

# community

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

## *CSB Receives \$364,681 Grant from National Science Foundation*

CSB has received a \$364,681 grant from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Major Research Instrumentation Program to purchase a 400 megahertz nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer.

The grant, the largest awarded from the NSF to CSB, is funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

The new NMR spectrometer, which has yet to be purchased, will replace the 300 megahertz NMR located in Ardolf Science Center, CSB.

A 400 megahertz NMR "is a more powerful and more sensitive instrument," according to Ed McIntee, CSB/SJU associate professor of chemistry, who was the principal investigator for the grant.

An NMR is used to determine the three-dimensional structure of a molecule. It can also provide information on the dynamics of molecules in solution.

One benefit of the new NMR spectrometer is that it includes an autosampler. Samples are loaded into holders, which are moved automatically through the instrument "so it can be running during the night," McIntee said. "Currently, we have faculty or teaching assistants running all the samples, so we will be able to analyze more samples."

The new instrument will benefit students at CSB and SJU as well as faculty members conducting research. The grant is under the direction of McIntee; professor of chemistry Brian Johnson; associate professors of chemistry Chris Schaller and Kate Graham; and assistant professor of chemistry T. Nicholas Jones.

"Changing requirements by the American Chemical Society — the accrediting agency of the chemistry department at CSB and SJU — has made it a lot more flexible to be more innovative in how we want to train students," McIntee said. "So, we're changing our major considerably and we'll be able to incorporate spectroscopy earlier in the (academic) sequence."

The National Science Foundation funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 school systems, businesses, informal science organizations and other research organizations throughout the United States. The foundation accounts for about one-fourth of federal support to academic institutions for basic research.

NSF funds approximately 11,000 proposals each year for research, education and training projects from approximately 40,000 proposals.

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## CSB and SJU Recognized as Top Institutions Nationally

CSB and SJU have been recognized nationally by their peers in several important classifications in the recently released *U.S. News and World Report* college rankings.

Last spring, *U.S. News* asked higher education leaders around the country to identify schools that are considered “Up-and-Coming.” CSB was one of 77 institutions on the list, and one of just 13 liberal arts colleges cited as “Up-and-Coming.” According to the magazine, “These colleges and universities may not be at the top of the rankings (yet), but they’re leading the pack in improvements and innovative changes.”

In addition, both CSB and SJU were recognized for their strong commitment to teaching and the schools’ study abroad program.

The magazine asked school leaders to identify which of their peers do the best job teaching undergraduate students. Eighty colleges and universities were singled out. CSB and SJU were included among only 27 cited as best teaching institutions in the liberal arts colleges’ category.

The *U.S. News* rankings also included a list of schools with outstanding academic programs that are commonly linked to student success. Among the more than 2,300 four-year colleges and universities in the country, CSB and SJU were cited with just 34 institutions for the quality of their study abroad program. College presidents, chief academic officers and deans of admissions were invited to nominate up to 10 institutions of any size and type.

In the *U.S. News* overall ranking in the liberal arts colleges group, SJU was ranked 68<sup>th</sup> (up from 71<sup>st</sup> in 2008) and CSB was ranked 80<sup>th</sup> (up from 84<sup>th</sup> in 2008). The rankings include 266 liberal arts colleges that focus on undergraduate education and award at least half of their degrees in the arts and sciences.

“While numeric rankings don’t necessarily tell the whole story,” said MaryAnn

Baenninger, president of CSB, “it is certainly encouraging for our faculty and staff to receive national affirmation for the extraordinary work that I, as a president, know they are doing.”

“I am especially pleased that CSB and SJU have been identified among the schools with an unusually strong commitment to undergraduate teaching and study abroad,” said Fr. Bob Koopmann, president of SJU. “Our inclusion on these lists is a credit to our faculty who have a deep commitment to undergraduate teaching, exceptional scholarship and the mentoring of students.”

## HR to Move Hiring Process Online

A new online employment recruitment system will be coming soon to CSB, SJU and the Order of Saint Benedict.

Known as PeopleAdmin, the system — which is expected to “go live” this fall — is designed to:

- Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the employment recruitment process;
- Reduce the environmental impact created by the current paper process;
- And give search committees and job applicants multiple benefits of convenience and responsiveness.

The new online employment recruitment system makes applying for a job more efficient and accessible for both hiring managers and job seekers, said Marlene Ergen, CSB/SJU human resources coordinator.

Members of the human resources offices will work one-on-one with hiring managers to familiarize them with the system, Ergen said. Managers will see electronic authorizations and tracking, allowing them 24/7 access to review applicant pools online from any computer with Internet access. The system will provide online communication between search chairs and the human resources office, eliminating the need to scan and copy applicant materials. The system also allows electronic screening of an applicant’s credentials.

“Ultimately, we feel the system will —

in most cases — shorten the timeline for filling positions,” Ergen said.

Applicants will also see benefits, including the ability to search and apply online for multiple openings; and receive immediate acknowledgement when materials are received, as well as electronic status updates throughout the recruitment process.

PeopleAdmin features multiple reporting capabilities to assist the campuses in managing staffing and affirmative action/equal employment opportunity compliance.

Over 300 institutions currently utilize PeopleAdmin for their employment recruitment process, including the College of St. Scholastica, the University of St. Thomas and St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

The Human Resources offices will provide more information on the system shortly. For more information on PeopleAdmin, contact Ergen at extension 3128 or 5282.

## Monsignor Bruce Harbert Delivers Diekmann Lecture

Monsignor Bruce Harbert, executive director of the International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), delivered the Godfrey Diekmann, OSB, Lecture Sept. 20 at SJU. The Rev. Carl P. Daw, Jr. responded to this lecture.

Since 2002, Harbert has led ICEL, which prepares English translations of Latin liturgical books and texts. Ordained in 1979, Harbert has served as a parish priest, a university chaplain and a lecturer in medieval studies.

Daw is an Episcopal priest and writer who has served as the executive director of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada since 1996. This ecumenical and international organization has its headquarters at Boston University School of Theology, where Daw is adjunct professor of hymnology in the Master of Sacred Music program.

The Godfrey Diekmann, OSB, Lecture is sponsored annually by The Godfrey Diekmann, OSB, Center for Patristics

and Liturgical Studies. The Diekmann Center was created to honor the life and work of the Rev. Godfrey Diekmann, OSB (1908-2002), one of 46 theologians chosen from around the world to prepare the schema on liturgy during the Second Vatican Council. Diekmann entered Saint John's Abbey in 1929, at the age of 17. He taught theology at SJU for 65 years before retiring in 1998.

The Diekmann Center seeks to deepen understanding of the early Christian theologians of the first seven centuries A.D., and it promotes theological learning that engages both the mind and the heart.

### **Former Sen. Chuck Hagel Presents Eugene J. McCarthy Lecture**

Former U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel delivered the third annual Eugene J. McCarthy Lecture Sept. 23 at SJU. The lecture was sponsored by The Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement, and co-sponsored by the SJU University Chair in Critical Thinking.

Like McCarthy, who challenged a president of his own party with his opposition to President Lyndon Johnson's policy in Vietnam, Hagel became the first Republican senator to publicly criticize the Iraqi War with his call in Aug. 25, 2005, for the withdrawal of American troops.

Hagel served in the Senate from 1997 to 2009. A graduate of the University of Nebraska-Omaha, he served in Vietnam with the U.S. Army, where he earned two Purple Heart awards. Following his tour of duty, he was a newscaster and talk-show host in Omaha.

Hagel has co-written a book, *America: Our Next Chapter: Tough Questions, Straight Answers* (Ecco Press, 2008), with Peter Kaminsky. Former Secretary of State and retired Gen. Colin Powell said that Hagel "writes with insight, expertise, authority and with the credentials that come from his dedicated service in war and peace."

The Eugene J. McCarthy Lecture was established in January 2006. McCarthy spent seven years as a student at Saint John's Preparatory School and University, and nearly one year as a member of the Benedictine community of Saint John's Abbey.

The lecture series carries on McCarthy's deep commitment to the ideals and principles of democratic self-government. It seeks to inspire a new generation of young people to pursue fresh ideas, to challenge the status quo, to effect positive change in their communities and, like McCarthy himself, to lead with honesty, integrity and courage.

### **Gips Speaks on Religion and Sustainability**

Terry Gips presented the lecture "Religion and Sustainability: How Caring for Creation Benefits Our Spiritual Life, Finances, Business, Community and Planet" Sept. 9 at SJU. The lecture was sponsored by the Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning.

For more than three decades, Gips has been at the forefront of the sustainability movement. In his presentation, Gips explored the spiritual and ethical teachings of different religious traditions that bear on the challenges of sustainable living.

"At their best, religions are vehicles for sustaining and enhancing life on our planet," Gips said, "and we do ourselves and our communities and our planet a great favor when we draw on the life-sustaining and life-enhancing power of our religious traditions."

Gips is an internationally recognized sustainability leader, ecologist, agricultural economist and business consultant who serves as president of Alliance for Sustainability and its Center for Spirituality and Sustainability, CEO of Sustainability Associates, founding vice-chair of Congregations Caring for Creation, adjunct faculty member at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, board member of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life and board member of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Min-

nesota and the Dakotas.

The author of the widely acclaimed *Breaking the Pesticide Habit* and the co-author of *The Humane Consumer and Producer Guide*, Gips served as technical editor of *Reviving the Land* and has written numerous articles based on his work in 45 countries.

### **Artist Presents Hapa Project**

Artist Kip Fulbeck, professor of art at the University of California, Santa Barbara, presented the Hapa Project Sept. 3 at CSB. His presentation included slam poetry, stand-up comedy, political activism and personal stories.

An exhibit of the Hapa Project in the Benedicta Arts Center at CSB included more than 1,200 photographs.

Fulbeck began the Hapa Project as a forum for Hapas (people who have a mixed racial heritage that includes Asian or Pacific Island descent) to explore the question, "What are you?" The term Hapa — a Hawaiian word meaning "half" — was once considered a derogatory term. The word has transformed into a term of pride for those with part Asian or Pacific Island ancestry. Fulbeck, who calls himself Hapa in his new book, *Part Asian, 100% Hapa*, looked at multiracial identity in a new perspective as he photographed people from all walks of life.

He has been featured on CNN, MTV and PBS, and has performed and exhibited in over 20 countries. Identity, multiraciality and pop culture are a few of the topics Fulbeck addresses in his speeches.

Fulbeck is the author of *Permanence: Tattoo Portraits*; *Paper Bullets: A Fictional Autobiography*; and the upcoming *Mixed: Portraits of Multiracial Kids*. He has also directed a dozen short films, including *Banana Split* and *Lilo & Me*.

Fulbeck's exhibition and presentation was organized by several groups at CSB/SJU, including Student Activities and Leadership Development, Orientation Programming, the Intercultural Center and the International Students Program Office.

## IMHO: When Only a Few Words Will Do

By Glenda Burgeson  
Editor, Community

Take the fewest-words challenge. Describe yourself in the fewest words possible. It's not easy, is it? If I had to describe myself right now, on a drizzly, dreary Friday afternoon, I would choose grumpy, but that is just a passing mood, not a permanent condition (I hope).

CSB/SJU staff gave this challenge to our first-year students, as part of an orientation exercise associated with the HAPA exhibit at the Benedicta Arts Center at CSB. They organized the students into groups, took group photos, then asked them to describe themselves, using a single word or phrase. You may have noticed the results posted on the wall at Sexton Commons at SJU.

They tell us a lot about how they see themselves, how we see ourselves and how we see each other.

Some students defined themselves by their geographical perspective: "City girl," "Girl from China." Others used their interests as an ID tag: "Aspiring artist," "Musical." Still others chose an attitude or state of mind for self expression. "I am ready," wrote one. Another wrote, "Starting fresh."

Without knowing anything else about our first-year students, we know they are individually self described as "Inquisitive," "An achiever," "Genuine," "Versatile," "Friendly," "Optimistic" and "A nice person."

I want to introduce some of them to others: "Class clown," meet "Reserved." "A nerd at heart," have you met "Goofy"? "Creative," say hello to "Confident." "I never quit," I'd like you to meet "Indecisive."

It's fun to read these descriptions and imagine what the students who wrote them are like and wonder how their descriptions might change over time spent with us, on our campuses, as they become a part of our community and discover more about themselves and others.

I look forward to getting to know them. For now, one word will have to do. Welcome.

## SJU Plans Controlled Deer Hunt

Hikers, joggers and runners will be discouraged from entering the woods during a controlled deer hunt at Saint John's Nov. 7-8. They will be allowed to enter the area provided they are wearing blaze orange apparel. Enforcement officers patrolling the area will remove people found not in compliance with this safety regulation.

Saint John's goal is to assure a deer population level that will allow both adequate regeneration of the forest and a healthy deer herd on the abbey's 2,700 acres.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has approved this deer hunt on the Saint John's State Game Refuge to assist in keeping the herd in balance within the area. Tom Kroll, Saint John's Arboretum director, laments that "efforts at reforestation in the Saint John's woods, especially with oak, have been hampered due to heavy deer browsing on the young trees." The diversity of the area's wild flowers, herbs and shrubs on the forest's floor has been diminished by hungry deer as well. This disruption of the ecological balance of the area also affects the populations of birds and insects in the woods. The number of deer killed by motor vehicles on the one-mile entrance road into Saint John's raises a safety issue of concern.

In January 2009, Saint John's hired an aerial deer survey which indicated about 15 deer per square mile. Studies indicate that forest regeneration can occur when deer herds do not exceed 12 per square mile. According to the Minnesota DNR, deer hunting is the preferred solution to maintaining a healthy herd. Several other methods have been investigated but none has proven as safe or effective as hunting. Saint John's remains a game refuge and the deer population is regularly evaluated. For more information, visit the Arboretum Web site.

## First Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Building Dedicated on SJU Campus

The first expected LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building on the SJU campus, the McKeown Center — dedicated Sept. 12 — was designed and built to promote sustainability.

The center highlights what has been a building surge on the SJU campus this spring and summer. Campus projects include two new buildings, and the renovation of three campus landmarks.

The McKeown Center is the community center for Flynntown — the lower campus of SJU. It includes a kitchen, dining area, lounge area, study rooms, a computer lab, laundry facilities, outdoor patio and a recreational area.

The building has a sustainable design, in keeping with SJU's commitment to sustainability efforts. It is designed to the LEED-Silver standard.

- Materials from construction will be redirected for reuse or will be recycled. There will also be recycling bins in the building;
- In an effort to reduce demand for maintenance and reduce runoff from the site, landscaping will include a no-mow fescue, a rain garden and pervious sidewalk pavers;
- Many local materials were used to reduce travel distance from the manufacturer. Also, in an effort to reduce future landfill waste, materials were chosen that are durable, serviceable over time and renewable;
- To reduce energy usage, energy efficient lighting, heating and air conditioning systems have been installed, along with plumbing fixtures that will help reduce water consumption;
- The building will be monitored, and the data will be used by both SJU physical plant workers (to adjust performance) and environmental studies students, who will be modeling the building in comparison with other campus structures. Educational tours will also be available as well.

The second new building on campus is the Flyntown Apartments, which opened in August. The three-story building includes 15 apartment units that house 58 students. Each unit includes three or four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen and a living area.

The three renovation projects include:

- A remodeled Refectory dining area in the Quadrangle Building. The redesigned dining service area will improve traffic flow and allow food to be prepared in front of the customer; promote healthy, fresh home-style service; equipment that allows menu offerings to be held and served at the proper temperatures; and create a more inviting, relaxing and contemporary “Saint John’s feel” to the space. The area was completed Aug. 23.
- A remodeled Clemens Stadium press box. The completed structure adds a third tier, with four suites and an expanded president’s box. The enlarged second floor provides media workspace, booths for home and visiting coaches and radio booths. An elevator is being installed on the north end of the facility. Paid for by private donors, the press box was ready for the Johnnies first home football game Sept. 12 against the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
- Work on the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater roof and tuck pointing is ongoing. Roof work is expected to be completed in early October.

## Collegeville Institute Receives Two Grants

The Collegeville Institute was recently awarded a four-year \$1.98 million grant to support a new initiative called the Collegeville Institute Seminars. The seminars will gather small collaborative working groups to focus on two separate subjects. The first, the Seminar on Vocation and Faith in the Professions, will examine how Christians, employed in various professions, understand their work as a Christian vocation, and the ways in which their faith influences their vocational practice

and their vocational practice influences their faith. The second initiative, the Seminar on Integration in Theological Education and Ministry, will address the question of how the integration of knowledge can best be achieved in the education and formation of seminary students. The seminar will examine the issue across an ecumenical spectrum. Kathleen Cahalan, associate professor, Saint John’s SOT, will serve as the grant director, assisted by Laura Fanucci, SOT graduate.

The Collegeville Institute received a three-year, \$150,000 grant from the John Templeton Foundation as part of the foundation’s Science for Ministry Initiative. The Way the World Is: Cosmology and the Practice of Ministry helps pastors integrate the findings of science with faith’s reasoning about “the way the world is.” The Collegeville Institute intends that the integrative work advanced by the project will provide pastors, their communities, and others whom the community touches, with a useable cosmology — a reasoned and compelling understanding of the cosmos as interpreted by both scientists and theologians. Board member and Drell and Adeline Bernhardson Distinguished Professor at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter Darrell Jodock, will serve as the grant director.

The Collegeville Institute is a post-doctoral research center located on the campus of Saint John’s University and Abbey.

## Students Work with Faculty in Summer Research Program

The CSB/SJU Summer Undergraduate Research program engaged 60 students with faculty mentors in projects during a 10-week period from late May to early August.

The program involved 31 SJU students and 29 CSB students in collaborative scholarship with faculty from a variety of departments — modern and classical languages, management, education, art, theater, music, psychology, mathematics, computer science, chemistry, biology, physics, English and nutrition.

While most of the research was conducted in central Minnesota, 10 CSB and SJU students traveled to China earlier this summer as part of the fourth annual Summer Research Exchange Program between CSB and SJU and Southwest University in Beibei, Chongqing, China. Those students — as well as 10 students from Southwest — traveled back to Minnesota in July to complete the exchange. In addition, three CSB and SJU students conducted research in Ecuador.

By coincidence, the University of Minnesota Lillehei Heart Institute held a retreat at SJU in June, bringing more than 130 graduate students, undergraduate researchers, staff and faculty to campus. Their presence presented an unusual opportunity for CSB/SJU faculty and students to meet with renowned researchers, said Marcus Webster, CSB/SJU director of Undergraduate Research.

“This kind of event was a landmark in our summer schedule,” he said.

CSB and SJU students presented their summer projects in a poster session Aug. 4, at the Benedicta Arts Center at CSB and celebrated the conclusion of the research program at a banquet Aug. 6 at Gorecki Dining and Conference Center, CSB.

Research and creative scholarship involving student-faculty collaborations have increased as part of the educational landscape at CSB and SJU in the past decade as faculty members have recognized the great potential for this type of activity within the schools’ traditional teaching methods.

## UTS Project Tours the Globe for Stories

The Under-Told Stories project has launched a new Web site, [www.undertoldstories.org](http://www.undertoldstories.org), where all of their video reports, behind the scenes stories, slideshows and happenings on campus are available.

Fred de Sam Lazaro, director of the Under-told Stories project, spent much of last spring in India with a UTS production team, reporting on two stories, the

Hill Monastic Museum & Library's program to restore and preserve manuscripts of the St. Thomas Christians of Kerala and the work of Sister Cyril Mooney's innovate program for street children at the Loreto Sealdah Day School in Calcutta.

During the summer the UTS team shot scenes for a new documentary about HMML that will premiere at Saint John's this fall.

In August, the team headed to Australia to report on drought-affected farmers, and then to Borneo, Indonesia, for a report on an American doctor who has developed an innovative program that combines health care with environmental education and stewardship.

De Sam Lazaro discussed global health reporting with his *NewsHour* colleagues Ray Suarez and Les Crystal at the Aspen Institute. The panel, titled *The NewsHour: Keeping Global Health in the American Dialogue*, discussed the challenges of making international health salient in these challenging economic times in the journalism field.

## Faculty/Staff Notes

**Terence Check**, CSB/SJU professor of communication, presented "The Rhetoric of Military Readiness: Public Discourse, Whales, and Navy Sonar" at the 2009 Conference on Communication and the Environment at the University of Southern Maine on June 28. The essay examines the public and legal arguments of participants in the dispute over the Navy's use of mid-frequency active sonar as part of military training exercises off the coast of Southern California.

**Steven Thomas**, CSB/SJU assistant professor of English, published his essay, "The New James Bond and Globalization Theory, Inside and Out," in the Canadian film journal *CineAction*, issue 78. He presented an earlier draft of that essay at the CSB/SJU Global Studies conference in February, 2009.

**Warren Bostrom** and **Mary Jepperson**, CSB/SJU assistant professors of accounting, published a paper, "Technology in the Classroom," in *The Accounting*

*Educator*, a publication of the Teaching, Learning, & Curriculum Section of the American Accounting Association. Their paper discusses the following with respect to using technology in accounting instruction: why using technology is important, innovative ways to use technology, obstacles in using technology, and best practices to overcome those obstacles.

**Vilma C. Walter**, CSB/SJU faculty member of Hispanic studies, joined a team of archaeologists and students from Harvard, Yale and Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in July in an archaeological excavation of the pre-Inca ruins of San José de Moro (650 A.D.) in northern Perú.

In early August, **Jennifer Galovich**, CSB/SJU associate professor of mathematics, and **Tom Sibley**, CSB/SJU professor of mathematics, gave presentations at Mathfest, the national meeting of the Mathematical Association of America. Tom gave two presentations, "Geometry for Majors and Future Teachers" and "Puzzling Groups," and he and Jennifer jointly presented "Expanding Research Horizons through Mathematical Biology" in an invited paper session on Research with Undergraduates.

SJU senior mathematics majors **Carson Sievert** and **Jason Lutz** gave papers at the national summer mathematics meetings in Portland, Ore., in August. The titles of their papers were, respectively, "A Mathematical Perspective on Voting" and "An Analog for a Basis in Finite Groups." Jason received a prize from Pi Mu Epsilon, the honorary mathematics society, for his talk. Their advisers are **Gary Brown**, associate professor of mathematics, and **Bret Benesh**, assistant professor of mathematics.

At the annual Summer Minnesota Private Colleges Career Consortium (MPCCC) meeting, **John Clarkson**, associate director of Career Services, was elected to another two-year term as chair of the Minnesota Private Colleges Job & Internship Fair. MPCCC also recognized John with a special award for his exemplary service as chair of the Min-

nesota Private Colleges Job/Internship Fair, including his outstanding work with employers. **Ed Stubblefield**, associate director of Career Services, was elected to another term as MPCCC treasurer. Ed will also continue in his role as the treasurer of the Minnesota College & University Career Services Association.

**Paul Stock**, Saint John's wastewater operator, received the Operator of the Year award, class B category, from the Minnesota Wastewater Operators Association (MWOA) at its annual meeting last July in Grand Rapids. The award recognized excellence in job performance, accomplishments, education and training undertaken to further performance, and professional, community and civic activities, and involvement in the advancement of the MWOA.

## President Baenninger Considers New Opportunities

CSB President MaryAnn Baenninger announced to the CSB/SJU community her intention to explore leadership options that would allow her to live and work on the East Coast, to be closer to her extended family. In an e-mail dated Sept. 12, Baenninger described the "agonizing" decision she made after a summer of discernment with her husband Ron.

Once she decided to seek other opportunities, Baenninger said she decided to make her decision public.

"I wanted you to hear this from me before members of any other institutional community learns that I am being considered as their president. I chose to inform the Board early, in advance of any conclusion, so that they had the opportunity to plan in the best interests of the college," she wrote.

Baenninger wrote about the challenge of balancing her professional and personal commitments between the Midwest and the East Coast and how she reconciled that, for a time.

"Two years ago when I was faced with the possibility of a career move I decided to stay at Saint Ben's. At that time I told our Board of Trustees that I was commit-

ted to staying through our accreditation, completion of the capital campaign, and fulfillment of the strategic plan, Strategic Directions 2010. The Board was pleased with that decision, and encouraged me to stay as long as I could."

However, Ron's illness and hospitalizations during the summer forced the couple to revisit the matter, especially in view of an unprecedented and unexpected number of presidential opportunities for academic year 2010-11 at liberal arts colleges within driving distance of her extended family.

"This decision is in no way a reflection on Saint Ben's. I have been very happy here, and working with you and for our students continues to be an enormous source of fulfillment," she wrote.

Baenninger pledged that she "will continue to be fully present in my dedication to this great institution throughout the remainder of my tenure as president. I will be here through the entirety of this academic year," and she asked for the community's "understanding and support as I contemplate my future."

### **Theater Department Welcomes Guest Director; Plans Fall Line-up**

The CSB/SJU theater department has welcomed acclaimed Twin Cities actor Steven Epp as guest director this fall. Epp was an actor/director at Theatre de la Jeune Lune in Minneapolis. He is directing "Underpants," a comedy by Steve Martin, which will be performed in the Colman Theater Oct. 14-17.

"Working with a fabulous professional director such as Steven is a unique opportunity for our students, and the show should be a real treat for audiences as well," said Leigh Dillard, CSB/SJU chair and assistant professor of theater.

Epp's lengthy resume most recently included the title role of the caretaker in Pinter's "The Caretaker" at the Guthrie.

Also in October, an improvisational drama for children by a CSB honors student will tour local schools. The CSB/SJU production was created by senior Jennifer Richter and is based on her travel

last summer to China as part of the Summer Research Program. The piece is based on a Chinese folk tale and will involve groups of approximately 25 children at a time in an improvisational story. Using six CSB/SJU student actors, it will tour Oct. 8-9 during long weekend.

Kaarin Johnston's production of "You Can't Take it with You" opens Nov. 12 in the Gorecki Theater.

Later this semester three seniors will stage an original play with music to complete their formal senior projects. Evan Schumacher wrote the book and music, and will play the major role, Meghan Gunderson will direct the production and Kurt Oostra will design the setting. The production is scheduled during the last week of classes in December in the Colman Black Box Theater in the BAC.

Faculty and staff might do a doubletake when they see Professor Emeritus Tom Darnall on campus. He has been coaxed back to teach three acting classes this year and is directing the Black Box Theater Production in the spring, while Adam Houghton is abroad and on sabbatical. Darnall was a professional actor before he began teaching at CSB in 1975, and several of his students have gone on to highly successful careers as actors in professional theater, Michael Hayden and Carla Noack to name only two.

### **Conway Wins Poetry Award for Manuscript**

Mark Conway, executive director of the Literary Arts Institute (LAI) at CSB, has been named winner of the 2009 American Poetry Journal Book Prize for his manuscript, *Dreaming Man, Face Down*.

Production will begin immediately on the book, which will be published by Dream Horse Press. The book is expected to be released in the spring/summer of 2010.

Conway's first book of poetry, *Any Holy City* (Silverfish Review Press, 2005) won the Gerald Cable Book Award in 2004 and was short-listed for the 2007 PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award for Poetry. His chapbook of poetry, *First Body*, won the

Aldrich Poetry Prize and was published by the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in 2004.

### **CSB and SJU Report Strong Enrollment Numbers**

CSB and SJU together enrolled 3,935 students, which marked the fourth straight year total combined undergraduate enrollment has exceeded 3,900 students.

CSB's enrollment is 2,058, its second-highest enrollment, trailing only 2008 (2,068 students). SJU has an enrollment of 1,877.

New student enrollment totaled 551 at CSB and 461 at SJU for a combined first-year class of 1,012. It is the fourth time in five years that first-year enrollment has surpassed 1,000 students.

The academic profile (GPA, ACT score and class standing) of the new class is nearly identical to last year and is more racially and ethnically diverse. American students of color made up 6.7 percent of the overall student population and 9.9 percent of the new entering class; both are high water marks for the schools. International students made up 6.2 percent of the overall student population and 7.2 percent of the new entering class; both marks are the highest in school history.

"We are absolutely delighted with the entering class at both the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University," said Cal Mosley, vice president for admission and financial aid at CSB and SJU. "This group brings to the college community a depth and breadth of human characteristics that is unparalleled in recent years. By way of illustration, we have our largest number of National Merit Scholars, students of color, international students, students from outside Minnesota, and an increase in students from Catholic high schools and CSB/SJU legacies."

The overall retention of continuing students remained very high. Retention of students from the first year to the second year totaled 89 percent, a rate that continues to rank among the highest in the country.

# community

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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 2009

- Sept. 28**, Dr. Shawnee Daniels-Sykes, Moral Theology Lecture, 7:30 p.m., Gorecki 204A, CSB (Campus contact: Kari-Shane Davis Zimmerman).
- Sept. 28**, 22nd annual Peace Studies Conference, 1 – 9 p.m.: Jeb Middlebrook, director, Solidarity Institute and anti-racist organizer, 7 p.m., Quad 264, SJU (Campus contact: Kelly Kraemer).
- Oct. 1**, Inauguration Fr. Robert Koopmann, OSB, as 12th president of SJU, 2:30 p.m., Oct. 1, Abbey Church, SJU (Campus contact: Patti Epsky).
- Oct. 5**, Stefano Zamagni, 2009 Clemens Lecture, SJU, time and location TBA (Campus contact: Judy Shank).
- Oct. 6**, David Rehr, '81, former president & CEO, Natl. Association of Broadcasters, "Is the Media 'Fairness Doctrine' Fair?" 7 p.m., Alumni Lounge, SJU (Campus contact: Matt Lindstrom or Stacy Penk).
- Oct. 9**, S. Joan Chittister, "Monasticism and Radical Christianity," 8 p.m., SBH, SJU (Campus contact: Bernadette Dunn).
- Oct. 12**, Jay Phillips Chair Anniversary/Colman Barry Award Program (Campus contact: Marie Eli).
- Oct. 13**, Cheryl Thomas, director, Women's Human Rights Program at Advocates for Human Rights, Minn., Global Awareness Series, 7 p.m., location TBD (Campus contact: Manju Parikh).
- Oct. 13**, Carol Connolly, Saint Paul Poet Laureate, reading, 7:30 p.m., Art Lecture Hall, SJU (Campus contact: Nick Hayes).
- Oct. 14**, "Ethiopia in the American Literary Imagination," a Collegial Conversation by Steven Thomas, assistant professor of English, 5:30 p.m., Alumni Lounge, SJU (Campus contact: Scott Richardson).
- Oct. 15**, Kalia Yang, author of *The Latehomecomers*, Book Lovers Night, 6 p.m. optional dinner, 6:45 p.m., community readers discussion, 7 p.m., author presentation, CSB (Campus contact: Kathy Parker).
- Oct. 19**, Dr. Ivone Gebara, former professor at the Theological Institute of Recife, Brazil, "Longing for Running Water: Ecofeminism and Liberation," Koch Chair in Catholic Thought Lecture, 7:45 p.m., Gorecki 204A & B (Campus contact: S. Ephrem Hollermann).
- Oct. 20**, Ellen Bryant Voigt, reading, 4 p.m., TRC Fireside, CSB (Campus contact: Mark Conway).
- Oct. 21**, Ellen Bryant Voigt, Sister Mariella Gable Series Presentation with novelist Charles Baxter, 7:30 p.m., Gorecki Family Theater (Campus contact: Mark Conway).
- Oct. 27**, Joleen Steyn Kotze, professor of political science, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, "The Significance of the Victory of Jacob Zuma in the 2009 South African Elections," sponsored by Global Awareness Lecture Series, 7:30 p.m., Quad 264, SJU (Campus contact: Gary Prevost).
- Nov. 5**, "Effective Learning Activities: What Do Seniors Think?" a Collegial Conversation by Amy Olson, professor of nutrition, and Kathy Twohy, professor of nursing, 5:30 p.m., Gorecki 204A, CSB (Campus contact: Scott Richardson).
- Nov. 6-7**, National Conference for Campus Based Men's Gender Equality and Antiviolence Groups, presenters include Michael Kimmel, Michael Kaufman, and Jackson Katz, time and locations TBD, SJU (Campus contact: Ozzie Mayers or Gar Kellom) <http://www.csbsju.edu/menscenter/projects/equality.htm>
- Nov. 12**, "Darwinian Revolution: Charles Darwin and His Influence on Science, Religion, and Society" with panelists: Fr. Wilfred Theisen, professor emeritus physics, "The Popes and Darwin"; Emily Esch, assistant professor of philosophy, "Darwin's Influence on What It Means to be Human"; Michael Livingston, professor of psychology, "Darwin and the Social Sciences"; Chuck Rodell, Professor of Biology, "Practical Applications of a Darwinian View"; Vincent Smiles, professor of theology, "Theology after Darwin." 7 p.m., Gorecki 204, CSB (Campus contact: Chuck Rodell).
- Nov. 14**, Eighth annual Red Mass, Sacred Heart Chapel, CSB.
- Jan. 14**, Moral theology lecture with Fr. AGBONKHIANMEGHE OROBATOR, SJ. Speaking on Religion and Politics in Africa, 8 p.m., Quad 264, SJU (Campus contact: Dan Finn).
- Feb. 4**, Michael Perry, author of *Population, 485* and other books, Book Lovers Night, 6 p.m., optional dinner, 6:45 p.m., community readers discussion, 7 p.m., author presentation, TRC Main Bldg, CSB (Campus contact: Kathy Parker).
- Feb. 8**, Anousheh Ansari, 2009-10 Renaissance Speaker, first female private space explorer, CEO, chairman, and co-founder, Prodea Systems, Inc; "Reaching for the Stars and Getting There," 7 p.m., Gorecki 204, CSB (Campus contact: Ozzie Mayers or Emily Cook).
- Feb. 19**, An Evening with Louise Erdrich, co-sponsored by LAI and FAP, 7:30 p.m., Petters Auditorium, BAC (Campus contact: Mark Conway).