

# community

*A newsletter for the faculty and staff of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University*

## *Banner Training Paves the Way for Digital Campus*

prepared by Glenda Isaacs Burgeson  
Community editor, Communication  
and Marketing Services

For the uninitiated, the mysterious Banner training under way across CSB and SJU implies some sort of IT Services boot camp.

The institutional transition to the Banner administrative software system, while challenging, will result in long-term benefits in greater efficiencies, new applications, analyses and planning, according to Jason Terwey, Banner project manager, IT Services.

The most widely used collegiate administrative system, Banner supports institutions with an integrated suite of enterprise-wide applications on a single database, creating a unified digital campus. It is replacing a text-based system that has been in use for 15 years.

"The Banner project will take us into the future," Terwey said.

The financial offices were the first to adopt the new system, which went active last July. Other areas involved in the transition are Human Resources, Students Records and Registration, and Financial Aid. Prior to this project, Institutional Advancement implemented Banner and has been using the system for over five years.

The project includes the Banner system and a number of ancillary applications including a cashier system, a data warehouse and a suite of reporting and data analysis tools. One of the major benefits

will be the ability to access and manipulate data for longitudinal analyses and long-range planning, he said.

Another example is the introduction last summer of the new Saints ID card system, which — among other things — permitted a switch from Social Security numbers to Banner ID numbers.

That transition went smoothly, Terwey said, as did a recent mock online registration for classes. Student registration for fall classes will be conducted through Banner, and the trial run received positive feedback from students.

Overall, the Banner transition is on-schedule, with implementation expected to be completed by fall 2005, Terwey said. Human Resources will be the final area to switch to Banner in July. Approximately 60,000 student and employee records have already been converted.

Terwey pointed out that the Banner transition requires remarkable effort on the part of administrators and staff. Much of the conversion effort has been in addition to regular workloads for staff involved with building the systems, he said.

"People have worked diligently to implement the system, in addition to their regular work. It's been gratifying to see the level of achievement to date."

Additional time and resources have been necessary to create adaptations. Although Banner is a higher education

product, software modifications have been necessary to address the specific needs of the CSB/SJU coordinate relationship and separate corporate structure, Terwey said. For example, software for student records was modified to account for the CSB/SJU six-day cycle. Software modifications also permit shared biographic and demographic data, while preserving separate information regarding business relationships. Such modifications account for greater expense and higher stress levels among administrators and staff, Terwey said.

"The scope of the project also extends beyond bringing the initial systems into production. Working on a new platform understandably brings about decreased efficiency and increased frustration levels initially. But looking forward, these efforts will lead us to broader access to information across these institutions and more powerful capabilities for utilizing this information," he concluded.

COLLEGE OF  
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## HMML Assumes New Name, Broadens Mission

prepared by Glenda Isaacs Burgeson  
Community editor, Communication  
and Marketing Services

SJU has announced the formation of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML), combining the University's collections of manuscripts, rare books, art and *The Saint John's Bible*.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has recognized the initiative with a grant of \$545,000 to support assessing, cataloging, and developing digital assets of the collections, which include nearly 5,000 works of art and a similar number of rare books as well as the entire manuscript collection.

The formation extends the mission of the former Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, founded in 1965 with a focus on collecting and archiving copies of manuscripts held in monasteries and libraries throughout the world. Fr. Columba Stewart, formerly executive director of the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, has been named University Vice President for Programs in Religion and Culture to reflect his new responsibilities.

Stewart, a scholar of early Christianity and Eastern Christian monasticism, explained the vision for the new museum and library: "While the core of the collection has been manuscripts, both original medieval documents and the highest quality digital reproductions, our holdings are enriched with other handmade works that illuminate how human culture imagines and communicates the sacred."

Br. Dietrich Reinhart, SJU president, views the new HMML as a natural progression of the Benedictine commitment to arts and culture.

"This is a great moment for Saint John's University and Abbey, as our roots began when Benedictine monks arrived in Minnesota in 1856 with a trunk of books that eventually became

## *An Invitation to Faculty, Staff*

HMML has scheduled a series of informal presentations that will showcase resources customized for each academic division. The open houses listed below are available to anyone on campus so that those who cannot attend one can come to another.

Open House ..... January 20, 2005, 3:30 p.m.

Humanities and Fine Arts ..... January 31, 2005, 3:30 p.m.

School of Theology, Liturgical Press ..... February 10, 2005, 3:30 p.m.

Special open houses for the Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Prep School are yet to be scheduled.

not only the nucleus of our special collections but also the inspiration for all of our projects in the book arts," he said. "We have been a leading resource for scholarly research in manuscripts for nearly 40 years, and now, as more and more visitors come to see *The Saint John's Bible*, we find our mission can expand further, to include a wonderful art collection."

Many of the objects can support curricula as well as help fulfill one of the Strategic Directions for 2010: to integrate our Benedictine heritage into undergraduate learning. Some of the centuries-old books bring classes alive for students, according to Matt Heintzelman, who oversees the rare books at HMML. "It's counter-intuitive to many, but in our collections there are incunabula and manuscript facsimiles on subjects as diverse as botany and astronomy, to 14th-century Native American codices and religious texts that really seem to get students thinking about what those subjects mean today."

Br. Alan Reed, curator of art, serves as faculty liaison to assist with incorporating HMML resources into the curriculum.

Reed has compiled Power Point presentations, available on Vivarium — HMML's Web-based digital collection —

featuring a brief visual history of Saint Benedict's and Saint John's, and a presentation on books and artwork from the Saint John's collections that honor the Catholic intellectual tradition. Reed said he welcomes input as HMML continues to develop Vivarium and make its resources more broadly available to faculty.

## Conway Receives Book Award

Mark Conway, director of the CSB Literary Arts Institute and SJU's Project Logos: The Center for Creative Writing, has been awarded the Gerald Cable Book Award for his book, *Any Holy City*. This prize is awarded annually to a manuscript of original poetry by an author who has not yet published a full-length collection. The Gerald Cable Book Award is sponsored by Silverfish Review Press. *Any Holy City* will be published in March 2005.

Conway's poems have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Harvard Review* and numerous other publications. He recently was the recipient of a McKnight Foundation Artists' Fellowship for Writers and was the winner in the Aldrich Poetry Competition and the Grolier Poetry Prize competition. He is an SJU graduate and received his master of fine arts from Bennington College.

## Ski Coach Says "Let It Snow!"

prepared by Glenda Isaacs Burgeson  
Community editor, Communication  
and Marketing Services

When snow falls in Minnesota, no one is happier than David A. Johnson. As Nordic ski coach at CSB/SJU, he regards snowfall as a great asset in central Minnesota. It is but one of many elements he sees as crucial to his master plan, creating a cross-country ski culture on the campuses.

"The pieces are there," he said when asked about his vision. "We have a natural environment that's a great place to embrace the sport. We have a rural, wilderness setting. We have a trail system in place that gives people a chance to pursue the sport, either on a recreational basis for regular exercise, or for competitive racing."

Johnson wants to tap this natural environment to increase enthusiasm for the sport he loves and he is willing to share that love with anyone who is interested, from the novice skier to the seasoned athlete. He invites interested faculty or staff to contact him to arrange for free lessons.

He envisions a ski clinic/summer camp as one way to attract young people to the campuses and build awareness of the natural resources available. A summer camp for cross-country skiing may seem odd, but Johnson explained that dry-land training and roller-skiing on pavement are a part of off-season training.

The prospect of having an alumnus competing in the 2006 Olympics will also help build awareness of the CSB/SJU Nordic ski program. (See accompanying story.)

As a rule, smaller Nordic ski programs like the one at CSB/SJU have a hard time recruiting competitive athletes. Although cross-country skiing is a popular sport in central Minnesota secondary schools, there is a big drop among competitors from that level to college because collegiate competition has only one division,

Johnson explained. As a result, skiers who were competitive in high school discover a much tougher level of competition in college.

"There needs to be room for both. I coach that way," Johnson said. "I don't judge skiers by how fast they are but by their character."

In fact, he noted, the Nordic ski culture fosters an appreciation for effort, regardless of skill level. While injury has limited Johnson's own participation in competition, this year he will mark his 16th race in the annual classic American Birkebeiner. North America's largest and most prestigious cross-country ski marathon in Hayward, Wis., features a 51-kilometer race and attracts 8,000 racers. This year's event will be Feb. 24-26.

As skiers cross the finish line in downtown Hayward — sometimes 10 minutes apart — they are congratulated by their competitors.

"The racing community is non-judgmental. They are very appreciative of each other's efforts," he said.

Johnson said he has encountered CSB/SJU alumnae/i at the event who took up the sport after college.

Anyone interested in learning more about the sport, or in supporting the

CSB/SJU Nordic program is invited to contact Johnson at 363-3296. During the ski season, Johnson asked that people be mindful of the groomed trails and avoid walking on them. Trails that have a six-to 12-foot wide flat surface with two grooves on the outer edge are groomed for cross-country skiing. Pedestrian use of those trails will leave tracks that are hazardous to the skiers.

Pedestrians are invited to use the Chapel Trail at Saint John's Arboretum for winter walks to Stella Maris Chapel.

## SJU Student-Athlete Qualifies for New Zealand National Ski Team

by Brooke Baxley, CSB '05,  
SJU media relations intern

While most college students were dedicating themselves to making some extra cash and spending time at the lake this summer, Don Harris was skiing through the slopes of New Zealand's Southern Alps, attempting to qualify for the 2004-05 New Zealand national cross-country ski team.

Harris, a senior biochemistry/pre-medicine major at SJU, finished second overall in the New Zealand National Championships last August and was subsequently invited to join the New

*Abbot John Klassen, O.S.B.*

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

*Stephen B. Humphrey Theater — 4-5 p.m.*

Abbot John will present an overview of Saint John's, including the Abbey and its various enterprises, and a look at things to come. Following his presentation, Abbot John will welcome questions and comments from the members of the campus community.

Zealand national cross-country ski team with an open invitation to compete in the 2006 Olympics.

Harris' father, John, was born and raised in New Zealand and later immigrated to the United States, where he met Harris' mother, Helen. Thus, Harris has dual U.S.-New Zealand citizenship by birth and is able to compete on behalf of New Zealand in Torino, Italy in 2006.

Born and raised in Fargo, N.D., until he was 14, Harris spent time skiing around the yard at home or in the woods surrounding their lake cabin in northern Minnesota. His family then moved to Alexandria, Minn., where he attended Jefferson High School and helped create a varsity cross-country skiing team.

On average, Harris has visited New Zealand every three to four years throughout his youth. He spent this past August in New Zealand, training and visiting family.

A skier for as long as he can remember, Harris dedicates himself to his schoolwork and averages two to three hours per day for training. He finds a correlation between his professional and athletic aspirations; both require ongoing focus, dedication and hard work.

"The level at which I pursue school and skiing is sometimes an exacerbating balancing act, but it has been a great experience, and looking back I wouldn't have it any other way," Harris said.

David Johnson, CSB/SJU head Nordic ski coach, emphasizes that it is Harris' focus and dedication that help him excel.

"Don is a self-motivated and very bright individual. His athletic skills are earned through long and dedicated work. He trains smart and has put in over 750 hours of training for the past three years." Johnson said. "He has the same approach to learning and his performance in the classroom."

As a member of the SJU Nordic ski team since his freshman year, Harris has competed in the NCAA race series and

other races. In January 2004, Harris traveled to Maine to compete in the U.S. National Championships, which were part of the season's NCAA series. Four of these races were held in conjunction with the North American Continental Cup series, which allowed Harris the opportunity to race with some of the best skiers in the world.

Harris credits his professors, coach, teammates, friends and family as his support system, which keeps him training, competing and striving to expand his potential and perform at his best.

"In my opinion, there is no higher honor in sports than to be able to represent your nation internationally. Furthermore, as an athlete, there is no higher level of competition to aspire to than the Olympics," Harris said.

## Faculty/Staff news

**Richard Bohr**, professor of history and director of Asian studies, delivered a plenary address entitled "The Hakka and the Remaking of China" at the International Hakka Conference on "Tradition,

Change, and Unity" held in Toronto, Canada during Dec. 29-31, 2004.

Bohr's address analyzed the impact of Hakka ideology and institutions on the rise and development of revolutionary China. As he pointed out, the Hakka are a sub ethnic group of Chinese who have spearheaded all of China's modern revolutionary movements: the Taiping Revolution of 1853-1864, the Republican Revolution of 1911, and the Communist Revolution of 1949. Originating in North China, the Hakka were pushed progressively southward over the centuries. To survive economically and politically during their perilous migrations along China's mountain systems and to survive the aggression of the original settlers in those areas, these migrants spoke a single Chinese dialect which was understood over a wide geographical area. They also innovated female autonomy, gender equality, property sharing, and receptivity to ideas from outside China, especially Christianity and, later, Marxism-Leninism.

Today, there are 33 million Hakka in China and seven million in other parts of the world. They remain closely knit and

### *The Welcome Mat:*

We welcome the following to the CSB/SJU community:

Angela Niehaus, Financial Aid

Erin Miller, Physical Education

Lorie Wuolu, Library

Alissa Werner, Health Center

Amy Leither, McNeely Entrepreneur Center

Pamela Wilson, Health Center

Wendy Theisen, Health Center

### *Farewell to Friends:*

Joyce Merkel, Nutrition

Christian Morris, Theology

Ardis Thompson, Financial Aid

T. Todd Masman, Student Activities

Harvey Botz, Liturgical Press

Christopher Sabrowsky, Dining Service

constitute a global network which promotes China's international trade and investment. Some 300 Hakka came to the Toronto conference from every continent to celebrate the unity of their worldwide community and to envision their future in an increasingly globalizing world.

**Janet Neuwirth**, RN, MS, associate professor of nursing, and **Kathleen Ohman**, CCRN, EdD, professor of nursing, attended and gave a presentation at the national 2004 Baccalaureate Education Conference in Sunny Isles, Fla., on Nov. 11-13. The title of their presentation was "Evaluating Baccalaureate Nursing Students' Critical Thinking in Clinical Practice."

Dr. Ohman and former CSB/SJU faculty member **Joyce Simones** also co-presented a poster on "Evidence-Based Practice of Baccalaureate Nursing Students" at the Summer Institute on Evidence-Based Practice, San Antonio, Texas, on July 15-17, 2004.

## In the Media

**John Brandl**, distinguished professor of public policy at CSB/SJU, was featured in the Dec. 9 edition of the *Star Tribune* in an article announcing that he had received the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation's 2005 Excellence in Education Prize, which includes an award of \$25,000 for promoting education reform.

As a DFL legislator in the Minnesota Legislature, Brandl helped launch the first school choice programs in the nation. These programs include open enrollment and post-secondary options for high school students.

SJU math students **Bob Willenbring** and **Nick McClure** were pictured in the national newsletter of the Mathematical Association of America. In the December

issue of the *Focus* on page 13, the math students were pictured along with five other prize-winning students and famous mathematician Benoit Mandelbrot. Willenbring and McClure won prizes for their research talks last summer. Willenbring's advisor is Jennifer

Galovich, associate professor of mathematics. McClure's advisors are Charles Rodell, professor of biology, and Tom Sibley, professor of mathematics.

## *OSB Sisters Surpass Capital Campaign Goal*

submitted by Katie Perry, Saint Benedict's Monastery publicist

The sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict have surpassed their \$6 million capital campaign goal.

As of Monday, Dec. 13, they had raised \$6,507,400 for the Woven in Faith capital campaign to restore their main Motherhouse building (administrative center/headquarters and residence). A recent anonymous gift of \$500,000 helped push the campaign over its goal. The campaign was publicly launched on Oct. 28, 2003. This was the first capital campaign in the sisters' 148-year history. The campaign attracted 3,096 donors. Response came from the sisters' families, the 1,000 Women Giving \$1,000 fund, oblates, former sisters, school alumnae, health care staff, businesses, institutions and individuals from the greater community.

## *Fall 2004 Extraordinary Performance Recipients Named*

Lois Harren, systems coordinator for SJU Dining Services, and Jane Haugen, executive director of the CSB/SJU Financial Aid Office, were recently honored for their selection as the Fall 2004 Extraordinary Performance recipients.



Harren



Haugen

At the recognition luncheon each recipient was joined by their invited guests and others to share in the recognition. Each will receive a desk clock, savings bond and a personal day off.

Please join in congratulating them for the contributions they make to our community.

# community

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**Deadline** for February issue is January 21.

To share your information and story ideas, simply  
e-mail them directly to *Community* at: [community@csbsju.edu](mailto:community@csbsju.edu).

## *Celebrate Winter*

Janna LaFountaine, assistant professor, CSB physical education and women's tennis coach

When I informed my husband Mike about a writing assignment entitled "celebrating winter," his immediate reaction of shock didn't come as a surprise. Extra socks, sweatshirts and blankets accompany me everywhere as temperatures plunge. Therefore, I chose this topic purposefully to help improve my own mental health and outlook as another Minnesota winter approaches.

As a kid, I couldn't wait to go sled, ski, have snowball fights and make snow angels in freshly fallen pristine snow. I, like many other adults, forget to play. CSB/SJU Nordic Ski Coach Dave Johnson states, "I have great respect for the elements of winter. There is nothing like being out on skis when it is cold, the trees branches are bending from the weight of a new four-inch snow, the wind is low, the sun is shining, my nostrils quickly warming the frigid air and I have kick. I feel alive."

It has been recorded since the time of ancient Greeks that the varying seasons have had an effect on people's moods and behavior (Nagel, Rob. "SAD: More than just the Winter Blues," 2000). Shorter and darker days dampen people's spirits

and the need for sunlight is apparent. Fighting winter blues can be accomplished by finding time to get outside and enjoy the brisk air. I prepare for outside activity by:

- Dressing in layers
- Wearing a jacket with a zipper to help adjust to temperatures once I'm warmed up
- Doing my initial warm-up and cool-down inside so I don't get chilled
- Drinking as much liquid in the winter as I do in the warmer months
- Moving once I'm outside so I don't get chilled
- Wearing a good pair of sunglasses to protect my eyes

I find that that it is much more enjoyable to exercise with a buddy. I encourage you this winter to grab your children and hike through the woods, pick up a friend and try on some snowshoes or invite your spouse for an invigorating adventure skiing. I plan to recapture some of my childhood fondness for winter this year. I CHALLENGE YOU TO DO THE SAME — GET OUTSIDE AND THROW A FEW SNOWBALLS AND CELEBRATE WINTER.

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*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>*