

# community

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

## *CSB and SJU Receive Commitments of \$10.3 Million to Establish Academic Centers*

CSB and SJU have received pledges of \$10.3 million to establish two centers of academic excellence and distinction that will engage students in making connections and crossing boundaries in the 21st century. The centers will enhance student learning, promote faculty development and raise public awareness about pressing issues of our day.

CSB received a \$5.3 million commitment from Tom Petters, founder, chairman and CEO of Petters Group Worldwide, for the creation of the Thomas J. Petters Center for Global Education. Petters, a St. Cloud native, is a member of the CSB Board of Trustees. His company has investments in a collection of more than 60 companies around the world including Polaroid, Sunbeam and Sun Country Airlines. Petters is an active philanthropist with particular interest in the development of young people pursuing global understanding and international business. He previously provided funding for the Petters Auditorium in the Benedicta Arts Center at CSB.

SJU received a \$5 million gift pledge from Dan and Katharine Whalen for the creation of the Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement. Dan Whalen, who began his career in the public policy arena, is a 1970 graduate of Saint John's and immediate past chair of Saint John's Board of Regents. Katharine Whalen, who has an M.A. in public policy from the University of Minnesota's School of Public Affairs, has held various positions in city and environmental planning at the local, state and federal level and at Stanford University.

The Petters Center will help broaden understanding and strengthen engagement of students and faculty in looking outside the United States to understand the global nature of business and model citizenship in our world. It will also build on a nationally recognized study abroad program. CSB and SJU operate 17 separate study abroad sites on six continents including a 25-year partnership with Southwest University in BeiBei, Chongqing, China.

"The future is dependent upon our youth having a broad understanding of other cultures," Petters said. "It's essential to teach students about the importance of understanding cultural differ-

ences and exchanging ideas that can be used to enhance the lives of all people, and encourage dialogue for a more peaceful world."

"Tom Petters has a gift for bringing people together," said Mary Ann Baenninger, CSB president. "Whether supporting our award-winning performing arts center, offering scholarships to students passionate about international business or giving our interns challenging and engaging work around the world, Tom has had a profound impact in the lives of our students, their families, our faculty and staff and our global community."

The McCarthy Center, named after the late Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, who was a 1935 graduate of Saint John's, will grow on a strong foundation in the academic exploration of public policy, governance and citizenship at CSB and SJU and their record in bridging the classroom to the wider world. "I've seen what Saint John's and Saint Ben's does for students," Dan Whalen said. "This place really does transform people. And it's a first rate education. I can't think of a better investment."

"We are extremely grateful to Dan and Katharine for this generous commitment and are pleased to meet their request to honor Senator McCarthy in this way," said Br. Dietrich Reinhart, SJU president. "Our institutions have a long record of producing prominent political leaders and developing programs in the area of public policy. Through Dan and Katharine's generosity, this center will prepare our students to serve and help address real-world challenges in our communities."

Both gifts were announced nearly two years after the institutions jointly publicly announced the largest fundraising drives in their respective histories, together totaling \$230 million. To date, the institutions have raised \$212 million in current and deferred gifts and pledges toward the \$230 million goal.

COLLEGE OF  
Saint Benedict



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## CSB Welcomes Diners to New Campus Landmark

Diners have embraced the new Gorecki Dining and Conference Center at CSB in numbers far exceeding original estimates.

More than 1,000 diners arrive daily for lunch since the facility opened with the new school year, and more than 1,200 are showing up for dinner, said Gary Bradford, CSB food service director. Planners had anticipated 700 to 900 for lunch and dinner, he said.

"No one's going away hungry," he said, and he commended the Food Service staff for stepping up to the challenge of feeding larger-than-expected numbers.

"We have a great bunch of people working really hard," Bradford said.

He added that the challenge is a good one to have and that he and the staff appreciate the opportunity of providing food service in the new building.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and we're loving it."

The facility heralds a new era at CSB. Its stately, red brick façade and warm, inviting interior establish a strong sense of place that echoes the college's capital campaign, "Our Place in the World."

The \$12 million campus landmark projects the optimism and commitment to community of its namesakes, Ben and Dorothy Gorecki of Milaca, Minn., whose generous gift of \$3.5 million for the project was the largest single gift in the college's history. That gift is the latest measure of the couple's generosity. In 2002, they contributed a \$2.2 million leadership gift to expand and renovate the Benedicta Arts Center of the College of Saint Benedict. The BAC's Gorecki Family Theater is also named after them.

"It would not surprise me if this public eating space and the role that dining together plays in sustaining community were among the most important factors that motivated Ben and Dorothy to commit \$3.5 million to the project," CSB President MaryAnn Baenninger said.

"They remember how important it is to have a convenient place to meet and eat and relax. They are remarkable people and have worked hard and achieved success. They are committed to sharing their good fortune to help others."

The Goreckis were honored guests at the blessing of the facility on Aug. 29. S. Nancy Bauer, prioress of the Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict, performed the ceremony and emphasized the defining role hospitality will play in the new building.

Already, the new facility has created a buzz among the central Minnesota business community, as area business leaders recently attended an open house gala to showcase the conference facilities and dining excellence.

CSB students, faculty and staff are abuzz as well. Reactions have zeroed in on how the spacious dining room and warm earth tones create a welcoming, social ambiance. Varied lighting, ceiling height and seating options add visual interest, while large windows that open to an expansive view of the campus provide a unifying effect.

Come for the hospitality but stay for the food. The dining area, which seats 400, features seven separate food stations offering a global menu to suit both contemporary and conventional tastes. A Mongolian grill commands center stage; the pasta and pizza area features a gas-fired pizza oven; other food stations include a deli area; a comfort food station (featuring familiar home-style cooking); a grill station for ethnic food, hamburgers and other sandwiches; a salad bar; and a dessert bar.

"Smart" technology is embedded throughout. Wireless Internet connections will be available in the downstairs lobby; on the second floor, the banquet hall (which can be divided into three smaller rooms for conferences and other events) is equipped for high-speed Internet and other technology. Also, a direct

connection to Clemens Library provides students a convenient short walk from study time to mealtime.

"This is a vibrant and fantastic new building that will serve our students and the community for years to come," Baenninger said.

## CSB Student Named Phillips Scholar

CSB junior Joal Reeves has been named a 2007-09 Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation Scholarship recipient.

Reeves was one of six students selected from 16 eligible Minnesota private colleges and universities who are eligible to receive \$14,000: a \$5,000 junior-year scholarship, a \$4,000 summer award to support the development and implementation of a self-designed service project to address unmet needs in Minnesota communities; and a \$5,000 senior-year scholarship contingent on the successful completion of the summer project.

Reeves' proposed project is called the South Side Renaissance Project. The project hits close to home for the Minneapolis native (Roosevelt High School), who is a peace studies major with a focus on gang violence.

"My project was created in hopes of addressing a problem very close to me that has affected me, my family and the neighborhoods I have lived in," Reeves said. "Growing up, I saw the harsh reality of street gangs, and over time, I decided that I had to do something about the problem if there was ever to be a solution."

The South Side Renaissance Project will be based in south Minneapolis within two prominent gang neighborhoods, Reeves said.

"The aim of the project is to give young people the motivation and the tools to express themselves, discuss the problems in their neighborhoods and to believe they are capable of changing them," Reeves said. "After undergraduate

studies (at CSB), I plan on furthering this project and creating a non-profit program in south Minneapolis.”

Reeves, who is the vice president of the CSB Student Senate, addressed the CSB All-College Convocation Aug. 29 at Peters Auditorium, Benedicta Arts Center of the College of Saint Benedict.

She also is a fellow in the I-LEAD (intercultural leadership, education and development) Program at CSB. Started in 2005, the program aims to attract, retain and support students who are underrepresented culturally, geographically, racially and socio-economically on campus.

The Phillips Scholarships encourage and enable the continuation of Jay and Rose Phillips’ commitments to helping people become self-sufficient. The Minnesota Private College Fund, which administers the scholarships, partners with foundations and businesses to raise money for student scholarships and general operating support on behalf of member private colleges and universities.

### **Conway Named Executive Director of LAI at CSB**

Mark Conway has been appointed full-time executive director of the Literary Arts Institute (LAI) at CSB.

Previously, Conway served as part-time director of the LAI and part-time director of Project Logos: The Center for Creative Writing at SJU.

In announcing the appointment, CSB President MaryAnn Baenninger said, “Writing is a craft and an art that allows us to sharpen our thinking, explore our inner lives, and foster empathy towards others. Mark’s new appointment to the Literary Arts Institute is truly a celebration of our heritage, rich in the humanities and fine arts with writing as a central tenet. His efforts will continue to promote the work of the best contemporary writers and give voice to new and emerging writers.”

The LAI was founded in 1997 to foster creative writing, publishing and interaction between students and writers. The LAI brings nationally recognized authors to the college through its “Writers Writing” program, promotes literary events, holds conferences, supports publications through the “S. Mariella Gable Prize,” and encourages the artistry of fine letterpress in its Book Arts Studio.

The LAI was launched with important early funding from Donald McNeely and the Lee and Rose Warner Foundation. A major grant from the Teagle Foundation established the LAI as an important literary presence and helped create a permanent endowment. Other key support from the Star Tribune Foundation and Target expanded the number of innovative programs under the LAI.

In addition to serving as executive director of the LAI, Conway is an accomplished writer with an extensive record of published works, awards, and career distinctions.

### **Graduates Teach in Austrian Teaching Assistantship Program**

Four May graduates from CSB and SJU will teach in the Austrian Ministry of Education Teaching Assistantship program administered by the Fulbright Commission in Vienna.

CSB graduate Laura Wunsch and SJU graduates Mark Bublitz, Erik Hendrickson and David Lambert will teach in Austria during the 2007-08 academic year.

Wunsch, a German major, will teach English to students in the Austrian town of Schwaz from September 2007 to June 2008. Wunsch was also accepted into a Fulbright program in Germany, but decided to accept the position in the Austrian program.

Bublitz, a German and management double-major, will teach English to students in three different schools in the Lugau region of Austria from September

2007 to May 2008.

Hendrickson, a political science and German double-major, will teach English to gymnasium (the Austrian equivalent of a high school) students in Wels from October 2007 to May 2008.

Lambert, a German and management double-major, will teach English to students in Eisenstadt from October 2007 to May 2008.

SJU graduate Ryan Fader was accepted into the Austrian program, but chose instead to attend medical school at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Since 1962, the Austrian Fulbright Commission has managed the U.S. Teaching Assistantship Program for the Austrian Ministry of Education. A record number of 144 U.S. teaching assistants will be in Austria for 2007-08.

### **Arboretum Receives Grant from Xcel Energy**

The Saint John’s Arboretum has received a \$15,000 environmental grant from the Xcel Energy Foundation. The funds will be used to train teachers about energy and conservation issues and to develop energy-related materials for the St. Cloud school district. The Xcel Energy Foundation supports projects and partnerships that result in environmental improvements. Minneapolis-based Xcel Energy is a U.S. electricity and natural gas company with operations in eight Western and Midwestern states.

### **CSB to Host All-State Orchestra Festival**

J. David Arnott, CSB/SJU orchestra director, has announced that CSB has been chosen to host the 2008/2009 Minnesota Music Educators Association All-State Orchestra Festival.

“This festival will bring the finest orchestral players to our campus for a week of rehearsals and concerts in early August,” he said.

Arnott is also director of the Upper Midwest String and Chamber Music Conference and past president of the Minnesota Viola Society.

## Arboretum Sponsors Photo Contest

The Arboretum is accepting submissions for its first photo contest through Nov. 11. The top photos of each category and age group will be on display at an Open House in December, and will be featured in future Arboretum publications. See the web site for requirements at [http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb\\_highlights/PhotoContest.htm](http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb_highlights/PhotoContest.htm).

## Faculty/Staff News

**Marina Martín**, associate professor of Hispanic studies, participated at several professional meetings with the presentation of papers that originate in a research shaped by interdisciplinary interests. She delivered the following talks:

“Imagen y literatura en Carlos Saura,” Session IV: Art and Ethics, in Contemporary Spain, third Romance Language Film Symposium. Wake Forest University, Oct. 13-14, 2006.

“Ecos de Borges en la filmografía hispana,” Session 4: “Borges y la Cinematografía,” CINE-LIT, sixth International Conference on Hispanic Film and Literature, Portland State University, Portland, Ore., Feb. 21-24, 2007.

“Los laberintos del tiempo y del arte en Borges,” Session 1C: Arts, The Place of Letters, The World in Borges, Inaugural Conference, Borges Center, The University of Iowa, April 11-14, 2007. She also served as moderator in the Plenary Session: The Place of Letters, The World in Borges, Inaugural Conference, Borges Center, The University of Iowa, April 11-14, 2007.

At the Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas (AIH), Université Paris Sorbonne, Paris, July 2007, she presented a

paper on Borges in relation to Escher and Magritte; and at the ALDEEU meeting, Madrid, July 2007, she gave a presentation on the Spanish painter Antonio López.

Professor Martín has also recently published in Spain one of her studies on Borges and several of her studies in Spanish literature and history, as well as in contemporary Latin American literature, are also forthcoming in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica and the U.S.

**Barbara Novak**, assistant registrar/transfer evaluator and CSB RAD instructor, presented a session along with Paul Sarantakos from Parkland College, Champaign, Ill., at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National RAD (Rape Aggression Defense Systems, Inc.) Conference in New Orleans in July. The title of the presentation was “The Radical Spirit.” The conference includes RAD instructors from across the country and Canada. The information gained at this conference continues to benefit the CSB and SJU communities, both through the RAD classes and program offered on campus as well as through Novak’s continued work to promote social justice and gender equality. She also obtained additional information to present to SJU for the RAD for Men Program.

A Eugene McCarthy Tribute brochure has received a silver medal from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education in its Individual Fundraising Publications awards category. **Jean Scoon**, SJU director of advancement publications and communications, prepared the brochure, which was designed by **John Biasi**, SJU assistant director of advancement marketing and communication design. In this category, five gold medals, eight silver medals and nine bronze medals were awarded from among 228 entries.

**Daniel Finn**, Clemens Professor of Economics and Professor of Theology, delivered the presidential address at the annual meetings of the Catholic Theological Society of America in Los Angeles in early June. Entitled “Power and Public Presence in Catholic Social Thought, the Church, and the CTSA,” the address was published in *Origins* and was the subject of articles or editorials in *America*, *Commonweal*, and the *National Catholic Reporter*. He then participated in the annual *Rome Seminar* of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, offered for presidents, trustees, administrators and senior faculty of U.S. Catholic institutions of higher education. In southern France in late June, he chaired meetings of the steering committee of the True Wealth of Nations research project, a program of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, located at the University of Southern California. In late July, his paper, “Human Work in Catholic Social Thought” was well received at a conference on Catholic social thought and the economics of Henry George, held at the University of Scranton.

**Anna Lisa Ohm**, MCL chair and CSB/SJU professor of German, was recently elected to a two-year term as vice president of Minnesota AATG (American Association of Teachers of German). The mission of the AATG is to promote the teaching of German in U.S. secondary and post-secondary institutions, and support the articulation of high school to university German language programs.

**Thorpe Running**, SJU Regents Professor Emeritus, recently had published articles on “The Poetry of Rodolfo Godino” in *Chasqui*, a review of Latin American literature; and “La violencia durante las dictaduras militares en la Argentina y Chile a través de la poesía” in *Palabra y Persona*.

**Richard Bohr**, CSB/SJU professor of history and director of Asian studies, conducted a week-long orientation in Hong Kong to prepare recent CSB and SJU graduates as they begin a year of teaching in teachers colleges in China. The Maryknoll teaching in China program has just concluded its 10th year in partnership with CSB/SJU, placing graduates in teaching posts. Last summer three CSB and SJU students — **Stephanie Roers**, **Andrew Zimmerman**, and **Matthew Beiswanger** — went to China as high school teachers. This year, the following May 2007 CSB and SJU graduates (of the 20 total Maryknoll teachers) will teach in Chinese teachers colleges: **Joel Abel**, **Joe Briese**, **Nick Lenczewski**, **Kevin Mills**, and **Peter Steele**.

## In the Media

**Stephen Saupe** was interviewed for the Sept. 4 podcast of Jetstreaming on MPR:

[http://minnesota.publicradio.org/radio/podcasts/jet\\_streaming/](http://minnesota.publicradio.org/radio/podcasts/jet_streaming/).

CSB and SJU were featured in a Sept. 14 *St. Cloud Times* article, “Saint John’s, Saint Benedict enrollments hit national high.”

**Stephanie Wegmann**, CSB sophomore, was featured in a Sept. 14 *Cannon Falls Beacon* article, “CFHS grad seeks future in Kenya.”

CSB and SJU were mentioned in a September *American Libraries* article, “Pixels Worth 1,000 Words.”

Saint John’s School of Theology•Seminary was mentioned in a Sept. 10 *America* article, “Lay Ministry Traditional and Radically New.”

**Phil Steger**, SJU deputy director of manuscript preservation at HMML, was featured in a Sept. 10 *Marshall Independent* article, “Citizens should demand troop pullout.”

CSB Fine Arts Programming was

mentioned in a Sept. 8 *Minneapolis Star Tribune* article, “Rare performance of ‘Ocean’ to be an artful watershed.”

**Derek Larson**, CSB/SJU associate professor of history and environmental studies program director, was quoted in a Sept. 7 *St. Cloud Times* article, “Skeptics are few and far between, many say.” He also was featured in a Sept. 5 *St. Cloud Times* Writers Group column, “Senator’s story is a shame, for many reasons.”

CSB and SJU Dining Services were featured in a Sept. 6 *St. Cloud Times* article, “Back to school: More options, better eats.”

CSB and SJU were mentioned in a Sept. 6 issue of *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*.

**Mark Conway**, executive director of CSB Literary Arts Institute, featured in Sept./Oct. *American Poetry Review*.

CSB and SJU were featured in a Sept. 3 *Philanthropy News Digest* article, “Minnesota Colleges Receive \$10.3 Million in Pledges for Academic Centers.”

**Janet Hope**, CSB/SJU professor of sociology, and **Cynthia Curran**, CSB/SJU associate professor of history, were quoted in an Aug. 31 *St. Cloud Times* article, “Residents reminisce about Diana, 10 years later.”

CSB and SJU were featured in an Aug. 30 *St. Cloud Times* article, “CSB/SJU centers to get millions.”

Saint John’s School of Theology•Seminary was featured in an Aug. 30 *Origins* article, “The Vocation to Lay Ecclesial Ministry.”

**Annette Atkins**, CSB/SJU professor of history, was a featured guest Aug. 29 on Minnesota Public Radio “Midday” program, “150 years of Minnesota history.”

CSB and SJU graduates were featured in an Aug. 29 *Eden Prairie News* article, “More biking, this time all across Asia.”

Gorecki Dining and Conference Center at CSB featured in an Aug. 28 *St. Cloud Times* article, “Gorecki Center opens.”

Upward Bound program at CSB and SJU was featured in an Aug. 28 *St. Cloud Times* article, “College prep program available in Sauk Rapids.”

**Nicholas Truso**, SJU junior, was featured in an Aug. 28 *St. Cloud Citizen Times* article “SJU student receives state award for his work in polling places.”

Benedicta Arts Center of the College of Saint Benedict was featured in an August *Architect* magazine article, “An Encore for HGA.”

Saint John’s was featured in an Aug. 27 *The Chronicle of Higher Education* Web site article, “At Saint John’s U., Taking the 1,500-Year View.”

**Zaira Gonzalez**, CSB first-year student and I-LEAD scholar, was featured in an Aug. 27 *U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges* article, “Believe in Yourself Zaira Gonzalez”

**Richard Bohr**, CSB/SJU professor of history and director of Asian studies, was a guest on Aug. 15 on WCCO Radio’s “Jack Daily Show” to discuss the U.S. recall of Chinese manufactured toys. He discussed whether China should be expected to conform to world manufacturing standards — especially now that the country is a member of the World Trade Organization. He also discussed whether China should be expected to adhere to global standards of product safety, and to conform to international transparency in factory inspections.

Online links to news stories are available at [www.csbsju.edu/news/](http://www.csbsju.edu/news/)

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To share your information and story ideas,  
simply e-mail them directly to *Community* at:  
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## *Events Calendar*

### FALL 2007

**Oct. 13**, Festschrift Conference for Dr. R. Stephen Humphreys, the King Abul Aziz Al Saud Professor of Islamic History at the University of California, Santa Barbara  
(*Contact: Jon Armajani*)

**Oct. 25**, Talk by instructor from Guatemala program, sponsored by Latino/Latin American Studies (*Contact: Bruce Campbell*)

**Oct. 29**, Clemens Lecture: Robert H. Frank, Henrietta Johnson Louis Professor of Management and Professor of Economics Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University (*Contact: Dan Finn*)

**Oct. 25**, "Gendering the Caribbean Picturesque," film and presentation by Patricia Mohammed, gender studies professor/lecturer from University of the West Indies, St. Augustine's Campus, Trinidad & Tobago, at 7 p.m. in Alumni Lounge, SJU, sponsored by SJU Men's Lives. (*Contacts: Gar Kellom and Ozzie Mayers*)

**Nov. 8**, Renaissance Speakers Series: Dr. Sandra Keating, Providence College  
(*Contact: S. Ephrem Hollermann*)

**Nov. 29**, Dr. Chris Chiappari of the College of St. Olaf will speak on the topic, "Religion and Social Change in Guatemala," at 7 p.m. in Pellegrine Auditorium, SJU, sponsored by the Latino/Latin American studies program (*Contact: Bruce Campbell*)