Dancing on the Edge, a day in honor of 150 years of Benedictine education in central Minnesota, will begin with an address by David O’Fallon, president of McPhail Center for Music.

O’Fallon graduated from Saint John’s and has taught music at Saint Ben’s. Organizers consider O’Fallon a dynamic speaker and predict that “sparks will shoot out from the Petters Auditorium stage,” at 9:30 a.m., March 14, in the Benedicta Arts Center of the College of Saint Benedict, especially when O’Fallon puts some students up on the stage to help him demonstrate his theme: “From the Edge to the Center: The Arts at the Center of Learning and Community.”

The day is an occasion to consider the concept of “edge,” as experienced by the Benedictine founders of these two religious communities, and apply it to the way we approach education, said Annette Atkins, professor of history and division head of humanities. Atkins is co-chairing the event with Fr. Robert Koopmann, professor of piano and division head of fine arts.

“When the Benedictine monks and sisters came to central Minnesota in 1857, they imagined they were traveling to the edge of the world,” Atkins said. “In honor of their commitment to the education of children and young adults in central Minnesota, the CSB/SJU faculty, staff and students will explore, think about and tinker with the concept of ‘the edge.’

‘Where is the edge of education? How do we define it? Is it the edge of what we know? Of what we can do? Of where our learning can take us? Of our willingness to take risks?’

Afternoon activities will include three sets of concurrent sessions of what organizers are calling “Faculty and Student Extravaganzas.”

The arts take central stage from 1-2 p.m. Adam Houghton, for example, will invite participants to explore masks and theater; other sessions will play with ideas and practices of video art, ceramics and electronic music. Peter Fry ’08 will run a session on composing and performing folk songs.

Next, the social and natural sciences are featured from 2:15-3 p.m. One session asks “How Did Minnesota Become Above Average (economically, anyway);” another asks, “Who Calls Him/Her self a Feminist and Who Doesn’t?” Other sessions will explore issues of suicide in Russia, and sex and fear, as well as social activism in college. One session wonders what would happen “If Hippocrates and Michael Pollan Had Dinner Together;” another offers “An (Ill-Advised) 51st Way to Leave Your Lover.” Nineteenth century women paleontologists will appear right next door to bi-continental biochemistry.

The third session, from 3:15-4 p.m., will highlight the humanities. Faculty and students will offer sessions and workshops on “Writing Our Memoirs” and “How to Talk to Deaf People in Spanish.” A poetry slam is planned, as is a reenactment of a Platonic dialogue, and a laboratory on how to talk about hard subjects. The third session will also make room for some free-for-alls (wildcards) – sessions that don’t fit neatly into one subject area.

The day will conclude with an indoor picnic supper in the HCC at 5:30 p.m., followed by Irish Ceili, a dance party from 7-10 p.m. in Alumnae Hall. Koopmann and Atkins urge all to participate and to bring friends and family.

“A ceili is an Irish kind of square dance with a caller,” Atkins said. “Only the band will really have much experience with dancing, so all of us will look equally silly and could have an equally wonderful time.” She and Koopmann promise a fun and interesting day for all.

The dance will feature the Doon Ceili Band, with Mike Whalen as caller. Dance lessons will be available from 7-7:30 p.m.
Morehouse College Professor Gives Talk

Gregory Hall, associate professor and chair of the political science department at Morehouse College in Atlanta, spoke on central Asia and the Caspian Sea region following the Cold War on Feb. 21, at SJU.

In his address, “The ‘Great Game’ Renewed: U.S., Russian and Chinese Involvement in Central Asia and the Caspian Sea Region After the Cold War,” he briefly discussed the history of the three major powers’ involvement in the region and their economic, political and security interests in the region. He also discussed the post-Cold War context (how the 9/11 terrorist attacks prompted the U.S. to change its approach in the area); and how the interests and actions of each power affect the other powers and how other “actors” (Iran, the European Union) factor into the major power relationship.

Hall is the co-author of the forthcoming book, Geopolitics and Security in the Caspian Sea Region.

In addition to his speech, Hall lectured to CSB/SJU political science classes on international relations and Middle East politics on Feb. 22.

His lecture was part of the spring 2007 Global Awareness Lecture Series and was presented by the Center for International Education and the CSB/SJU political science department. In existence for more than 25 years, the Global Awareness Lecture Series has presented some 150 campus programs on international issues. The series was launched as an effort to internationalize curriculum at CSB/SJU, including a focus on the lesser developed world.

The political science departments of CSB/SJU and Morehouse began a speaker exchange in November 2005. This departmental exchange is part of a number of cooperative projects between the institutions.
“Information Retrieval System: InfoRet,” presented by Mike Evans, senior computer science major; Matthew Lietzke, junior mathematics and computer science double major; Doug Svendsen, senior computer science major; and Billy Jimenez, senior computer science major. InfoRet maintains information about media data such as articles, books, movies and songs and provides sophisticated access to them. It was developed as a requirement for the CSB/SJU Database Systems course as a semester-long project. The group’s faculty advisor is Imad Rahal, assistant professor of computer science.

“Effectiveness of Different Washing Methods on the Eradication of Bacteria Normally Found on Spinach,” presented by Rachel Gerads, senior natural science major with a concentration in biology; and Ashanti Dean, senior biology major. Due to recent epidemics caused by the bacterium E. coli on spinach, the students tested the effectiveness of several methods of cleaning on eradicating the bacteria normally found on commercially-purchased spinach leaves. The group’s faculty advisor is Ellen Jensen, assistant professor of biology.

“Effect of Ethylation on Transcription Elongation in the Yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae,” presented by Zach Shaheen, sophomore biochemistry major. He investigated the effect of DNA damage on transcriptional elongation of RNA. “It was an opportunity to gain experience doing lab work, and genetics/DNA repair is a career I have been interested in,” Shaheen said. His advisor is Michael Reagan, associate professor of biology.

“Ageing Effects on Heart Rate and Heart Arrhythmia in Droso phila melanogaster,” presented by Lindy Watanaskul, senior biology major. The project explores the effects of ageing on heart rate and heart arrhythmia of adult fruit flies. “I thought it would be a great way to learn about independent research and to find out if I was interested in a future path in graduate studies,” she said. Her advisor is Charles Rodell, professor of biology.

The Minnesota Private College Council is a primary sponsor of the event, which is organized by a statewide committee of faculty which includes Marcus Webster, biology professor and director of the Undergraduate Research Program at CSB/SJU. Each college selects and sends its own students and posters to the event.

**CSB Hosts Women’s Spirituality Conference**

Mary Swander, an award-winning author and professor of English at Iowa State University, was the keynote speaker for the Women’s Spirituality Conference Feb. 15-16 at CSB.

“Following Our Foremothers for the Sake of the World” celebrated the lives and ministry of the Benedictine sisters from Saint Benedict’s Monastery in St. Joseph for the last 150 years, and highlighted women’s vocations and the way women accompany each other amidst the graces of daily life.

The monastery, which was founded July 4, 1857, is celebrating its 150th anniversary throughout 2007.

Swander’s talk, “Pilgrimage to Another World,” was based on her memoir, The Desert Pilgrim: En Route to Mysticism and Miracles (Viking, 2003).

In the book, Swander, injured in a car accident, takes a pilgrimage to New Mexico. She works with two traditional healers – Lu, a curandera who heals with herbs and prayer and helps restore her body; and Fr.-Sergei, a Russian Orthodox monk who helps restore her faith. She discusses several mystics she studied (including Teresa of Avila and Hildegard of Bingen), how the works broadened her perspective of women’s spirituality and her healing and how she came to find her own sense of spirituality in an age of contemplative thought.

“The Albuquerque (N.M.) Journal said the book was “an inspiring memoir of healing … The reader will easily see (Swander) – and cheer for her – as a pilgrim on intertwined journeys that restore her physical, emotional and spiritual health.”

Swander is recognized for her works of non-fiction, poetry, drama and journalism. Among her works are her memoir, Out of this World (Viking, 1995); three books of poetry: Heaven-and-Earth House (Alfred Knopf, 1994), Driving the Body Back (Alfred Knopf, 1986) and Succession (University of Georgia Press, 1979); and a book of literary interviews, Par nips in the Snow (with Jane Staw, University of Iowa Press, 1990). She has edited three books, and her work has appeared in the New York Times Magazine, The NewRepublic, U.S.A. Today and on National Public Radio. She was one of three authors honored by the Des Moines Public Library Foundation with the 2006 Iowa Author Award.

Concurrent workshops included: Women and Marriage; Creativity as Spiritual Practice; Mother/Daughter Relationships; Imaging Women; Women on the Margins; Women and Ministry; and Benedictine Spirituality.

A second session of concurrent workshops included: Benedictine Women’s History; Alternative Healing; Benedictine Values and Social Justice; Women and Scripture; and Serving our Neighbors.

The event, which was open to women, men, students and the general public, was co-sponsored by Companions on a Journey at CSB and Saint Benedict’s Monastery, with funding from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.
**SJU Hosts Fourth Annual Conference on the College Male**

The fourth annual SJU Conference on the College Male, held Feb. 16-17, focused on “Fatherhood and Fathering.” Conversations covered father and son relationships and the process of fathering.

The keynote speakers were CSB/SJU English professor Charles Thornbury and St. Cloud State University child and family studies professor Glen Palm.

Thornbury, a leader in teaching men’s studies at CSB/SJU, is retiring and offered his reflections.

Palm, a licensed parent educator who works with fathers of young children in a variety of parent education programs, talked about fatherhood as a developmental journey emphasizing the changes in men as fathers.

Break-out sessions included:

- A panel of authors speaking on the newly published book, *Why Fathers Count: The Importance of Fathers and Their Involvement with Children;*
- Br. Neal Laloo, OSB, presented a reflection, “Fathers and Sons,” the story of the Father and Son Luncheon at SJU;
- Teaching about fathering in courses on men and masculinities;
- “Our Father’s Performance of Masculinity: A Postmortem Exploration Through Stories;”
- A presentation on the “Founding Fathers of Sociology and College Men;”
- “Ending the Violence,” a session including the Minnesota Men’s Action Network, an alliance for the Prevention of Sexual Violence, and the Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project;
- A session on men’s spirituality with representatives from several other colleges focusing in part on companionship;
- A panel presenting ongoing projects including men in volunteering, Iraq war veterans and gendered leadership patterns in the military;
- “How to Involve College Men in Men’s Studies,” an invitation for schools to participate in the latest publication from the SJU men’s center;
- And, cross-cultural masculinity – planning for an international conference.

The conference was hosted by the Center for Men’s Leadership and Service. The center seeks to create a safe and respectful environment for students to share their stories and discern who they are. It is a place for women and men to explore the masculine condition, foster personal and spiritual growth and raise awareness of the consequences of gender roles.

**Saint John’s Bible Exhibit Opens at HMML**

The exhibition *Prophets: Word and Image* from *The Saint John’s Bible* has opened at the SJU Hill Museum & Manuscript Library and will continue through June 1. The exhibition features the greatest number of original pages from the Bible ever displayed on campus and is the first time 28 original pages from *Prophets* have been available for viewing in Minnesota.

*Prophets* is the fourth completed volume of *The Saint John’s Bible*. Among the pages on view are Ezekiel’s Vision of the New Temple, Suffering Servant, Valley of the Dry Bones, Daniel’s Vision of the Son of Man and the jubilant Messianic Predictions. Also on view are artists’ sketches of the illuminations, as well as tools and materials from the scriptorium such as quills, hand-ground pigments, gold leaf, calf skin vellum and ancient inks from China.

A reproduction of *Prophets* was released in January, and is available for purchase at HMML. Guests are welcome to view the exhibition at their leisure. Interpretive tours and presentations are available for groups wishing to book in advance. For more information about *The Saint John’s Bible* visit www.saint-johnsbible.org.

**Local Student Wins Young Artist Student Performance Competition**

Kim Shackleton, a senior music major in vocal performance at CSB, was the winner of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Divisional Young Artist Student Performance Competition, held on Jan. 14, in Bismarck, N.D. Shackleton will participate in the National Finals March 25, in Toronto.

Shackleton’s program included selections by Mozart, Puccini, Faure, Richard Strauss, Debussy, Rorem and Hoiby. A soprano, she is a student of Axel Theimer, professor of music, but has also coached with Carolyn Finley and Patricia Kent, members of the voice faculty.

Shackleton recently performed the title role in *Princess Ida* (Gilbert & Sullivan) and Billy Jo Casta in *Oedipus Rex* (P.D.Q. Bach). She has performed portions of the *Messiah* at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Savage, Minn., and has been an active participant in vocal competitions, including the Schubert Club Scholarship Competition, where she was selected as a finalist in the spring of 2006. Upon competing in the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra Young Performers Competition, she was a scholarship winner and awarded the grand prize of singing with the orchestra in its final concert of the 2006 season.

Throughout middle school and high school, she performed in numerous state and nation-wide honor choirs. During the summers of 2001 and 2002, she attended the National Catholic Youth Choir, directed by Theimer at SJU.

Upon graduation, Shackleton hopes to attend graduate school. She would like to pursue a professional career in opera and concert repertoire settings.

**Faculty/Staff News**

K. R. Kasling, professor of music, gave a lecture/demonstration and short recital on the nature, history and
technology of the pipe organ on Jan. 12, to over 100 students and faculty from Orono High School and Long Lake, Minn., at the Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis. Kasling has presented such sessions to inner city and suburban public and parochial school students for over 20 years and will present several more this spring. They will all be at the Basilica.

The Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement has received a grant for $2715.50 from the Elizabeth and Lawrence Dunlap Foundation. The grant will support tuition scholarships and programming associated with the Washington D.C. Summer Study Program.

Matt Lindstrom, associate professor of political science, is director of the center.

Dan Finn, professor of theology and Clemens professor of economics and the liberal arts, made a presentation to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the U.S. bishops’ pastoral letter on the economy, entitled “The Bishops’ Pastoral and Neoliberalism: Libertarian Roots of Non-reception” at the January meetings of the Society of Christian Ethics in Dallas. In addition, his book, The Moral Ecology of Markets: Assessing Claims about Markets and Justice (Cambridge, 2006), was the focus of a “breakfast with the author” session at the conference. Finn, who serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the SCE and as president of the Catholic Theological Society of America, also presented a lecture entitled “The Priority of Labor Over Capital: Extending the Pope’s Idea” at a September conference at Villanova University on “Catholic Social Teaching and Human Work” to mark the 25th anniversary of the encyclical Laborem exercens, of Pope John Paul II.

Kathleen Ohman, EdD, MS, RN, CCRN, professor of nursing, was an invited speaker for two conference sessions at the 2006 South African Nursing Education Conference in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Nov. 15-17. The titles of her presentations were “Evaluating Undergraduate Nursing Students’ Critical Thinking” and “Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing Education and Assessment.” Dr. Ohman was also invited to present at two other conferences while serving as director for the Nursing South African Study Abroad Program. She presented “Stepping Up to the Challenge: Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing Education” at the Department of Nursing Faculty Workshop, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Oct. 6, and “Stepping Up to the Challenge: Evidence-Based Practice in the Clinical Setting” at the Provincial Health Research Conference 2006 Aug. 18.

Sarah Miller, associate director of alumnae relations at CSB, was recently inducted into the Minnesota Meeting & Events magazine Hall of Fame. Selected by the editorial advisory board and past hall of fame honorees, three seasoned professionals and three promising up-and-comers were honored.

Miller realized in college that event planning was her true career love. Before she had an official position, she gained experience as a volunteer for such major events as the Basilica Block Party and the AIDS walk, which she chaired for Target Corporation. She said she enjoys things that are “mission-related in some sense.” At CSB, she is responsible for volunteer management, homecoming and reunion weekend.

The Welcome Mat
We welcome the following to the CSB/SJU community:
Sarah “Caden” Hethorn, Theater
Darrin Pence, Security
Hans Christoffersen, Liturgical Press
Richard Adamson, Business Office
Susan Wilson, HMML

In the Media
Sean Borg ’04 was featured Feb. 4, in a Super Bowl ad on CBS.
Derek Larson, associate professor of history and environmental studies
program director, was quoted Feb. 4, in Minneapolis Star Tribune article “God is great, God is green.”

CSB Companions on a Journey program was featured Feb. 1, in a special insert of The St. Cloud Visitor and Catholic Spirit, celebrating Saint Benedict Monastery’s sesquicentennial.

Louis Johnston, associate professor of economics, was a featured guest Feb. 1, on Minnesota Public Radio Midday program, “Assessing the state of the economy.”

Mark Conway, director of the Literary Arts Institute and Project Logos, was featured Jan. 30, in Catholic Spirit article “Tarot Card of the Dreaming Man, Face Down.”

The Record was mentioned Jan. 26, in St. Cloud Times article “Times wins awards at conference.”

Kay Wolsborn, professor of political science, and Derek Larson, associate professor of history and environmental studies program director, were quoted Jan. 24, in St. Cloud Times article “Residents weigh in on State of the Union.”

The Fine Arts Programming was featured Jan. 24, in St. Cloud Times article “It’s dance, with Latino flavor.”

Kay Wolsborn, professor of political science, was quoted Jan. 21, in St. Cloud Times article “Bachmann: Why I kept voting ‘no.’”

Derek Larson, associate professor of history and environmental studies program director; Ernie Diedrich, professor of economics; and Tom Vogel, chief engineer in Saint John’s Power House, were quoted and featured Jan. 21, in St. Cloud Times article “Colleges tackle conservation.”

SJU was featured Jan. 19, on Minnesota Public Radio Midday program “Forty years of MPR.”

Diane Veale Jones, professor of nutrition, was quoted Jan. 19, in St. Cloud Times article “Weather may spur hike in citrus buyers’ bills.”
Events Calendar

March 13
Tim Hansen
“Restorative Justice in Minnesota”
HAB 128, 7 p.m.
Sponsored by peace studies

March 13
Women’s Month Keynote Speaker: Joe Kelly
Nationally acclaimed author will speak about how
women can fight against “The Body Myth” and
have healthy body images.
Place TBD, 7 p.m.
Women’s Month is sponsored by the Saint Ben’s
Senate and the Center for Women.
Additional Sponsor: Counseling and Health Promotions

March 14
Academic Day: “Dancing on the Edge”
No classes

March 19
La Frontera or Bordertown
Movie showing the work of Barbara Martinez Jitner.
HAB 129A, 7:30 p.m.
A Women’s Month event sponsored by the Saint
Ben’s Senate and the Center for Women

March 19
Koch Chair Lecture: Stephen Prothero (Boston
University)
“Religious Literacy: What Americans Need to Know
about World Religions and Why”

March 21
Women’s Month Keynote Speaker:
Barbara Martinez Jitner
Award-winning film producer will speak about
the femicide occurring along the U.S.-Mexican
border.
HCC Alumnae Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Women’s Month is sponsored by the Saint Ben’s
Senate and the Center for Women.
Additional Sponsor: Amnesty International, Women’s Lives Series

March 22
Tony Cunningham
Crossing to Safety Book Discussion
CSB, 6:30 p.m.

March 22
Latin/ Latino American Studies
International speaker/film viewing event
7 p.m.

March 24
Old School Freight Train
SJT Stephen B. Humphrey Theater
7 & 9:30 p.m.

March 27
Shirber Lecture Series: David Durenberger
“Healthcare 2020”
Stephen B. Humphrey Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

March 29
Collegeville Institute Resident Scholar Lecture
Speakers Series: Dr. Margaret O’Gara
“Rethinking Infallibility”
Emmaus So. Lounge, SOT, 3 p.m.
Co-sponsored by SOT

April 2
U.S. Poet Laureate: Donald Hall
Alumnae Hall, HCC, CSB, 7:30 p.m.

April 5 – 9
EASTER BREAK

April 11-13
Renaissance Speakers Series: Wendy Doniger
(University of Chicago)
Public Lecture: April 12
Asian Studies, Renaissance Speakers Series
Alumnae Hall, HCC, CSB, 7:30 p.m.

April 14
Preservation Hall Jazz Band
CSB Petters Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

April 15
Minnesota Orchestra
CSB Petters Auditorium, 2 p.m.

April 20-21
Pi Mu Epsilon Conference
Guest Speaker: Carlos Castillo-Chaves (Arizona
State University)
P. Englge Science Center, SJU, 7:30 p.m.

April 21
Preservation Hall Jazz Band
CSB Petters Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

April 24
Collegeville Institute Resident Scholar Lecture
Speakers Series:
Dr. Carol George
“The Welcoming Tent: The Methodist Church
and Racial Inclusiveness, 1935-1972” Alumni
Lounge, SJU, 7 p.m.
Co-sponsored by CSB/SJU peace studies

For recent updates on calendar events, visit http://www.csbsju.edu/calendar/.
To submit calendar items, send information to Glenda Burgeson at
gburgeson@csbsju.edu

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