Greetings from the First Generation Program!

Greetings! My name is Margo Thomas, and I am the First Generation Program Coordinator. Last year, The College of Saint Benedict started this program with a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation. Our two year grant proposal is to build a program to support our first generation students. We define first generation as those students who’s parents did not complete a four year degree. Currently, we have over 140 students registered with the program. The program is self selective meaning students pick and choose which events and activities they want to participate in.

Each month we hold two workshops one focusing on the first year class needs and the second on sophomore class needs. We also have a monthly student newsletter, and a monthly social.

Throughout the semester, we offer a variety of special events including tickets to the performing arts shows, retreats, and our Family Weekend Reception. All First Generation families are invite to join myself along with the Vice President of Student Development, Mary Geller and the Dean of Students, Jody Terhaar, on Saturday, October 24. More information about Family Weekend can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. Make your calendars now!

Family Weekend
First Generation Reception
Saturday, October 24
4 pm to 5 pm
CSB President’s Conference Room, Gorecki.
RSVP to mthomas@csbsju.edu or call 320-363-5065

Please contact me with any questions or concerns about your daughter’s college experience.

First Generation September Events!

The First Generation Program started the semester by welcoming our new 1st year students with a breakfast prior to orientation. Next, we our first social of the month with a Picnic and Volleyball game. On September 26, we held our first retreat at Camp Friendship. Students participated in both low and high ropes course. Our workshops this month included: Time Management Skills and the Mentor Program Kick-Off Dinner.

First Generation Retreat
September 26, 2009

Margo Thomas
Family Weekend 2009!

It is our hope that you and your family will plan to join us for Family Weekend 2009, October 23-25, 2009. Students look forward to the opportunity to introduce their families at home to their extended families here at our colleges.

We want to encourage you to attend as many events as possible. You can begin on Friday by attending the Chicago City Limits Improv We Trust show (Contact Fine Arts Programming 320-363-5777 for tickets) or the Joint Events Council family movie, Up! You can also catch a Johnnie Blend concert in Brother Willie’s Pub on Friday night.

Saturday is the heart of our Family Weekend programming. Starting out the day will be the 5K Family Fun Run/Walk beginning at 9am. Family members have an opportunity to attend informational sessions and a wonderful afternoon carnival on the CSB Mall. Be sure to attend the SJU Chili Feed and the CSB Chicago-inspired dinner. Enjoy a Johnnie football game, a Blazers soccer game, or participate in the Chicago City Limits workshop (register through our online form—participation limited to the first 30 participants), or play BINGO in Alum Hall. Additionally, the First Generation Reception from 4 pm to 5 pm in the President’s Conference Room in Gorecki. RSVP to mthomas@csbsju.edu or call 320-363-5065.

We hope that you will take time out of your schedule to join us for this exciting, fun-filled weekend with your daughter.

For more information on Family Weekend, check out the website at: http://www.csbsju.edu/parents/family_weekend08.htm

Campus Resources for Parents

The College of Saint Benedict has many on-line resources available for parents and family members. It is important to us that you have the information you need and are able to connect with faculty, administration and other parents and family members of CSB students. The campus publishes a monthly email to parents/family members called SaintsNews. To receive the monthly email please send your name, your daughter’s name, and your e-mail address to enews@csbsju.edu. Past monthly emails can be found at: www.csbsju.edu/news/enews/default.htm. Listed below are a few on-line resources for parents!

• For general information:   www.csbsju.edu/parents/

• For information on career options to discuss with your daughter, check out this site:   www.csbsju.edu/career/parents/default.htm

• CSB parent information, including H1N1, safety, parent calendar, and much more:  www.csbsju.edu/parentrelations/

• For study abroad resources:  
www.csbsju.edu/internationaleducation/Parents.htm

• For First Generation Parents/Families: We offer a quarterly newsletter that is mailed out and posted on our website:  www.csbsju.edu/csbfirstgen/parentnewsletter.htm