Strategic Conversations Reviewed at Capstone Gathering

CSB/SJU executive leaders have summoned the wisdom of Saint Benedict as they have listened to comments on the Strategic Directions 2010 Discussion Document in a series of meetings this past fall. In the final summary session of the semester, conducted Nov. 15 in the CSB Teresa Reception Center, Br. Dietrich Reinhart and MaryAnn Baenninger commented on lessons learned and insights gained from community conversations aimed at articulating a strategic directions framework.

The conversations have pointed to a need for greater inclusiveness in the planning process, Baenninger said. “The process has pointed out that we don’t have a planning process that engages the community,” she said, adding that efforts are under way to address that.

Br. Dietrich commented on the importance of implementation of strategic initiatives, observing that he has reviewed CSB/SJU strategic plans of recent years. “Since 1995, we’ve been saying the same things. We have to do more than throw words at things.”

Campus diversity will receive special attention as an institutional initiative, Baenninger said. As a result of the campus conversations, she said she and Br. Dietrich recognize the need to create an environment that welcomes a multicultural community.

In some instances, improved internal communication is essential to implement initiatives. Regarding the goal of an enhanced academic ethos, Br. Dietrich commented, “We don’t know how to talk about academic ethos.”

Improved internal communication also would help individual community members respond with more confidence and conviction to the following questions, especially as they pertain to areas outside an individual’s domain: What’s special about CSB/SJU? What are these institutions known for? What programs resonate with the CSB/SJU identity?

Dan Finn, Clemens Chair and professor of economics and theology, observed that not many faculty self report their activities. “We do not do a good job of communicating the academic ethos that we have.”

Finn said it was not until he worked as an administrator that he understood the value and importance of reporting his scholarly activities to CSB/SJU colleagues.

Overall, the Strategic Directions Council will continue to refine and clarify the strategic directions document, with additional input from faculty and student representatives.

On Dec. 3, the CSB Board of Trustees and the SJU Board of Regents formally affirmed the fundamental directions expressed in Strategic Directions 2010. The boards charged the presidents to put into action processes to finalize the plan’s design components for board endorsement in March 2005.
Fr. Neal Lawrence, OSB, dies in Japan
submitted by Br. Richard Oliver
Saint John’s Abbey publicist

Fr. Neal Lawrence, OSB, died at Holy Trinity Benedictine Monastery, Fujimi, Japan, on Nov. 2, 2004. His lifetime encompassed several careers that included diplomatic service and many years as a monk and missionary in Japan.

Lawrence graduated from Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass., in 1929 with an A.B. in English. After college, he worked for 15 years as an executive at Lever Brothers, then in Cambridge. Until 1943, he spent a good deal of time working with scientists and advertising agencies in New York. Lever Brothers valued his contribution so greatly that the company arranged two exemptions from the draft.

With a third deferment pending, he refused the exemption and volunteered for the U.S. Navy, which commissioned him a lieutenant commander in 1943. He was named officer-in-charge of the Supply Depot at Norfolk, Va. From 1943 to 1944, he oversaw all contracts for supplies at advance bases and ships.

Responding to a request from Washington for volunteers in “Military Government,” he attended the U.S. Military Government School at Columbia University in New York City. The yearlong program, however, was cut short after four months, and he was sent to participate in the siege of Okinawa, landing on Orange Beach with the U.S. Marines on April 2, 1945. Later he became director of the Department of Economic Affairs for the Military Governmental Headquarters of the Ryukyu Islands from 1946 to 1947.

Having witnessed the carnage and destruction on the islands, the former Navy man decided to dedicate his life working for peace among all people. To do so, he earned a master’s degree in public law and government at Columbia University in 1947, that led to a career in the U.S. Foreign Service.

He was assigned to the diplomatic section of Gen. MacArthur’s headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, where he reported to the State Department on postwar political and economic affairs. He was the first American diplomat to visit officially Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After two years, he was made director of the United States Information Service in Singapore and Malaya. He established offices in both Singapore and Malaya. Two years later, he was temporarily in Taiwan, after which he retired from government service in 1952.

He found a job in Washington, D.C., using his knowledge of tin and Malaya. Raised a Methodist, he renewed his interest in Catholicism through study with a priest assigned to Saint Matthew’s Cathedral. In 1953, he was received into the Catholic Church.

Through his friend, Dom Aldo Cadena, OSB, he learned about Saint John’s Abbey. He contacted Abbot Baldwin Dworschak, OSB, who invited him to visit and study. In 1954, Br. Neal was accepted into the novitiate. He professed vows as a Benedictine monk the following year, 1955. During priesthood studies, Br. Neal taught in the political science department at SJU.

Fr. Neal was ordained on June 4, 1960, and Abbot Baldwin sent him to Saint Anselm’s Priory and Parish, Tokyo, where he had left his heart when he worked there in diplomatic service. Fr. Neal served as associate pastor and pastor of St. Anselm’s Parish for 33 years from 1966 to 1999. When that community moved to a new location, Holy Trinity Monastery, Fujimi, Fr. Neal went with them.

In his early years in Japan, he taught a variety of courses at Tokyo University until mandatory retirement at 60. He continued to teach, however, at Keio and Seikei Universities and Shirayuri Women’s College until he was 75. He also taught at Sophia University where CSB/SJU has had a student exchange program for decades.

In 1973, he founded the Saint

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**Holiday CD Available at Saint Benedict’s Monastery**

The Christmas CD, "Hodie Christus Natus Est — Today Christ Is Born," recorded by the monastic schola (choir) of Saint Benedict’s Monastery is now available. The 20 selections on the CD include newer carols from many countries and Gregorian chant. The songs are mostly traditional and include German, Polish, American Indian and French selections. They are accompanied by a variety of instruments including the cello, flute, piano, organ, electric keyboard and drums. Other carols feature a contemporary style. The CD was recorded by Rockhouse Productions in St. Joseph.

S. Christine Manderfeld is the director of the 34-member schola. A CSB graduate, Manderfeld is an instructor in the CSB music education department. She has directed the monastic schola for 20 years.

The CD can be purchased for $17.95 at the Whitby Gift Shop in the Art and Heritage Place at Saint Benedict’s Monastery, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph. For more information, call 336-7113 or visit www.sbm.osb.org.
Anselm’s International Friendship Association (STAIFA), an ecumenical society devoted to increasing understanding among all peoples and to helping unfortunate refugees and street children.

Among other positions, he was president of the Association of Foreign Teachers from 1964 to 1971. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Harvard Club in Japan, a member of the Council of the America-Japan Society and, since 1973, of the Educational Exchange Committee. Fr. Neal served as vice president of the Asiatic Society of Japan, founded in 1872, and, in later years, as an advisor.

In 1975, he began to write Tanka poetry in English and soon was regarded as a pioneer in this oldest form of Japanese poetry. He published four books of Tanka plus many poems in magazines. He belonged to the Poetry Reading

CSB/SJU Hosted Fahima Vorgetts, Adviser to Women for Afghan Women, in Global Awareness Lecture Series

Fahima Vorgetts, an adviser to Women for Afghan Women (WAW), presented “Women for Afghan Women: Caring for One Million War Widows and Orphaned Children in Afghanistan” on Nov. 10 on the CSB campus. WAW is an organization dedicated to empowering women in Afghanistan.

Vorgetts leads the Afghan Women’s Fund, which operates under the WAW. She makes periodic trips to Afghanistan to deliver donations to her war torn-country. Her efforts aim to raise awareness about the plight of women and children in Afghanistan by empowering women and helping them find ways to support their families.

Vorgetts has a degree in chemistry and has formerly worked as a biochemist in Europe. She has also led a literacy program in Afghanistan. In 2002, Vorgetts received the Peace Action Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to peace and justice.
Circle of Tokyo established in 1973. Crown Princess Michiko, herself a poet, participated in the early sessions of the society, and as Empress, since 1989, she attends when her schedule permits.

The World Academy of Arts and Culture granted Fr. Neal an honorary doctorate in 1990. In 1993, he was honored by the Emperor and the Government of Japan with its highest cultural award, the “Order of the Rising Sun, Golden Rays with Rosette.” In the same year SJU President Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, issued a Presidential Citation for his 85 years of service to humankind and his numerous achievements and exceptional leadership.

In 1998, the “Father Neal Lawrence Scholarship” was established to provide financial assistance to CSB/SJU undergraduate students who wish to study in Japan. His most recent award was the Patron’s Award for Distinguished Scholarship and Service from the Asiatic Society of Japan in May 2002.

A memorial service was held Nov. 5 at Saint John’s Abbey.

Drekonja Honored by SJU, the City of St. Cloud and the Minnesota Senate

Otmar Drekonja, CSB/SJU professor emeritus of German, was honored last month for his distinguished teaching career and lifetime achievements.

The Minnesota State Senate issued a congratulatory proclamation honoring Drekonja for his considerable achievements, talents and leadership.

Br. Dietrich Reinhart, SJU president, proclaimed Nov. 29, 2004, “Otmar Drekonja Day” at Saint John’s in honor of Drekonja’s distinguished teaching career as well as his many contributions to the world beyond the campus.

Mayor John Ellenbecker of St. Cloud also proclaimed Nov. 29, 2004, “Otmar Drekonja Day” in St. Cloud. From the mayoral proclamation, Ellenbecker said, “We celebrate a very distinguished individual, Dr. Otmar M. Drekonja, for his many contributions to higher education and the community of learning in Minnesota.”

Drekonja also received a Certificate of Recognition from Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

A native of Klagenfurt, Austria, Drekonja retired in 2000 after teaching for nearly four decades at CSB/SJU. He was honored at a private celebration on Monday, Nov. 29, at Saint John’s at which the Otmar Drekonja German Cultural Studies Scholarship fund, established by colleagues, friends and former students in his honor, was announced.

Drekonja was a Fulbright grantee at Kent State University during the 1962-63 academic year and initially taught at SJU part time, summer school, during the 1963-64 academic year. After returning to Austria, he was recruited by Saint John’s to teach full time, beginning in 1967; his distinguished teaching career in the department of foreign languages spanned 35 years. He sparked renewed interest in German studies, teaching all levels in the department and inspiring students by his own intensely obvious love of German and Austrian literature and culture. Drekonja also threw his incomparable energy into directing some 15 groups, more than 200 students, on study abroad programs in central Europe, including many semesters of the Salzburg study abroad program which he founded in 1977.

His contacts and keen interest in the former East Germany also allowed CSB/SJU students to study abroad behind the Iron Curtain and enabled many East German writers and scholars to travel to Minnesota. Inside and outside the classroom, during the college years and beyond, Drekonja’s untiring efforts to open his students’ eyes to a wider world have led many of them to careers and relationships involving international cultural exchange. His distinguished teaching career resonates in the personal and professional lives of generations of students.

Handmade Holiday Artworks on Sale at Whitby

“Treasures of the Season,” a gallery featuring holiday merchandise handmade by the sisters of Saint Benedict, has opened at the Whitby Gift Shop and Gallery at Saint Benedict’s Monastery through Thursday, Dec. 23.

Items for sale include a variety of linens, quilling, tatting, pottery, silks, hand-dyed and pleated silk and wool scarves and shawls, handmade paper, beeswax candles, kitchen and baby items, earrings, holiday ornaments, a large selection of cards and more. The newly released Christmas CD of Saint Benedict’s Monastery Schola is also available for purchase.

Local artisans from the central Minnesota area are also represented. Their work includes christening gowns, children’s celebration rosaries, wood carvings and stoneware.

Specialty items from Africa, Poland and Russia are also for sale.

Regular hours at the Whitby Gift Shop are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays and 1 to 3:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays. Special holiday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 18, 2004. The store is closed on Mondays. The Art and Heritage Place is located at Saint Benedict’s Monastery, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph.
CSB/SJU Offers ARTstor Digital Library
submitted by Dave Wuolu
reference librarian, CSB/SJU Library

Students, faculty, staff and researchers at CSB/SJU can now access online approximately 300,000 visual images and related catalog data through ARTstor, a non-profit initiative with a mission to use digital technology to enhance scholarship, teaching and learning in the arts and other fields.

Initiated at The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, ARTstor is available to non-profit cultural and educational institutions. The ARTstor Digital Library is comprised of digital images and their corresponding data, the tools to make active use of those images and an online environment intended to balance the interests of users with those of content providers.

ARTstor documents artistic and historical traditions across many time periods and cultures and focuses on, but is not limited to, the arts. As a campus-wide resource, ARTstor is designed to be used by researchers in fields that do not traditionally use images, as well as by art historians.

“ARTstor is a valuable addition to the digital resources available through our library,” said Mike Kathman, CSB/SJU library director. “ARTstor provides the CSB/SJU community with a wider range of visual materials for educational and scholarly use, and broader access to images of important art, architecture, design and archeological objects. It is planned to grow the collection to many times its current size.”

ARTstor’s Charter Collection contains approximately 300,000 digital images of visual material from different cultures and disciplines, and seeks to offer sufficient breadth and depth to support a wide range of non-commercial educational and scholarly activities.

The Collection has been derived from several source collections that are the product of collaborations with libraries, museums, photographic archives, publishers, slide libraries, and individual scholars. These source collections include:

The Image Gallery: A collection of 200,000 images of world art and culture corresponding to the contents of a university slide library, constructed in response to college teaching needs. Since the images have been cataloged with subject headings, they will be useful both to those in the arts and in many other fields.

The Carnegie Arts of the United States: A widely used collection of images documenting aspects of the history of American art, architecture, visual and material culture.

The Huntington Archive of Asian Art: A broad photographic overview of the art of Asia from 3000 B.C. through the present.

The Illustrated Bartsch: A collection derived from the art reference publication of the same name, containing images and data related to more than 50,000 old master European prints from the 15th to 19th Centuries.

The Mellon International Dunhuang Archive: High resolution images of wall paintings and sculpture from the Buddhist cave shrines in Dunhuang, China, along with related objects and art from the caves that are now in museums and libraries in Europe and the United States.


ARTstor’s proprietary software tools...
enable users to view and analyze images through features such as zooming and panning, and to save groups of images for personal or group uses, as well as for use in lectures and other presentations, either online or off-line.

According to James Shulman, the executive director of ARTstor, “The impact of digitization on teaching and scholarship becomes increasingly clear every day. ARTstor is working with museums, colleges, universities, libraries, archives and others around the world in an effort to ensure that these dramatic changes happen in thoughtful ways. We are excited by the chance to play a role in a community-wide effort to provide access to a growing collection of images representing many aspects of the world’s collective cultural heritage.”

For more information about ARTstor, please visit: www.artstor.org

New Opportunities for Faith Exploration

Saint John’s School of Theology Seminary presents “Theology Day,” a series of adult education programs that include a presentation and discussion on contemporary theological topics, such as current interpretations of scripture and church history, interreligious dialogue, and social justice. Designed for people who desire a deeper knowledge of the Christian tradition, but who have no formal theological background, these half-day seminars are held alternately on the Saint John’s campus and at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. They are open to the public, and there is no admission fee, but a freewill offering is gratefully accepted. For information and reservations (required at least one day in advance), contact Anna Kampa at 363-3570, or akampa@csbsju.edu.

Currently scheduled offerings include:

“Divine and Human: In Christ, In Us,” led by Dr. William Cahoy, SOT dean. Who was Jesus Christ? Cahoy will walk participants through early conceptions of the person and work of Christ on the way to a contemporary understanding that acknowledges Christ as both a unique mystery and a model for how the human and divine reside in each spiritual life. Dates: Jan. 14, 2005 (SJU); Feb. 11, 2005 (Basilica); March 11, 2005 (SJU).

“Who Do You Say That I Am? The Jesus of Mark’s Gospel,” led by the Rev. Charles Bobertz, Ph.D., professor of theology and author of Reading in Christian Communities: Essays on Interpretation in the Early Church. Bobertz will examine the interplay of the apostle Mark, those to whom he wrote, and the legacy of Mark’s particular witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our contemporary understanding and faith. Dates: April 22, 2005 (SJU); May 6 (Basilica); June 10 (SJU).

Theology Days are designed to be both informative and interactive, allowing ample time for participants to enter into the discussion and to apply the knowledge to their daily faith lives. People of all faiths are welcome.

The Welcome Mat:

We welcome the following to the CSB/SJU community:

Nicole Anderson, Library
Sue Konz, Food Service
Randy Hammond, IT
Patti Cudd, Music
Adam Hainlin, Athletics
Kristin Melsen, Athletics
Rebecca Schrom, Food Service
Hiwot Melka, Food Service
Ryan Bucher, Athletics

Calisa Schouweiler, Athletics
Marian Diaz, interim director of Companions on a Journey
Chris Sabrowsky, Food Service
Danielle Ramer, Food Service
Julie Reder, Custodial Maintenance
Marsha Woolcott, Food Service
Damon Harrison, Power House
Margaret Patridge, HMML
Kimberly Dierkhising, Health Center
Kurt Stelten, Institutional Advancement

Farewell to Friends:

Katherine Wagner, Health Center
Jill Lorenzini, Liturgical Press
Stephanie Hart, Ecumenical Institute

Christopher Stanley, IT Services
Marietta Hartman, Personal and Professional Development Center
Faculty/Staff news

Fr. Anthony Ruff, OSB, assistant professor of theology, recently presented three lectures. On Oct. 5 and 6, he presented a two-part lecture at the Music University (Conservatory) in Graz, Austria, titled “Neuere Entwicklungen im amerikanischen Gemeindegesang” (“Recent Developments in American Congregational Hymnody”). On Oct. 23, he presented the keynote address at a chant conference in San Francisco titled “The Use of Gregorian Chant in the Liturgy After Vatican II: Why?” On Oct. 28, he was invited to present a talk at the University of St. Mary of the Lake (Mundelein) in Chicago on “Gregorian Chant Settings of English Presidential Texts,” which dealt with methodology for setting the sacramental chants to music in the forthcoming retranslated *Roman Missal*.

Axel Theimer, professor of music, has been inducted into the Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) Hall of Fame. The official ceremony and celebration will take place during the 2005 MMEA Midwinter Clinic, Feb. 17-19 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Marcus Webster, CSB/SJU professor of biology, has accepted an invitation to review proposals to the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) in microbiology, physiology, and neurosciences in February. He is one of only a few undergraduate college faculty among approximately 500 who review proposals each year across all areas at NSF.

Kristin Darnall, director of audience development for Fine Arts Programming, has joined the Board of Directors for the Central Minnesota Task Force on Battered Women.

Ken Jones, professor of history and director of the Learning Enhancement Service, presented on “Creatively Assessing Our Work in Small College Cultures” at the POD Network Conference held in Montreal in November. The session was designed to help faculty developers at small colleges develop ways to assess the connection between their work, faculty approaches to teaching and student learning. The POD Network is the primary North American organization for faculty developers.

Annette Atkins, professor of history, won the Solon J. Buck award for the best article in *Minnesota History* in the previous year. Her article was titled “At Home in the Heart of the City.” Atkins is the Edward P. and Loretta H. Flynn Professor and was formerly the Michael Blecker Professor of Humanities.

Ronald Bosrock of the Myers Chair in management and professor of management was the keynote speaker at the International Business Conference on Business Outsourcing held on Nov. 8 at the Bloomington Sheridan.

Kelly Kraemer, assistant professor of peace studies, presented a paper titled “Dismantling the Empire: U.S. Citizens as Everyday Allies in the Struggle for Global Justice” at the 2004 conference of the Peace and Justice Studies Association held in San Francisco in October. The paper focused on the ways citizens use imperial privilege to undermine corporate globalization and U.S. hegemony while promoting equity and social justice.

In the Media

Celebrate Cultures and Traditions This Holiday Season

by Mary Neisen, RN, MA, FNP, department of nursing

This is the time of year when people all around the world unite with family and friends in a season of celebrations. Some cultures celebrate the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year. Jews celebrate Hanukkah, “The Festival of Lights,” over eight days to commemorate the survival of Judaism after the Maccabean War. Christians celebrate Advent, meaning “coming” or “arrival,” for the four-week period leading up to the birth of Jesus. And Kwanzaa, celebrated from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, is the African American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture.

My family celebrates the Christmas season in a big way. I still remember waiting for the new Christmas Around the World book that contained traditions, recipes and decorating ideas, for a different country each year. The featured country would be the focus of our Christmas celebration. I learned that there is commonality in the way celebrations occur worldwide that strengthens ties across cultures. These traditional celebrations include:

- Special foods
- Gift giving
- Social gatherings
- Music
- Symbols such as a menorah, a star, or lights

How the holidays are celebrated often reflects family, religious or cultural traditions. Learning about the celebrations and traditions important to others adds to the richness of our holiday season.

There are several Web sites listed below to learn more about celebrations worldwide.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season!

www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm
http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/
http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Prairie/5493/hanuka.html
http://www.cresourcei.org/cyadvent.html

Editor’s note: Each month, the Healthy Learning Community and the Partners for Healthy Learning promote a 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 Web site at http://www.csbsju.edu/extending/projects.htm