The community of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s has experienced extraordinary loss, sorrow and grief in recent months. The untimely death of a beloved professor and colleague, Linda Mealey, who lost her battle with colon and liver cancer Nov. 5, the sudden death of SJU senior Mark Westerhaus, who died Oct. 29 at his home in Maplewood, shortly after withdrawing from Saint John’s, and the disturbing disappearance on Nov. 9 of SJU junior Joshua Guimond have had a profound impact.

Fr. Timothy Backous recently commented on the role of religious faith in dealing with traumatic loss. A former SJU campus minister, he is currently SJU assistant athletic director, spiritual director for the CSB/SJU Benedictine Center for Lifelong Learning and coordinator for SJU faculty residents.

Because the dynamics of a faith journey change over a lifetime, Fr. Tim said it is difficult to generalize about the faith experiences of a community that encompasses members ranging in age from 18 to 102.

“At any stage of faith development, people will respond in vastly different ways,” he explained.

When unexpected loss occurs, it can intensify a search for meaning among college students, already struggling to reconcile the presence of God in a world where evil resides, Fr. Tim explained.

“College students are in the process of evaluating the faith tradition that has been handed down to them, sorting through what is valuable and what they can discard,” he said.

Sudden grief tends to force them to make decisions about their faith more quickly.

It is not unusual for students to ask, even in benign circumstances, why God allows tragedies to occur. When he is asked this, Fr. Tim said he acknowledges that he, too, has struggled with such questions, and he offers insights that have helped him come to terms with life’s imponderables.

“God gives life, but he doesn’t control life,” he said. “There is a freedom, and a generative process in the way we live, and, because we are physical beings, unfortunate circumstances coalesce.”

In the physical world, there are bound to be things that go wrong, he said. The fact that the convergence of atmospheric conditions can produce catastrophic hurricanes that destroy lives doesn’t mean that God assigns which lives will be in the storm’s path.

“God is not vengeful. The theology at Saint John’s espouses that God is love,” Fr. Tim said. “When things fly in the face of that, it doesn’t mean that God deliberately withholds love. God is not manipulative but responsive. God’s love is given; it is constant, even in the wake of disaster.

“Why do bad things happen? We don’t know,” he said. Despite that mystery, he said that the hope that the Benedictine community offers is rooted in the Gospel message of resurrection. “The main message of the Gospel is that life, love and goodness will triumph.”

Fr. Tim said he is continually reminded of that message when he contemplates seasonal change in the natural world.

As he observes the rhythm of life in nature at this time of year, as plants wither and die, as the landscape appears barren, he said he reminds himself to be patient, with the knowledge that, come spring, life renews.

“It’s a constant, natural reminder of the resurrection.”
Campus News

Bosrock to Visit Beirut

Ron Bosrock, CSB/SJU professor and holder of the John H. Myers Chair of Management, will deliver several presentations on globalization as a visiting professor at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, in late November. He will present three lectures at the university’s graduate school of business and a short seminar for business faculty on issues of globalization and its impact on the business world. In addition, he will give public speeches to faculty, members of the business community and government officials on the challenges of globalization for educators. Bosrock’s visit is the result of an extended visit this past summer, during which he served as a volunteer adviser to Lebanon’s Ministry of Industry, providing advice on job creation and investment promotion.

The Welcome Mat

We welcome the following staff to the CSB/SJU community:
- Gary Bradford, CSB Food Service Director
- Sonja Gidlow, CSB President’s Office

Farewell to Friends

- Katie Kunkel, Food Service
- Betty Eich, Custodial
- Michele Beckius, Upward Bound
- Barbara Garn, Development
- Marlene Winters, Facility Maintenance
- Stephanie Roseberger, Development

CSB/SJU Faculty to Visit Bosnia

Nick Hayes, professor of history and holder of the University Chair of Critical Thinking, will lead a group of CSB/SJU faculty on a one-week tour of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia during the summer of 2003. Travel and accommodation expenses are being underwritten with a gift by Dan Whalen ‘70. While there, the faculty will study the history and culture of the region and current social, political and economic issues affecting the area. Whalen, vice chair of the Saint John’s Board of Regents, has committed $25,000 to this initiative.

“We are deeply grateful for this investment in our faculty by Regent Whalen,” said Cheryl Knox, SJU dean. “Various faculty members have already expressed interest in visiting and studying the region. This project is a faculty and curriculum development initiative intended to provide our students with enhanced instruction, knowledge and skills through the improvement of faculty expertise brought to the classroom. The goal is to enhance existing courses across the curriculum by the inclusion of historical and cultural content of this area and its relevance to larger global issues of ethnic conflict, human rights and international intervention.”

Previous faculty trips have included attendance at an environmental studies conference at Colorado College, an Asian studies program in China and a trip to South Africa by members of the nursing faculty. Dean Knox and Steve Burmeister-May, director of international education, have issued a call for applications. Copies of the application form are available in their offices.

Professor Hayes is a frequent visitor to this part of the world. During the late 1980s, many Minnesotans witnessed the demise of Soviet communism through his eyes and regularly featured television reports. His media projects have taken him on assignment to China, South Africa, Rwanda and the Balkans. In 1994-95, as a Fulbright Fellow in Journalism, he was based in Zagreb, Croatia, from where he filed reports on the war in the former Yugoslavia. He reported for the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) from Bosnia in 2000, Russia in 2001 and Islam in Uzbekistan in 2002.

“It was 10 years ago,” he said, “but the tragedy of Bosnia and the other nations of the former Yugoslavia, continues today. I believe that the seminal challenge before us is whether the international community has the will to face and resolve genocide, human displacement on a mass scale, the victimization of women, and, finally, the limits on our own power of intervention.”

CSB Professional Development Grants Available

The CSB Administrative Professional Development Committee is seeking applications for Professional Development Grants. Did you know you may qualify for up to $1,000 a year toward professional development opportunities? If you have a professional development opportunity you would like to take, but your department cannot cover all of the costs, please submit an application to Tara Tollefson, chair of the CSB Administrative Professional Development Committee, by the third Tuesday of the month. You can contact Tara with any questions at #5233 or ttollefson@csbsju.edu.

You can find the link and the application guidelines at http://www.csbsju.edu/humanresources/forms/

Faculty/Staff News

Michael Rouse and Jamie Partridge, associate professors of management, presented a paper titled “Using Economic Impact Studies to Engage Students in Service Learning” at the Mid-Continental Regional Science Association’s 33rd annual meetings in Kansas City, MO, in June. Professor Partridge also presented this paper at a research seminar at the University of Saskatchewan in September.

Gina Wolfe, associate professor of theology and director of the Vocation Project, was a presenter in October at the “Best Practice in Teaching Dialogue Conference,” a consultation on interfaith dialogue and religious diversity. The conference, sponsored by Hartford Seminary, brought together Christian, Jewish and Muslim seminary faculty from the U.S., Europe and the Middle East. Wolfe’s presentation focused on pedagogical techniques for fostering open dialogue in the classroom. She drew on her work editing Ethics and World Religions (Orbis, 1999) as well as the Common Ground Initiative’s Principles for Dialogue, which she uses in her classes.

Charles Bobertz, associate professor of theology, traveled in mid-October to Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT, to take part in the school’s fall convocation. While there, he presented a volume of essays, Scripture and Communities of Faith (University of Notre Dame Press, 2002), he co-edited with Professor David Brakke (University of Indiana) to Professor Rowan A. Greer, Walter A. Gray Professor of Anglican Studies emeritus at Yale University. The presentation took place at the annual meeting of trustees and friends of Berkeley Divinity School (the Anglican seminary affiliated with Yale Divinity School) at a special luncheon to honor the life and work of Professor Greer. Bobertz wrote the
November is Breathe Easy Month

by Madonna Keubelbeck, OSB
Sisters of Saint Benedict Monastic Health and Wellness Coordinator

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.

Most of us take breathing for granted! Nevertheless, focusing awareness on breathing can help us relax, decrease anxiety, improve sleep and energy, lower blood pressure and increase blood circulation.

Breathing easy is not always easy. With the cold and flu season beginning, infections may hinder breathing. In addition, other non-contagious respiratory illnesses are present year-round and can mimic cold symptoms. Allergies and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) are two categories of respiratory problems.

Individuals with allergies have an overactive immune system that reacts to certain pollens, chemicals, mold spores, animal dander, etc. in the air. A miserable allergic reaction (watery, itchy eyes; drippy nose, coughing, sneezing) can occur at any time of the year. Knowing and avoiding the allergen trigger, along with medications, can help alleviate symptoms.

COPD diseases include asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis. They can be controlled, but unfortunately not cured. Smoking is the major cause, although heredity can be a factor. COPD are treated with medications to ease breathing and control cough, oxygen therapy when needed, proper nutrition and by limiting chemical hazards.

To learn more about the Healthy Learning Community and the Partners for Healthy Learning, please visit the Web site at http://www.csbsju.edu/extending/projects.htm

Asthma
- Chronic inflammation of airways
- Symptoms — coughing, chest tightness, wheezing, labored breathing
- Attacks separated by symptom-free periods
- Occurs at any age

Emphysema
- Tiny air sacs in lung lose elasticity and rupture
- Fewer air sacs to force air out of lungs traps air, causing shortness of breath
- Effort to exhale can be exhausting
- Barrel shaped chest

Chronic Bronchitis
- Chronic inflammation of narrow bronchial tubes and excessive production of mucus
- Congestion hinders breathing
- Having a cough and phlegm on most days for at least three months in at least two successive years

COPD are disruptive, affect the quality of life and can be disabling. Remember that November is breathe easy month and be aware of your breathing so you do not take it for granted!

Sharmistha Self, assistant professor of economics, presented her paper (with Shawna Grosskopf, Oregon State University) titled “Human Capital or TFP: A Reassessment of Growth in South East Asia” at the department of applied economics at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus, on Oct. 25.

She also had the following papers accepted for publication:

“How Effective is Public Health Expenditure in Improving Overall Health? A Cross-country Analysis” (with Richard Grabowski, Southern Illinois University) has been accepted by Applied Economics for publication.

“The Impact of Gender Participation in Education by Level: A Time-series Analysis” (with Richard Grabowski, Southern Illinois University) is forthcoming in Journal of Developing Areas this fall.
Larry Davis, associate professor of geology, gave a presentation in October to geologists at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah, titled “The Channeled Scablands Controversy and the Negative Impact of Uniformitarianism on Thinking in the Geosciences.” While in Utah, Davis was also the keynote speaker at the bi-annual convention of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, a national student Earth Science Honor Society. The title of his talk was “The Chambered Nautilus: Portrait of a Living Fossil.” Davis was a co-leader of the convention’s field trip into Zion National Park. Davis was re-elected as the national vice president for Sigma Gamma Epsilon chapters in the central region (ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO, MI, & IL).

An Introduction to Business Ethics, a new book by Joe DesJardins, professor of philosophy, has been published by McGraw-Hill. DesJardins also recently received word that his book, Environmental Ethics, has been translated into Chinese by Guanming Lin, of the Environmental Science Center, Peking University and will be published next year by International Thomson Publishing-Asia.

Ken Jones, director of the Learning Enhancement Service, presented “Planning and Conducting Meaningful Program Evaluations” with Leslie Cafarelli of the Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning at the 27th annual Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education Conference in Atlanta, GA. The POD Network is the preeminent organization for people in faculty development. The presentation focused on ways that faculty developers can use insights from Michael Patton’s utilization-focused evaluation approach to create manageable yet effective evaluations of their programs.

While wearing his professor of history hat, he also returned to the Whitney Senior Center in September to discuss the topic “September 11, A Year Later.” The presentation focused on the ways the war on terrorism have, and have not, changed our role in the world, our laws, our society and the way we lead our lives.

Under the headline “Honour ‘old’ but embrace ‘new-time religion,’ priest urges,” the St. Cloud Visitor summarized the presentation given by Daniel Durken, OSB, professor emeritus of theology, at the third annual Blessing of Age Conference at St. Anthony’s Church, St. Cloud, on Oct. 1. Sponsored by the St. Cloud Diocese, the conference gathered people 55 years and older who are interested in aging gracefully. Fr. Daniel stressed the need to realize that the “old-time religion” of the years before the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) is no longer good enough for contemporary Catholics. He summarized the essential values of the 16 documents published by Vatican II.

Linda Shepherd, assistant professor of nutrition, was invited by the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health, to present at the Nutrition Open Day on Oct. 11. The presentation focused on her experience as a public health nutrition graduate student, her work experience as a dietitian and her research working with adolescents and on obesity projects. She also discussed her current teaching career at CSB/SJU.

K.R. Kasling, professor of music, had a short recital tour in the Northeast and Quebec in early October.

Kasling performed in Montreal, Que., and at SUNY, Potsdam, NY, and consulted at SUNY, Fredonia, NY. The lengthiest engagement was a full weekend of master classes and a full solo concert by Kasling at the Crane School of Music, SUNY, Potsdam, NY, Oct. 5 and 6. Crane School of Music, with over 600 music majors, is the largest school of music at a state institution in the Northeast.

Marina Martin, associate professor of MCL, has recently published in http://www.pcb.ub.es/filmhistoria/ her essay, “In Search of Reality through Dreams: Alejandro Amenábar’s Abre los ojos”: http://www.pcb.ub.es/filmhistoria/amenabar.htm. Her article is included in the journal’s online Vol. XII, Number 1-2 2002: http://www.pcb.ub.es/filmhistoria/filmhistoriaonline_2002.htm. This volume, entitled Especial cine español, presents a special issue devoted to current trends and topics in the Spanish filmmaking industry. The journal’s homepage, http://www.pcb.ub.es/filmhistoria/homepage.htm., contains information about the journal, published by El Centre d’Investigacions Film-Historia, created as part of the University of Barcelona. This Film and History Research Center, created in 1983 and sponsored by the University of Barcelona, promotes interdisciplinary research centered on film studies as a significant source of research in the field of the humanities and the social sciences. The center is therefore interested in cinematic contextual history and also welcomes studies providing literary and/or philosophical interpretations of films. Prof. Martin’s article presents both a philosophical and a literary reading of Amenábar’s second film, Abre los ojos (1997). The article is the result of a two-year research on the Spanish film director Alejandro Amenábar. Prof. Martin, together with other scholars from Spain and the U.S., gave several talks during a summer course on Spanish films as a visiting professor at the University of Wyoming last year.