions’ contributions to the economic and cultural development of the community. The presidents of the three institutions have issued the following letter.

Dear Friends of May Bowle:

As you know, May Bowle has been a wonderful St. Cloud tradition for 35 years. In 1967, when the first event was hosted at the Germain Hotel downtown, it was the beginning not only of a gala annual event, but a strengthened bond among the area’s three colleges and community residents.

Because of the dedication, support and hard work of you and many other community volunteers and businesses, through the years May Bowle has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for fine arts and theater students at the College of Saint Benedict, St. Cloud State University, and Saint John’s University.

This year we encountered a number of logistical challenges that made it virtually impossible to host May Bowle. For this reason, we have decided to do something we’ve talked about for some time — take a year off and form a committee to evaluate the May Bowle event. We hope to consider coming back the following year with a renewed spirit and a fresh approach to providing a campus/community fundraiser that continues to support students and provide participants with an entertaining, enlightening experience.

In the meantime, we wish to express our appreciation for your support through the years and our hope that May Bowle will continue to be a valued tradition for many years to come.

If you have questions or comments, or if you wish to volunteer to serve on the Future of May Bowle Committee, please e-mail your message to:

MShoe@StCloudState.edu; mrenslow@csbsju.edu; or ghoye@csbsju.edu.

Sincerely,

Roy H. Saigo, President, St. Cloud State University
Mary E. Lyons, President, College of Saint Benedict
Br. Dietrich Reinhart, President, Saint John’s University

Let’s Go Insane at the Haehn

Mark your calendar for Insane at the Haehn, 6 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, March 24, at the CSB Haehn Campus Center. The event, scheduled in conjunction with the annual little brothers/little sisters campus visits, is a way to extend a Benedictine welcome to the visiting siblings of CSB/SJU students, as well as build a sense of community among faculty and staff and their families. Everyone is welcome!

There will be sensational shows, marvelous music, plenty of games, prizes and fantastic food! There will be many attractions, including hypnotist Frederic Winters, laser tag, a campus band, a big band, a JEC film, karaoke, caricaturists, face painters, games galore and open swimming.

Admission is free for those with a CSB or SJU ID. Off-campus families will be charged $7 and individuals will be charged $3.

The Haehn Campus Center is coordinating this event. For more information, call #5225.
Add Minnesota to His List of Adventures

prepared by Glenda Burgeson, Community editor

If you haven’t yet met Matt Caires, it’s only a matter of time until you do. The Rolodex was created for people like him.

On campus for less than a year as assistant director of student activities and leadership, he inspired the following tribute from The Record’s editorial board in its end-of-the-year campus grade sheet: “Friendly, helpful, quiet, charismatic, intelligent. Finally, we’ve found an administrator who we truly, honestly, without reservation, love” (Dec. 7, 2000).

That sort of accolade seems to follow Caires around. At the time of a recent interview, he was scheduled to return to his alma mater, Washington State University in Pullman, to give a keynote address at the dedication of a student recreation center. As student government president, he was involved in the center’s planning.

His student leadership experiences included civic duty in Pullman, where he was elected to a seat on the city council. He shared that distinction with only one other WSU student who, elected to the city council in the 1970s, now serves WSU as a regent. Caires said he was looking forward to their visit during the dedication.

Caires has a passion for the outdoors. Growing up in Coeur D’Alene, Idaho, he enjoyed an environmental paradise that literally affords same-day snow skiing and water skiing. The mountain slopes retain snow well into July, he explained, and are only an hour and a half drive back to Coeur D’Alene Lake at the city’s edge. In addition to skiing — whether on snow or on water, Caires also developed a love for fly-fishing, a sport he discovered while in high school. Caires likes to backpack to remote areas to pursue the sport for days at a time and he has worked as a professional fly-fishing guide.

Caires brings that same sense of adventure to his work in student activities. He admitted to a certain skepticism when first approached about the new position. Minnesota was not on his mental map.

“My background was in public, not private, education. And, I thought, ‘What is this two-school thing?’”

A visit to Saint John’s campus changed his mind.

“I thought — like so many recruits probably do when they first visit, ‘Wow. This place could be home.’”

For Caires, the rural setting was a definite plus. Also, he said he found himself attracted by the Benedictine values of community, stability and environmental stewardship.

Since his arrival, Caires has settled into the rural environment, purchasing a lakeside, “fixer-upper” A-frame cabin in the woods near Cold Spring. He has added cross-country skiing to his list of outdoor pursuits. He has adjusted to the “two-school thing,” and to two supervisors as well, reporting both to Jim Hardwick and Janet Anderson. His primary responsibilities include work with the Joint Events Council, student leadership, SJU parent programs and Sexton Commons student employees.

While he anticipates discovering the Minnesota variations of fly-fishing, he will bring his own expertise and enthusiasm for the sport to a public forum with a presentation at Friday Forum, 4:15 p.m. May 4, location to be announced. Friday Forum information is available on e-Bulletin Board at http://www.csbsju.edu/bulletinboard/ and at http://www.employees.csbsju.edu/dlarson/FridayForum.html

Lenten Food Drive Needs Your Help

The annual Lenten Food Drive is under way through Holy Thursday, April 12. Collection boxes are located throughout campus buildings. Cash and check donations will be collected at the CSB and SJU Student Account Offices. Food and proceeds will go to the Avon, St. Joseph, Cold Spring and St. Cloud food shelves.

Minnesota Presenters Network Winter Meeting Held at CSB

CSB/SJU Fine Arts Programming hosted the winter meeting of the Minnesota Presenters Network at the BAC. Arts Education was the topic; and Barbara Shepherd, program manager of the Partnership Program at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., was the guest speaker.
New Strategic Plan Progresses

prepared by Jon McGee,
vice president for institutional planning, research and communication

Last fall, Presidents Mary Lyons and Dietrich Reinhart crafted a new Coordinate Vision Statement for the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University. The new vision was presented to the college community at the all-campus forum last August. The new vision statement, in combination with campaign planning under way at both colleges and the naming of a new provost, provided an opportunity to revise the colleges’ strategic plan.

In December, the presidents approved a new strategic planning process and created three study groups to define a set of institutional priorities for the next five years. The study groups were organized to identify priorities and objectives for achieving three broad aspirations:

• The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University are committed to providing an exceptional liberal arts experience that prepares our students to lead meaningful lives and make meaningful contributions to the global community.

• The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University are committed to providing an integrative learning experience, emphasizing comprehensive education; development of the whole person; and attention to the unique developmental needs of men and women.

• The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University are committed to providing a community experience informed by Catholic and Benedictine values and traditions, emphasizing the development of personal vocation and reflection and a habit of open-hearted response to the needs of others.

The study groups were led by the deans and included faculty, staff and student representation. They began meeting in January and completed their work earlier this month. Members of the campus community are invited to review and comment on the reports. They are available in the public folder entitled “Strategic Planning” (found in the Administrative Public Folder). The Coordinate Cabinet will review the recommendations at its March 22 meeting in preparation for review and approval by the Board of Trustees and Board of Regents in May.

If you have questions regarding the study group recommendations, the strategic plan, or the planning process, please call Jon McGee at 5287.

CSB/SJU Budget Timeline

Announced for FY ’03

submitted by Sue Palmer,
chief financial and administrative officer,
CSB Business Office

The purpose of the budget is to express, in financial terms, CSB/SJU’s strategic priorities and allocate operating resources accordingly. Thus our allocation of operating resources must be aligned with the strategic plan which encompasses the three broad goals drawn from the Coordinate Vision Statement.

We have changed the budget timeline so that we can better align the budgeting process with the strategic planning process. During March, the Coordinate Cabinet will review and approve the recommendations from the strategic plan study groups. Beginning in April, all vice presidential areas will begin preparation of a five-year plan based on the preliminary strategic plans. Departmental budget requests, along with strategic plan goals, will be sent in April to the provost/vice presidents/deans for distribution to the individual departments and programs. By the end of the April, departmental budget requests are to be returned to the provost/vice presidents/deans for their review and prioritization of budget requests within their area. In May, the provost/vice presidents/deans will submit their departmental requests for FY ’03 to the Business Offices and in June, five-year plans will be submitted to the Business Offices. These will be reviewed by the Coordinate Cabinet during the summer and will go the Coordinate Finance Committee and the Budget Working Task Force in October.

‘He Said, She Said:’
A Search Beyond Gender

prepared by Glenda Burgeson, Community editor

A search for answers starts with the right questions. Two CSB/SJU student development administrators have taken that approach to promote honest dialogue among Johnnies and Bennies about issues that matter.

Sherry Smolik Day and Matt Caires have fashioned a “He said, She said” exercise that they present to first-year students as part of a required course in “Skills for Healthy Living.”

“We examine male and female dialogue with the students and allow them to come together across...
Keep Current With Bulletin Board
Visit the Bulletin Board today at http://www.csbsju.edu/bulletin and share your events or items of interest with the rest of the CSB/SJU community. And don’t forget, the Bulletin Board can be bookmarked for easy reference to ensure you receive the latest information about campus events and activities each day.

It is easy to submit information to the Bulletin Board. Faculty, staff, and student organizations can post information about events and activities to the Bulletin Board 24 hours a day. Submitted items are posted the next day. If you have an event or item of interest you would like to publicize, submissions can be made to the Bulletin Board located at: http://www.csbsju.edu/bulletin BOARD/

campus news

Grant Funds Undergraduate Research in Biochemistry

prepared by Glenda Burgeson, Community editor

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University will establish a new fellowship program offering students year-round research projects coordinated between biology and chemistry. The program is funded by a $60,000 grant to be awarded over the next three years by The Merck Company Foundation and administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

The research program will augment the development of a biochemistry major, now under way, and it will strengthen an institutional commitment to undergraduate research, said Henry Jakubowski, associate professor of chemistry and co-author of the proposal along with David Mitchell, assistant professor of biology.

“This grant will institutionalize joint, collaborative research between biology and chemistry faculty and students and heighten the potential for research success. It acknowledges the fact that our different perspectives and experiences are a great asset in helping students learn about modern scientific thought and inquiry,” Jakubowski said.

Initially, the Merck Interdisciplinary Research Program will center on four projects that ask basic scientific questions that can be addressed from biological and chemical perspectives. Each project has the potential for larger applications with many lines of investigation possible. Each student will have a primary research advisor in one department and a secondary advisor in the other, which will help institutionalize faculty collaboration across departments.

Program benefits will have a cumulative effect because funds will support student research in both the summer and the academic year. The program will allocate $4,000 stipends to four Fellows for a 12-month period, and provide a laboratory supply budget of $1,000 per Fellow.

This is the second grant announced this academic year supporting undergraduate research. A grant from the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research Inc. (NCUR) and the Lancy Foundation was awarded earlier in the amount of $43,484. That program, which also supports an interdisciplinary research program, funds research aimed at environmental stewardship.

The Merck Company Foundation, funded by the pharmaceutical company Merck & Co., Inc., promotes the advancement of science education with support for educational institutions at the postgraduate, undergraduate and pre-college levels. The American Association for the Advancement of Science is the world’s largest federation of scientif-
Healthy Relationships Month

prepared by Eric Felsch, staff counselor, SJU Counseling and Career Services

Editor’s note: Each month the Healthy Learning Community and the Partners for Healthy Learning promote a monthly health theme to the CSB and SJU campuses. These groups are involved in the promotion of physical, intellectual, emotional, social, occupational and spiritual health. To learn more about the Healthy Learning Community and the Partners for Healthy Learning, please visit the website at http://www.csbsju.edu/extending/projects.htm

As the recent airing of the FOX show "Temptation Island" demonstrates, our culture holds the often self-defeating opinion that true love excludes attraction to anyone other than our partner. While there may be a few couples out there that are fortunate enough to have a relationship fit for a Disney movie, most of the people I know and most of the couples I have counseled find themselves attracted to co-workers, friends, in-laws, and all sorts of other people that come into their lives.

Relationships are hard work and you need not make them any more difficult by holding unrealistic expectations for yourself or your partner. If you are in a relationship long enough, you will be attracted to someone other than your partner. Commitment is what creates longevity in relationships and commitment is about much more than sexual fidelity. Although fidelity is a crucial portion of the discipline of commitment, many people get so caught up on not “cheating” they miss the boat on what commitment is all about. Here’s some thoughts about maintaining commitment and fidelity:

• Invest in your relationship by making it a point to spend regular, good quality time with your partner.
• Make sure that your friends, family and co-workers know that your relationship is important to you. Do not spend any more time than you have to with those who do not respect your partner.
• Recognize that the hallmark of commitment is making your decisions with the awareness that you will still be with your partner 50 years from now.
• Acknowledge that attractions to persons other than your partner are inevitable. This goes for both you and your partner.
• Acknowledge that your partner’s attractions to others are a tremendous opportunity for you to learn more about his or her romantic sensibilities.

For more information on relationships see the following:

ic and engineering societies. The purpose of the Merck/AAAS Undergraduate Science Research Program is to enhance undergraduate science education in the areas of biology and chemistry.

Joint Director of CSB/SJU Writing Centers Announced

submitted by Shirley Kelly, executive secretary, SJU dean’s office

Academic Affairs is pleased to announce that Jane Opitz will be the joint director of the CSB and SJU Writing Centers starting next academic year. Jane is excited about this opportunity and is already planning the transition. She will schedule her time on both campuses to coordinate the Writing Centers’ student tutors and programs.

Faculty/Staff News

Kathleen Ohman, professor of nursing, participated in a medical mission trip to San Cristobal, Guatemala, Jan 20-31. Ohman was one of 65 participants on the trip organized by Helps International. Participants included physicians, nurses, a dentist, translators, cooks, and other assistive personnel. Ohman worked as a nurse in both the operating room and recovery room. Participants on the mission trip provided health services to almost 1,400 individuals in outreach and hospital clinics in San Cristobal and the surrounding area. One hundred twenty-six surgeries were performed. All necessary supplies, medications, and food were brought by participants.

Fr. Anthony Ruff OSB, assistant professor of theology and liturgical music, was the presenter for an all-day workshop for the pastoral administrators.

CAMPUS NEWS

Retreats Offered
The Spirituality Center at Saint Benedict’s Monastery offers one-day and two-day retreats, educational programs, personal retreats, and spiritual direction. Following is a listing of scheduled retreats and programs.

Evenings at the Monastery
Thursdays: March 29, April 26, and May 24, 4:45 to 9 p.m.
Fee: $15 (includes dinner)
Do you wish you could have a quiet evening, have someone to cook your meal, do some reading, reflecting, and praying? Spend an evening that includes the Eucharist and dinner at the monastery, followed by prayer (facilitated lectio divina) and quiet at the Spirituality Center. Optional: Bed and breakfast is possible for those who wish to stay overnight.

Centering Prayer II: Growing in Inner Freedom
Mondays, March 19, 26, and April 2, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.
Led by: Katherine Howard, OSB
Fee: $40 for all three evenings
Increase your understanding of the false-self system and the place contemplative prayer has in the growth of inner freedom. Each session will consist of a presentation, a discussion, and 20 minutes of centering prayer. These sessions are designed for persons who have had an introduction to centering prayer.

All programs and retreats are conducted at the Spirituality Center at Saint Benedict’s Monastery, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph. For more information, please call 363-7114 or 363-7115.
and cooperating pastors of the La Crosse, Wis. diocese on Friday, Feb. 16. His topic was “Pastoral Ministry and Liturgical Practice.”

**Daniel Finn**, Clemens chair and professor of economics and theology, addressed the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on the mandatum on Nov. 15 in Washington, D.C., representing the Catholic Theological Society of America. He serves as chair of the CTSA Committee on the Mandatum and is the CTSA representative to Archbishop Pilarczyk's committee on the issue.

His recent publications include:

- “Creativity as a Problem for Moral Theology: John Locke’s 99% Challenge to the Catholic Doctrine of Property,” Horizons, vol. 27, #1, Spring 2000.

**In the Media**

**Louis Johnston**, professor of economics, had an article published in the Sunday, Feb. 18, issue of the Star Tribune. It ran on p. D4 of the Money & Business section. To view the article, see the following link.

http://www.startribune.com/viewers/qview/cgi/qview.cgi?story=83554227&template=business_a_cache

**SJU potter Richard Bresnahan** was featured on Feb. 25 in a column by Dennis McCann in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. See the feature at the following link: c:\TEMP\Temporary Internet Files\OLK 10\S Online Fusion with Nature. Html

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**Book signing — Rose Ford (from left), CSB Bookstore Operations Manager, introduces authors at a recent book signing. Authors of With Hearts Expanded, Emmanuel Renner OSB, Olivia Forster OSB, Evin Rademacher OSB and Carol Berg OSB. Also, Michelle Mary Leiwicz, Starving for Salvation.**