CSB and SJU have made steady progress in recent years in aligning planning and budgeting in support of institutional mission commitments, according to the Higher Learning Commission self-study committee working on Criterion Two: Preparing for the Future.

The committee, one of five conducting the self-study in preparation for the accreditation site visit scheduled for Oct. 13-15, 2008, has been documenting the measures the institutions use to gauge their planning and budgeting processes and the results of their evaluations in fine-tuning the next round of budgets and plans. The committee is co-chaired by Michael Thorp, CSB/SJU dean of admission and financial aid, and Virginia Arthur, professor of management and chair of the joint faculty.

In order to satisfy this criterion, CSB and SJU must demonstrate that they are aware of trends and changes in their economic, social and political environments and cognizant of the way student needs are changing, Arthur said.

“They must demonstrate that they are responding to the resulting challenges through deliberate planning and budgeting that are mutually supportive and aligned to carry out the mission commitments of the institutions,” she said.

One of the most notable changes in planning and budgeting has occurred in the last two years, Arthur said.

“Beginning in fall 2006, the Budget Working Group was merged with the Strategic Directions Council (SDC), bringing these two processes together. In addition, membership on the SDC was broadened to include both vice presidents of student development and the chair and vice chair of the joint faculty. This gives all constituent groups a voice in these important processes. The SDC makes recommendations directly to the presidents,” she said.

The self-study committee also has identified several other areas of strength in CSB/SJU efforts to prepare for their futures. Some examples include:

• The presence of a strong Institutional Planning and Research Office which has a sophisticated and thorough understanding of the evolving environment for higher education and the competitive markets. Jon McGee, as vice president for enrollment, institutional planning and public affairs, is a co-chair of the SDC and provides continuously updated information to help inform SDC deliberations.

• The Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees have recently concluded a Memorandum of Understanding which introduces greater clarity into the coordinate relationship and is expected to improve both communication and timeliness of decision-making in joint areas of CSB/SJU.

• Implementation of a new structure, the Intercultural Directions Council, which provides a coordinating mechanism for diversity initiatives and for promoting intercultural competence among all students.

• Master physical plans have been completed on both campuses and include a 20-year plan for facilities renovation and additions.

• Technology plans are well developed and are keeping CSB/SJU up-to-date despite rapid changes in the technology area.

Strong planning processes also have resulted in achieving important goals related to admission of a more culturally and socio-economically diverse student body and imminent successful completion of two capital campaigns with challenging goals, Arthur said.

While there are many achievements of which the institutions can be proud, the self-study committee has also identified areas for improvement. For example, the SDC needs to work on developing a closer linkage between the planning goals that are set and the budgeting process, she said.

“The institutions are still highly tuition-dependent and this means preparing budgets based on achievement of student recruiting goals. While Admission has done a consistently superior job in attracting an entering class of the targeted size and composition, the risk (continued on page 2)
inherent in building a budget on these goals makes institutional decision makers risk averse in their budgeting.

"Often, strategic initiatives must be funded out of budget surpluses that arise when Admission exceeds the targeted number of new entering students. This means some priorities may be left unfunded, and plans and programs may not be implemented in a timely fashion."

The SDC also is learning that strategic budgeting may mean cutting back in some areas in order to fund emerging strategic priorities, Arthur said. "This is never an easy decision."

The SDC also is interested in improving its use of assessment and evaluation data to help discover programs and initiatives that may need targeted funding, she said. The timeline for budgeting must be updated so that the campus community has a chance for input, and strategic priorities can become more central to the budgeting process, Arthur said.

Finally, she said, as the curricular needs and desires of students change and baby-boomer faculty members begin to think about retirement, a plan for new faculty recruitment and retention is essential.

Students Present Scholarly Research at State Capitol

Seven students from CSB and SJU and their faculty advisers presented results of their scholarly research at the fifth annual Private College Scholars at the Capitol event Feb. 21 at the Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul.

The event celebrates the research and creative scholarship of students from Minnesota’s private colleges. Many of the posters describe faculty/student collaborative studies of issues of importance to state planners and policy makers. The posters were displayed at the Capitol Rotunda.

The students and faculty advisers representing CSB/SJU are:

- "Help Me Jesus! The Importance of Religion in the Prevention and Management of Prostitution in North Minneapolis,” presented by Kevin Brueske (SJU sophomore sociology major). The presentation deals with the pragmatic and symbolic offerings of religion that facilitate escape, foster coping and promote protection of prostitutes. Four central themes emerged from the research: support, trust, values and pragmatics. His faculty adviser is Liddy Hope, adjunct assistant professor of sociology.
- "Natural Family Planning: A Viable Option," presented by Shaina Crotteau (CSB senior biology and theology double major). The project investigates and evaluates the viability of various types of modern natural family planning techniques both for Americans and the global community, addressing the issue and its complexities from biomedical, moral/theological and psychological angles. Her faculty adviser is Kari-Shane Davis Zimmerman, assistant professor of theology.
- "Minnesota from Three Directions at 150," presented by Leah Juster (CSB junior history major), Brett Pequin (SJU junior history major) and Andrew Gaydos (SJU junior history major). Each student presented one-third of the project. Juster’s section gives an overview of Gooseberry Falls State Park, the “folklore” surrounding the park and its current uses, and also suggests a possible trend in lowering water levels. Pequin’s project concerns the growth of Minnesota breweries up to the point of Prohibition through the expansion of railways. Gaydos’ project looks at the community surrounding Payne Avenue in St. Paul and finds that it was and remains a culturally diverse place. Their faculty adviser is Annette Atkins, professor of history and division head of humanities.
- "The Relationship Between Epinephrine Levels and Rebound Hypoglycemia," Jessica Mader (CSB senior biology major). Mader’s presentation is about how epinephrine levels differ between hypoglycemic states and rebound hypoglycemic rebounds for diabetics. Her faculty adviser is Barbara May, assistant professor of biology.
- "Wheat, Corn and Flour Milling in Minnesota, 1870 to 1930," Tena Rytel (CSB senior economics and Spanish double major). Rytel’s work focuses on discovering why the flour milling industry collapsed after its peak in 1910. Her faculty adviser is Louis Johnston, associate professor of economics.

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

The second annual Women’s Spirituality Conference, held March 27-28 at CSB, focused on the theme “Spiritual Questions, Sacred Answers,” and celebrated the personal and professional experiences of women in ministry.

The conference featured a keynote speech, “Going After Life: The Myth and Mystery of Vocation,” by S. Anne E. Patrick, SNJM, the William H. Laird Professor of Religion and the Liberal Arts at Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.

Patrick was the guest of the Koch Chair in Catholic Thought and Culture lecture series at CSB. Her scholarly focus has been on Christian feminist theology and ethics. Patrick has served as president of the Catholic Theology Society of America and as a founding vice president of the International Network of Societies for Catholic Theology.


The conference also featured women in ministry in a conversation entitled “Prompting a Vocational Approach to Life and Ministry.” Participants included Barbara McAfee, a Twin Cities-based singer/songwriter; Estela Villagran
Mullin Named SJU Vice President for Student Development

Br. Dietrich Reinhart, SJU president, has announced the appointment of the Rev. Doug Mullin, OSB, as SJU vice president for student development. Mullin is currently CSB/SJU associate professor of education and a faculty resident in the SJU campus residence halls.

Mullin, who starts his new position July 1, replaces Gar Kellom, who has served as SJU vice president for student development since 1992. Kellom will assume the position of executive director of the Center for Men’s Leadership and Service at SJU.

“Fr. Doug is a generous and open-hearted member of the Saint John’s community,” Reinhart said. “He has a passion for creating inclusive and transformative educational experiences and will bring exemplary skills to the team of exceptional leaders — monastic and lay, staff members and students — who together shape the residential community that is one of the great hallmarks of a Saint John’s education.”

Mullin received his bachelor’s degree from SJU in elementary education, masters’ degrees in divinity and religious education from Saint John’s School of Theology•Seminary, a master’s degree in school administration from the University of St. Thomas and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Minnesota.

Mullin is a member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the American and Minnesota Associations of Colleges for Teacher Education. He is former chair of the CSB/SJU education department; dean of students and director of residency at Saint John’s Preparatory School; teacher and principal at Saint Mary’s Mission School in Red Lake, Minn.; and subprior for Saint John’s Abbey. Mullin also serves on the board of directors for the Saint John’s Boys’ Choir and the United States Catholic China Bureau, as well as the SJU Board of Regents.

“I am grateful for the privilege of this appointment, and I am excited by both the new opportunities and challenges of the position,” Mullin said. “I am especially grateful to Gar Kellom for the wonderful work he has done over the past 16 years to build up a terrific leadership team in the student development division.

“I very much look forward to collaborating with academic affairs, with our partners at the College of Saint Benedict, and with students in our common pursuit of excellence in the holistic growth of undergraduate students through Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts education,” Mullin added.

Panelists to Ponder Faith and Science

“Is Science a Threat to Faith in God?” A panel discussion hosted by the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical & Cultural Research will address that question “and other contentious questions about the relationship between science and religion” at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Lounge, SJU on April 17.

Panelists will include Abbot John Klasen, Saint John’s Abbey; Charles Rodell, CSB/SJU professor of biology; Vincent Smiles, CSB/SJU professor of theology; and Collegeville Institute resident John Horner, professor of psychology, Colorado College.

Student Documentary on Fair Trade Coffee Premieres

A documentary on fair-trade coffee filmed by six students from CSB and SJU premiered March 12 at Pellegrene Auditorium, SJU.

The students traveled to Guatemala in January for a 10-day period of interviews and filming, said Andrea Carrow, a CSB junior. The title of the documentary, “Somos de Café” (“We Are Coffee”), comes from an interview with a worker at local fincas (Spanish for coffee plantations).

“We asked the laborer how long he had worked there,” Carrow said. “He said he had worked there all his life, and he said his father had worked there before him, and his father before that, and his father before that. He finally...
needed credit to farmers, and providing much additional criteria, paying a minimum price of poverty and debt. 

Many small coffee farmers receive prices that come from the local plantation.” The SJU students involved in the project include seniors Brian Essling, Adam Spooner, Andrew Vavra, and Nathaniel Ptacek, and sophomore Jose Galeano. Senior David Slika is the producer of the documentary, although he did not visit Guatemala with the group.

Three of the students (Carroll, Essling and Spooner) studied in Guatemala during spring semester 2007 as part of the schools’ study abroad program. While there, Essling and Spooner worked in a fair-trade cooperative office.

When the students returned to central Minnesota, they talked about ways to help that would have a long-term educational aspect — rather than simply volunteering for a week or two — through Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), a club at CSB/SJU that promotes awareness of the free enterprise system.

“We, with the help of the cooperative, decided our role was not to volunteer in the plantations, as that would only have a short-term effect, but to come back and educate people (in Minnesota) about this issue,” Carroll said. “Our mission is to generate awareness about fair-trade coffee and other global issues. Our vision is that this will affect people to do something about this.”

The United States consumes one-fifth of the world’s coffee, making it the largest consumer in the world. It is a commodity that is second on the world market only to crude oil. But few Americans realize that agriculture workers in the coffee industry often toil in what can be described as “sweatshops in the fields,” according to Global Exchange, a Web site devoted to global economy issues. Many small coffee farmers receive prices for their coffee that are less than the costs of production, forcing them into a cycle of poverty and debt.

Fair-trade coffee assures consumers that coffee is purchased under fair conditions. To become fair-trade certified, an importer must meet stringent international criteria, paying a minimum price per pound of $1.26, providing much needed credit to farmers, and providing technical assistance such as help transitioning to organic farming, according to the Web site.

The students edited and assembled the documentary with assistance from The Project for Under-Told Stories at SJU. The goal is to show the film at schools, churches and organizations around the region, Carroll said.

Original Folios of Wisdom Books from The Saint John’s Bible on Display

For the first time, original folios from Wisdom Books: The Saint John’s Bible are on display for public viewing. The exhibition, which includes 28 original pages, runs through Dec. 31 at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) at SJU.

Wisdom Books is the fifth completed volume of The Saint John’s Bible and includes some of the Old Testament’s literary masterpieces, including Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes and Proverbs. The volume also includes the much-loved book of Job and two Old Testament works including the Wisdom of Solomon, which was originally written in Greek, and Sirach, which comes from the Greek tradition.

The Wisdom books exemplify the practical spirituality of the people of Israel. Using story, poetry and aphorisms, the books collect practical wisdom to help guide people in how to live. The Saint John’s Bible volume Wisdom Books draws out themes of wisdom as a female figure, use of Proverbs in the Rule of Saint Benedict, and God’s love for us.

The Saint John’s Bible, consisting of 1,150 pages in seven volumes, will be completed in 2009, and will be housed permanently at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library. Wisdom Books, a reproduction book released in December 2007, is available for purchase at HMML. HMML is open from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Guests are welcome to view the exhibition at their leisure. There is no entrance fee. Interpretive tours and presentations are available for groups wishing to book in advance.

Information and booking requests may be directed to Linda Orzechowski by calling 363-3514 or by e-mail at lorzechowsk@csbsju.edu. Go to saintjohnsbible.org for more information.

The Record Named Midwest’s Best College Broadsheet Newspaper

Stop the presses! The Record, the CSB/SJU student newspaper, was honored as the Midwest’s best college broadsheet newspaper at the Associated Collegiate Press’ 17th annual Best of the Midwest College Newspaper Convention Feb. 17 at the Hilton Hotel, Minneapolis.

The Record’s Feb. 7 issue was judged “Best of Show” in the college broadsheet competition. Newspapers from Truman State University and North Dakota State University ranked second and third, respectively, in the competition.

Professional journalists judged newspapers for the quality of writing, photos, layout and design, ads and editing. The Record has a staff of 17 editors and about two dozen other students who are involved in the production of the paper. The Record received second place in the “Best of Show” contest in 2007.

The Record also received four individual awards at the convention. They included:

- Jessica Handwerk (CSB senior, art and communication double major) and Emily Pearson (CSB senior, communication major): First place for best single page design.
- Kelly Smith (CSB senior, communication and English double major): Second place for best feature story.
- Handwerk: Fourth place for best news photo.

Approximately 300 students and advisers attended the Feb. 15-17 conference. “This (award) just goes to show that, even though we don’t have a journalism program here at CSB and SJU, we can compete against these larger schools that have more resources because of our skills.
commitment and passion to maintain high quality journalism and produce a newspaper that we and the entire CSB/SJU community can take pride in,” said Smith, the editor in chief of The Record.

**Trenz Honored with Retiree Lifetime Membership Award**

Herb Trenz, former director of human resources at CSB and the Order of Saint Benedict (SJU), Saint John’s Abbey, Saint John’s Preparatory School and the Liturgical Press), has been selected for the Midwest Region Retiree Lifetime Membership award from the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR). Trenz was employed full time by CSB and OSB from February 1989 to April 2006, and completed part-time projects until January 2008.

Trenz is the first recipient of this new award for providing outstanding leadership and service to CUPA-HR Midwest Region, being a consistent supporter of the Midwest region as well as the Minnesota state chapter, and as a founding member of the Minnesota CUPA chapter. Trenz has been an excellent example of service to his profession that goes above and beyond expectations.

He was honored at the CUPA-HR Midwest Region Conference March 16-19 in Chicago.

**Faculty/Staff News**

The CSB/SJU English department is pleased to announce that Elyse S. Rethlake has won this year’s Wagner-Berger Prize for Excellence in Creative Writing for her story, “A Slovakian Fifty.” Elyse is a sophomore history major from Prior Lake, Minn. The $1,000 Wagner-Berger Prize is awarded annually for the best original work of fiction written by a CSB student. Look for Elyse’s story this spring in Studio One.

CSB student Tena Rytel presented her paper, “Transportation, Tariffs, and the Minneapolis Flour Milling Industry, 1870-1930,” at the Midwest Economics Association (MEA) meetings March 15. She is a student of Louis D. Johnston, CSB/SJU associate professor of economics. Rytel’s paper is a chapter from her senior honor’s thesis in economics. The MEA invites undergraduate students to submit papers in the fall and then chooses eight to be presented at the spring meetings. At the conference, Johnston served as a panelist for another paper, “Understanding Poverty in South Carolina through Spatial and Infrastructure Variables: The Black Belt and Interstate Approach,” presented by Elizabeth Bradley and Michael Wise, Furman.

**Nick Hayes**, CSB/SJU professor of history and Saint John’s University Chair in Critical Thinking, gave a commentary with Q and A on the Russian presidential elections for MPR’s “MIDDAY” with Gary Eichten on March 3. Earlier, on Feb. 25, Hayes was interviewed on MPR’s “All Things Considered” for his views on the crisis in Kosovo. Both radio commentaries are available online at the MPR Web site. On Feb. 22, he spoke on the topic of “Tsar Putin: The Restoration of Russian Autocracy” at the monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Downtown Rotary.

**Kathleen A. Cahalan**, associate professor of theology in the School of Theology, recently gave two addresses: “Toward a Theology of Ministry,” Callings Conference Keynote, Mount St. Mary’s University, March 6; and “Toward a Contemporary Catholic Theology of Vocation,” Association of Graduate Programs in Ministry, San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 22.


Merkle has also given numerous public presentations recently, including “Vatican II and Beyond: A New Era in Christian-Jewish Relations” at Saint-Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario; “The Church and the Jewish People: The New Catholic Perspective in Recent Church Documents” at Marguerite Centre, Pembroke, Ontario; three lectures in the series “Abraham Joshua Heschel’s Approach to God” at Temple Israel, Minneapolis; three lectures in the series “Judaism as a Living Religion and Christian-Jewish Relations” at the Church of St. Edward, Bloomingtion; “Rethinking Christian Faith in Relation to Judaism” at both the Whitney Senior Center, St. Cloud, and the Church of St. Gerard, Brooklyn Park; and “Atheistic Humanism and Theistic Humanism: Similar Foundational Experiences?” at a meeting of the Central Minnesota Friends Free of Theism.

The poem “That’s Just the Way Horses Are,” by Larry Schug, CSB recycling coordinator, has been nominated by the poetry journal *Main Channel Voices* for The Pushcart Prize — Best of the Small Presses series. The Pushcart Prize, published every year since 1976, is one of the most honored literary projects in the United States, publishing the best short stories, poems and essays originally published by small presses and literary magazines.

**Addy Spitzer**, CSB/SJU director of international students, attended a NAFSA Association of International Educators Advocacy Day March 11-12. Approximately 100 members convened in Washington D.C. to visit their government representatives to advocate for international students. Spitzer and two colleagues visited the offices of Sens. Norm Coleman and Amy Klobuchar and met with their legislative assistants to discuss three critical issues that NAFSA is asking the legislators to support. Spitzer also met with Michele Bachman’s legislative assistant.

The issues are: Restoring U.S. com-
petitiveness for international students and scholars (ACTION act of 2008), Sen. Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act, and maintaining higher education's exemption from the H-1B cap. The purpose of the day was to thank Coleman for his support and to gain support from the other legislators. Jean Lavigne, CSB/SJU assistant professor of environmental studies, and Diane Veale Jones, CSB/SJU professor of environmental studies, co-presented at The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning, Feb. 16, in Bloomington, Minn. The theme of the conference was “Critical Thinking in the Age of the Internet.” Jean and Diane’s topic was “DUST (Did You see That?) Using Visual Literacy Skills to Develop Critical Thinking Skills in the Net Generation.”

Events Calendar

SPRING 2008

April 3, The Latino/Latina American studies program: Rodrigo Moreno, professor at Adolfo Ibáñez University in Chile, will present “La religión y la realidad contemporánea en América Latina,” 7–9 p.m. in Quad 264 (Centenary Room), SJU (Campus contact: Bruce Campbell)

April 8, Collegial Conversations: “Drugs — what are they doing in my drinking water?” by Michael Ross, professor of chemistry, 5:30 p.m., Alumni Lounge, SJU

April 8-10, Global Awareness Lecture Series: Professor Fawzia Afzahl Khan, public lecture April 9. (Campus contact: Manju Parikh)

April 10-11, Changing Faces: Intercultural Ministry and Hospitality: Dr. Shawn Copeland, Boston College, Gorecki Dining and Conference Center, CSB (Campus contact: Marian Diaz)

April 11-12, CSB/SJU Undergraduate Mathematics Conference: Professor Joe Gallian, University of Minnesota, Duluth, and MAA president. Student talks, 7–8 p.m., Friday and 9–10:30 a.m., Saturday, (Campus contact: Kris Nairn) Peter Engle Science Center

April 21, J. Peter Scoblic, executive editor of The New Republic and author of the forthcoming US v. Them How a Half Century of Conservative Policy Has Undermined American Security (Viking, 2008) will speak at 7:30 p.m., Stephen B. Humphrey, SJU. (Campus contact: Nick Hayes)

April 23, Academic Day: Natalie Angier, Pulitzer Prize winner and best-selling author (Campus contact: Joe DesJardins)

April 24, Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical & Cultural Research, CSB/SJU departments of Hispanic studies and political science present "Puerto Rico Now: Cultural and Political Realities," a lecture by Loretta Phelps de Cordova, 7 p.m., Quad 264, SJU

April 25-26, North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America, co-sponsored by Pi Mu Epsilon: Guest speaker: Professor Paul Zorn, St. Olaf College, 8 p.m., April 25, Gorecki Center CSB; April 26, various speakers, including Professor Deanna Haunsperger, Carleton College and vice president of MAA, 11 a.m. (Campus contact: Tom Sibley)