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G.B. Leighton

Friday, June 27, 2008
6 - Midnight

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in this issue

Spring 2008

4 From the President
5 Around Campus
8 My Dear Readers
10 Against The Grain
12 Perfect Sense: A student’s reflection on book arts
14 Alumnae News & Notes
18 I’m A Bennie

Saint Benedict’s Magazine

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The mission of the College of Saint Benedict is to provide for women the very best residential liberal arts education in the Catholic university tradition. The college fosters integrated learning, exceptional leadership for change and wisdom for a lifetime.

Printed on recycled paper using soy ink, of course.
The sun was cowering from the onset of night as she stepped into the cloister walk. Deep shadows waited patiently to pounce from the archways and corners. It was 8:15. Campus was dead. She had the distinct feeling that it wasn’t the only thing that had expired.

Well, it doesn’t quite measure up to the work of my favorite author Dorothy Sayers. Someday, though, I just might try my hand at murder mysteries that take place on college campuses.

This spring, Clemens Library featured a campaign to promote what we’re reading on campus. Several of us participated, including: retired CEO John Doman who is a driver on the Link and is known to quiz riders en route with trivia and student leader Bibi Abdalla ’09 who shares her sheer enjoyment of The Economist, among many others.

While most of us have favorite books or authors, many Americans are reading less. A recent study by the National Endowment for the Humanities suggests that in 2006, 15 to 34 year olds were only reading 7 to 11 minutes a day, including weekends and holidays. Those who were 45 to 54 read up to 24 minutes a day on weekends and holidays. Those who were 55 and “better” read 30 minutes during the week and more than an hour on weekends and holidays. This is down significantly from 20 years ago.

We’re also reading and writing differently.

The Amazon Kindle e-reader, unveiled in November 2007, is a gadget with a certain coolness factor. It’s the size and weight of a paperback, can store up to 200 books, and is wireless, so you can download books from virtually anywhere at any time. Plus, you can enlarge the print for easier reading.

Internet communication has conditioned us to digest bite-sized chunks of text in a non-linear fashion. E-mail and text messaging have us shooting rapid-fire, abbreviated messages in the spirit of efficiency.

Regardless of our preferred modus operandi, reading and writing shape our civic, social, economic, and cultural perspective. In this issue, we explore how the written word helps define us.

Martha Tomhave Blauvelt, professor of history, shares her research on young women of the American Revolution and how they used their journals to identify their roles as the new upper class of a new nation.

Photos from our CSB trip to the Bahamas in January celebrate the pioneering work of Telzena Coakley ’62. When the Bahamas attained independence in 1973, Telzena cofounded a program with Saint Ben’s and Saint John’s to secure the first 4-year degree program available on the new island nation. As she told us, “Education was the greatest independence gift we could have received.”

And, our techno-savvy students become acquainted with the art of traditional book making through our Literary Arts Institute.

While the future of the book and the ways in which we secure knowledge may be changing, the written word remains central to our education, entertainment, interaction with each other, and, ultimately, how we define and understand ourselves.

MaryAnn Beam
CSB/SJU JOIN PILOT PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABILITY RATING

Saint Ben’s and Saint John’s are among approximately 90 college and university campuses selected nationally to participate in the pilot phase of a rating system for sustainability in higher education developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

According to Derek Larson, chair of the CSB/SJU environmental studies department, the new rating system will allow people to evaluate campus “green” claims on a level playing field.

The 90-plus participating campuses were selected to represent a wide range of institutional types, sizes and geography. They include public and private schools, community colleges and research universities.

MARMSNIK WINS NATIONAL TEACHING AWARD

“Great teachers change lives by inspiring students to recognize their gifts and to learn how to use them to pursue a worthy dream. Paul Marsnik is one such great teacher,” said Acton Foundation President Rick O’Donnell.

Marsnik won the Acton Foundation Excellence in Entrepreneurship Education Award. He was one of 27 teachers from across the country to receive the honor.

Each winner is nominated by a student. In Marsnik’s case, that student was Jon Goodman ’09. “Professor Marsnik has been nothing short of amazing in helping me grow as both a student and an entrepreneur,” Jon said, “He has not only helped me understand new concepts, but has also personally formulated a schedule to help maximize my potential for generating new ideas. He is always looking out for my best interests and goes above and beyond what is expected of him as a professor.”

Each winner is invited to attend a two-day seminar in Texas on entrepreneurship teaching. The winner also receives a $1,000 award and trophy.

Honor Hacker points to her Quiet Care monitor.

On January 30, 2008, Honor Hacker ’48, spoke in front of the United States Congress to advocate a bipartisan bill for research and development of technologies for aging adults. The Quiet Care system is one technology being tested in senior homes throughout the country.

“I like knowing that there is that added level of safety with QuietCare but that it doesn’t jeopardize my privacy,” Honor told Congress.

QuietCare tracks seniors’ behavior by using wireless sensors placed throughout their homes to track differences in the seniors’ habits, such as staying in the bathroom for over an hour, or not entering the kitchen all day. In Honor’s case, the QuietCare system helped detect her sleep apnea symptoms.

QuietCare alerts a nurse when behaviors are out of the ordinary. This system is beneficial to keep seniors living independently and is cheaper. Most of the time, the QuietCare system signals legitimate causes of concern that require “interventions,” said Wendy Traffie, housing director of Ecumen’s Maplewood community, Lakeview Commons. “At this stage of the game, so many of our residents are creatures of habit,” Traffie said.
Alexis currently holds the record for the outdoor 400m event.

When asked about her fondest recollections of CSB, Alexis had this to say, “There are only a few great events that stand out, mostly it is just the little everyday memories where we were most always laughing and having a good time: bus rides to and from meets, our Blazer pride, playing ultimate frisbee, sitting in the ice whirl-pool.”

Alexis is married to Doug Puerta, and they have a daughter, Emelia.

Read more about Alexis on page 18

Sharon Welle Swallen ’94

“Coaches, like players, have the ability to make a difference on the field and off. I have chosen to stay involved in sports as a coach for this reason,” Sharon says.

Today she is the head soccer coach at Mounds View High School. Swallen has coached the team to section championships in 2001, 2002, 2005 and 2006. She and her husband, John Swallen, have four children.

Ashley Holderness Swanda ’96

Ashley had been forced to quit swimming in the eighth grade due to her struggle with Lyme disease. After a six year break, she started swimming for Saint Ben’s. It was a decision of a lifetime.

Swanda holds two team records as well as pool records for the 100/200 Butterfly.

Ashley and her husband, Andy Swanda, live in Minnesota. She is working for Fairview Southdale Hospital. Ashley and her husband have two sets of twins, Will, Abby, Ryan and Hailey.
Robyn Ruschmeier Courchane `99

Robyn was a two-sport athlete at Saint Ben’s. She excelled in basketball and volleyball, and is ranked 8th in all-time scoring with 1,281 points in her basketball career. In volleyball, Robyn is currently first in all-time career kills with 1,771.

Today Robyn is employed at Marco as a Systems Engineer supporting and installing document management systems. She also officiates for volleyball and basketball. She and her husband, Chris Courchane `99, have two sons.

Katherine Macy Schwarz `97

Katie Macy Schwarz is the current school record holder for the 1 and 3 meter dive.

“One of my fondest memories was at the MIAC championships when my sister won the 1650. I was doing the card counting for her. I was so proud of her and her accomplishment.”

Katie was the diving coach for Macalester from 1997-2003. Currently, she is a stay-at-home mom of three boys and is also attending Sister Rosalind Schools of Massage. She is married to Daniel Schwarz.

1992-1993 Basketball Team

“I knew we had a lot of talent, but I had no clue that we would be able to come out and go undefeated. If I had known that, I don’t think it would have been this special,” said former Blazer basketball player, Jennie Mettling OSB ‘93.

The four years leading up to the 1992-93 season, the Blazers record was 91-22 and three times lost in the NCAA tournament to teams that went on to win the national title. Kelly Mahlum was named to the NCAA Division III Kodak All-American team, holds the career scoring record at 1,610 points and is known for being all around the best player in team history. Head coach Mike Durbin was also named the Division III Coach of the Year.

Coach Durbin says about the 1992-93 season, “This team has set standards that all other teams will be judged by at the College of Saint Benedict. What it means in the long range? Memories.”
Readers

By Heidi L. Everett

If Martha Tomhave Blauvelt were having a dinner party and could invite anyone living or not, one name would definitely be at the top of her list.

Susan Heath.

Martha found Susan while searching for diaries of early American women.

“I was trolling through databases and though I found a typo,” Martha said. The database listed 62 years worth of diaries for Susan. Most women quit writing when they married and had children. Susan did neither.

While many diary entries are overtly about work, like planting peas or scrubbing floors, Martha looks for the emotional work that unfolds on the pages.

“I look for something more revealing than the number of socks knit,” Martha explained. “These young women worked to discover how to produce the feelings society expected them to have in contrast to what they really felt.”

Susan took more than 4 years to figure out what she was writing about. “She was ticked off at her father.”

Making sense of sensibility

Tears were quite fashionable after the American Revolution.

“These women were creating a new class for a new country,” Martha explained. “Sensitivity was a sign of this new upper class in contrast to the Brits or the lower classes who supposedly didn’t feel anything. Upper class women were supposed to be close to tears a lot.”

Expressing emotion in public and in the pages of a diary became a form of social theater and a looking glass for these young women, Martha said.

“They crafted their emotions -- sometimes to order and sometimes to suit themselves -- enjoyed the results, and admired their efforts.”

Yet Susan Heath and a handful of others “raged and criticized with relish and at length” about the emotions they were expected to display and the prescribed relationship between men and women.

Work of the heart

Susan’s diary collection – and the many boxes it filled – was one of more than 50 collections Martha dove into the summers of 2002, 2003, and 2005 while she roared around the east coast in a rental car going from historical society to historical society.

The time-consuming and touchy work was part of Martha’s research for her latest book, Work of the Heart: Young Women and Emotion 1780-1830. The diaries Martha reads are delicate and fragile. Cotton gloves are a must. And, she has to lay the books on a specially constructed platform so as not to break the bindings. A lightly-weighted string is draped over the pages to keep them open.

“I have such fun doing this,” Martha said. “When I first studied this time period, I loved how it looked and sounded -- the architecture and music. I wanted to get to know the people. Reading these first-person narratives instantly transport you to the time.”

Through her research, Martha also reflects on the efforts she goes through as wife, mother, and teacher. Although she has started a diary several times, she’s never completed one. “As I write, I always wonder what historians will do with it,” she admits. That doesn’t deter her from being interested in the diaries of others.

“When they left their manuscripts, they invited us to have a look,” Martha said. “Mary Guion for example, kept writing, ‘I hope nobody reads my diary.’ At the same time, she opened passages with ‘What will the reader think?’ These women wanted their voices heard.”

Martha’s relationship with Susan isn’t over yet. In fact, Susan inspired Martha’s next research project about the relationship between fathers and daughters in the new republic. For this, Martha will turn back to Susan’s diaries as well as the diaries from 4 of her sisters and her mother.

“Susan adored her mother and despised her father. When her mother passed away and the body was taken, Susan lay down in the bed while it was still warm. The account of her father’s death, in contrast, was completely cold. Susan pushed the boundaries of female feelings by making them known to others.” Martha said. “I want to spend more time with her.”

“People with inconsistent dispositions ought to live single in some remote corner of the earth & not associate but with people of their own cast.”

Susan Heath, July 1816
Heath Family Papers
Massachusetts Historical Society
It would seem that taking today’s digital generation back in time to learn handset letterpress goes against the grain of new trends in reading and writing.

Unlike the quick flick of fingers and abbreviated language shared in text messages or the electronic ease of digital books like Amazon’s Kindle and the Sony Reader, students learn the painstakingly detailed process of paper making, typesetting, and book binding.

“Right now our society is undergoing a tremendous change, and the book is at the center of it,” explains Theresa Vann, adjunct associate professor of history and curator of the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library.

“Books used to be the primary means of storing and retrieving knowledge. But now, the technology
What joy! Senior Jessica Berg (far right) creates a holiday card during a class visit to the Welle Book Arts Studio of the College of Saint Benedict. Rachel Melis, book artist and assistant professor of art (far left), routinely shares her love of paper making and book arts with students in history, English, and art classes.

of the internet has changed the way we find information. The internet is digital, virtual, electronic, but we still think of information in book terms – we speak of web ‘pages,’ which have ‘fonts’ and ‘typefaces.’ Students need to know how books are made so that they understand how this physical format continues to influence the organization of virtual information.”

Mind your Ps and Qs. If you’ve ever wondered where that phrase comes from, spend some time in the Welle Book Arts Studio, a truly hands-on part of the Literary Arts Institute of the College of Saint Benedict.

“They are easy to get mixed up,” explains Rachel Melis, book artist and assistant professor of art.

Rachel is busy weaving her fingers through case upon case of movable type letters, hand-carved ornaments, and dingbats used in traditional letterpress. The large- and small-scale pieces of metal and wood – some as narrow as a paperclip – were the original fonts and symbols that we now find in our computer’s drop-down menus.

Rachel demonstrates how traditional typesetters had to select a typeface and size, pick the right letters and punctuation one by one, and pull thin strips of metal and wood for spacing (in techno terms . . . the leading, spacing, and kerning).

“The phrase out of sorts comes from running out of letters or typeface to finish a project,” she says.

Once the letters, spacing, and punctuation are selected, typesetting gets tricky. Students have to format their quotes, paragraphs or pages backwards in order to achieve a readable mirror imprint on the press.

Typesetting is only part of the eye-opening process for students.

“Readers take the final form of a book as the inevitable form,” explains Cindy Malone, professor of English. Her students create their own books in English 315: Editing and Publishing.

“Making a book calls attention to the endless decisions that shape the physical form of a book into a container that fits the content,” Malone says.

“The coolest thing about the Welle Book Arts Studio is the possibility for combining basic elements of papermaking, typesetting, and bookbinding in creative and unexpected ways that offer surprise and delight as well as a deeper understanding of the material in a book.”

Rachel adds, “You also get really good at reading things backwards.”
Students judge books by the cover in Dr. Cindy Malone’s English class. They judge the paper, the binding, and the font, too.

English 315: Editing and Publishing traces a manuscript through the publishing process, from acquisitions to the editorial and marketing departments to the release of a shiny new book. In addition to guest presentations by professionals working in the publishing field, students explore book arts, from the down and dirty work of papermaking, to the time-consuming precision of hand-set letterpress printing, and finally to the aesthetic – and essential function – of bookbinding.

In the process of making a book, students are bound to change the way they look at, feel, and read books.

Elyse Rethlake ’09 had this to say in her essay about reconnecting with F. Scott Fitzgerald’s classic, *The Great Gatsby*.

Books used to be as good to me as the neatness of their covers. If the cover tore or bent, I was devastated. The book was no longer pristine; no longer flawless.

I never made a mark in my books. I never highlighted or circled or drew little pictures. Growing up, my books were never stacked in various places around the room. They didn’t hold up creaky furniture or lie scattered on my bed. They were never chairs or a table for tea parties with my stuffed animals. I never loaned them out to anyone for fear they’d never be returned - or worse that they’d be returned smudged or ripped. Rather my books stood upright in perfect uniformity according to height in a large bookcase in a corner of my room.

I did not realize at the time how much I lacked in my relationship with books. My books may have made an impression on me, but I left no clues in the book about myself, the reader. My relationship with books was completely one-sided in which I left books exactly how I found them and became depressed the minute a book lost its perfect, unused look. Before taking a class on the bookmaking process, my life with books – while I enjoyed it – was far from what I now know it can be after spending a semester getting reacquainted with books.

My first inkling that my stand-offish approach to books might be wrong hit the moment I put my hands into pulp. Making paper is a messy and chaotic process. Unless I dove into the pulp with my hands and let it run through my fingers, paper would not

**Students judge books by the cover in Dr. Cindy Malone’s English class. They judge the paper, the binding, and the font, too.**

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**Jill Derouin ’08**

*Cowboys and Indians* is a hand-bound, leather-covered artist book.

I wrote a very concise and blunt history of Cowboys and Indians based on readings from my human relations education class. Each page is illustrated with a stereotypical symbol.

This book is meant to spark interest and encourage people to want to learn the facts.

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**Perfect Sense**

*A student’s reflection on book arts*  

Essay by Elyse Rethlake ’09  
Photos by Jessica Handwerk ’08
have been made. This experience was eye-opening and was the first reminder that the finished product I see on bookshelves does not start out neat and tidy. Typesetting was the second experience that changed my view of books. The deep involvement in not only tracking down each letter but then painstakingly putting them into place helped me to feel wholly connected with the words. After the first copy went through the press, mistakes were found and corrected. These mistakes also shattered my need for books to be perfect. Rolling the paper through the press helped me feel joined to the work, as if I placed a part of myself in it as the type rolled through the ink and onto the paper.

Another large part of redefining my understanding of books comes from the book arts projects that all students completed. All of my books at home are rectangle hardcover and paperbacks. To take a literary work and characterize it through the book form helped explain the variety of book types. Unusual book structures showed me that if books themselves can be works of art, then it is wonderful if I, as well as all other readers, leave parts of myself in the pages whether through circling or drawing or dog-earring the pages. I may not have ever come to this conclusion without the experience of a bookmaking class.

I have made strides since taking the class. I lent The Ice Queen and The Red Tent to two well-deserving friends. I began to reread favorite authors with a pen in hand: ready to make comments on their words and leave my own thoughts for future readers. Occasionally a book can now be found on my bed, and the world did not end when my mother’s tea dripped across the inside cover of Gone with the Wind.

Chelsea Pettit ’08
Goblin Market by Christina Rossetti combines child-like fantasy and innocence with strikingly dark and sensual imagery. Though it is no longer considered a children’s poem, it retains a fairy-tale feel. To capture this, I used a combination of colored and black and white illustrations. A dark, floral velour cover captures the poem’s balance of light and dark imagery.

Illustrations by D.G. Rossetti, Laurence Housman, Warwick Goble, and Brian Froud.

Elyse Rethlake ’09
Fitzgerald’s book embodies decadence of high society and the destruction it can bring.

The use of silver and gold symbolizes the extravagance of the upper class in the 1920s. The accordion design of the book represents how quickly irresponsible loves can unfold, especially carefree lives epitomized by the Buchanans. Red wine stains the last passage to reflect the damage a selfish society can cause others.

Brittany Carlson ’08
Mowlana Jalaluddin Rumi’s poetry is subtly profound – he makes existential claims grounded in simple observations about life and the world around us.

Unfolding each poem against a stark white background forces the reader to slow down and take time for quiet reflection. As each poem is revealed, so is the colorful paper hidden with each page.
From this Day Forward (Sept. to Dec. 2007)

1978 Marti Holmes to Joseph Hawry
1986 Melissa Kaus to Angel Cabello
1995 Pamela Zeimet to Jason Bowman
1997 Heidi Fleischacker to Cary Callus
1998 Jenn Gretsch to Andrew Hutchins
2000 Adrienne Stohr to Ryan Lewis
2001 Robyn Mogelson to Andrew Chrast
2002 Abby Spychalla to Todd Maciver
2002 Angela Sexton to Benjamin Vincent ’01
2002 Jessi Holte to Mark Huls
2003 Jess Barnd to Dennis Bauer
2004 Leah Laurich to Jacob Omann
2004 Amanda Brezinski to Joel DeVos
2006 Christine Pladson to Christoph Wayne
2006 Angie Mueller to Dave Nolan
2007 Jill Carr to March Koch ’02
2006 Tricia Nolan to Shaun Meling ’05
2006 Elizabeth Leslie to Joe Hausman ’04

Bundles of Joy (Sept. 2007 to Feb. 2008)
1989 Mary Amann Murphy & John Murphy, Boy, Peter
1990 Naomi Nyquist Gray & Patrick Gray, Girl, Eleanor
1990 Joan Frederiksen Pnawski & Jim Pnawski, Boy, Shane
1990 Jacque Kuechle Polipnick & Philip Polipnick ’91, Girl, Anastasia
1990 Brenda Dressel Leuer & Shawn Leuer ’90, Boy, Trever
1991 Julie Zurn-Pfaffendorf & Bill Pfaffendorf, Girl, Ava
1992 Jennifer Hugo Felt & John Feltt ’93, Girl, Julia
1992 Michelle Miller Heining & Ryan Heining ’91, Girl, Isabell
1992 Kelly Fritz Dolan & David Dolan ’91, Boy, Charles
1993 Jenni Koopmeiners Gazdzik & Kazimir Gazdzik ’92, Girl, Lauren
1993 Jacqueline Tacheny Defries & Ernie Defries, Boy, Matthew
1993 Angela Hoffman Nagel & Chad Nagel, Boy, Timothy
1993 Anne Garbee Smith & Aaron Smith ’92, Boy, Archer
1994 Jessie Konrad Bueckers & John Bueckers ’94, Girl, Mildred
1994 Tanya Bjorge Ruth & Paul Ruth, Girl, Kaylin
1995 Ami Trempe Bieurance & Daniel Bieurance ’92, Girl, Lily
1996 Sara Alcorn Stenzel & Benjamin Stenzel, Twin Girls, Meg & Kate
1996 Julie Theisen & Peter Pfeffer, Boy, Noah
1997 Melina Canias Koch & Jon Koch ’97, Girl, Mena
1997 Kelly Gates Willette & Michael Willette ’97, Girl, Madeline
1997 Libby Mudd Wenderski & Jason Wenderski, Girl, Maia
1997 Mekel Wiederholt Meier & Brian Meier, Girl, Abigail
1997 Brooke Jacobsma Wolf & Frank Wolf, Boy, Michael
1998 Katie Pearson Westamo & Anders Westamo, Boy, AJ
1998 Amy Olson Wieber & Matt Wieber ’98, Boy, Jack
1998 Megan Heinzen & Mark Kuzinski, Boy, Jonathan
1998 Sara Freericks Haag & Adam Haag, Boy, Brady
1999 Jennifer Cereck Jost & Kevin Jost ’99, Girl, Mallory
1999 Kara Dornfeld Dophorn & Darin Dophorn, Girl, Natalie
1999 Nicki Pauls Holthaus & Gary Holthaus, Girl, Morgan
1999 Heidi Mueller Buckentine & Michael Buckentine, Girl, Josie
1999 Cody Dunesh Schultz & Josh Schultz, Girl, Ruby
1999 Melissa Flavin Anez & Paul Anez, Girl, Alya
1999 Melissa Urbashich Olsmscheid & Jeff Olsmscheid, Boy, Noah
2000 Heidi Sunderman Schloe & Brent Schloe ’00, Boy, Henry
2000 Betsy Dyan Schmucker & Aaron Schmucker ’98, Boy, Adam
2000 Tanya LaF ore Petrusksi & Jeff Petrusksi, Boy, Tate
2000 Katie Hiniker Carney & Chad Carney, Boy, Declan
2001 Mindy Albers France & Patrick France ’91, Girl, Anna
2001 Colleen Probst Chams & Chris Chams ’01, Girl, Lauren
2001 Andrea Martin Mischke & Mark Mischke, Girl, Cecilia
2001 Michelle Koch Rose & Michael Rose ’01, Girl, Mackenzie
2001 Tami Schulte Kosmann & Jason Kosmann, Girl, Marni
2001 Dana Renneker Simons & Chad Simons, Boy, Owen
2001 Melissa Hemmelgarn & Fox & Mike Fox ’01, Girl, Emily
2002 Stephanie Braegelmann LaBine & Nathan LaBine, Boy, Carden
2002 Karin Najarian Charron & David Charron, Boy, Paul
2002 Julie Hanson Zimmy & Adam Zimmy ’02, Girl, Addison
2002 Kate Wood Wynn & Kelly Wynn ’01, Boy, Everett
2002 Jadene Pieper Stuewe & Andrew Stuewe, Girl, Eva
2002 Kriste Johnson Cheeley & Nate Cheeley ’03, Boy, Brody
2002 Ann Popowsky Bailey & Todd Bailey, Boy, Tyler
2003 Angela Jordan & Garrett Jordan, Girl, Stella
2003 Sarah Gottwald Wilczek & Alan Wilczek ’04, Boy, Owen
2003 Lindsay Etter McCarthy & John McCarthy ’03, Girl, Reagan
2003 Molly Miller Casey & Kyle Casey ’02, Boy, Carter
2003 Anne Radabaugl Darling & Matthew Darling ’04, Girl, Brynn
2004 Libby Homan Joyce & Timothy Joyce ’04, Girl, Betsy
2005 Amanda Thompson Ramler & Wayne Ramler, Girl, Madeline
2005 Emily Terpstra Utsch & Adam Utsch ’05, Girl, Miley

ALUMNAE NEWS & NOTES

For complete news and notes from classmates, log on to the online community.

1947 Mary Lou Mamer Williams presented a series on Mozart’s music and life at St. Peter’s in Mendota, MN, and will repeat this at the CSB Eldersho- tel June 1-5. In Fall 2008, she will present a Beethoven Series at St. Peter’s.

1956 Loretta O’Hern Kelly’s son Kevin married in the Stillwater area. Jeanne Scholtz Doran has a half- time job at a Litchfield nursing home. She enjoys her twin granddaughters who both attend art colleges. Sylvia Berg-Forgot wrote that twin great-grandsons live in Athens, Greece. Sister Margaret (Julann) Kramer’s monastery in St. Paul has been sold. A smaller facility for the 57 nuns will be built soon. Mae Rous Stifter told of her grandchildren, Gabriel, Elijah and Josiah. She said, “with those names I should at least get a prophet or a priest.” Many of us attended the 50th anniversary of Helen Hasling Verkuilen and Veek in Little Falls, MN. Their five kids gave them a trip to Italy. Also married 50 years are Eleanor Zenit Fortuna and Frank who celebrated in Indianapolis. A family reunion marked the 50th of Sylvia Muggil Emmons and Charlie. Sylvia was the recipient of a “Lifetime Achievement Volunteer Excellence Award” for her work at Air Force bases. Way to go, Sylvia! Mary Kay Braus Hunt and Bob spent 8 weeks in Uganda working on activities related to primary health care. Liz Anderson Hartle and daughter Meg are planning a trip to Ireland. Ruth McCàrville Nelson and Carl have an “empty nest.” Daughter Erin married Jon in May. Joan Nigg Baxter Stone and Tom enjoy golf and their children’s families. Joan’s daughter Susan was evacuated from their Carlsbad home during the California fires. Smoke and ash was their only damage. Marilyn Scholl Schmidt and Joe continue their non-stop activity. Kids fill much of their time. S. Roberta (Carol) Werner thinks the “powers” at the monastery realize that they’ve found a dedicated worker and keep on pil- ling “little” jobs for her to accomplish.

1959 Marilyn Hartman Tisserand is enjoying retirement with travels to Alaska, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Ecuador, Antarctica and South America. Her son Michael’s book “Sugar Cane Academy” tells the story of their evacuation from New Orleans to LaFayette after hurricane Katrina.

1960 Barb Towome Wolfe, Jane Opaz Lynch, Sarah Pollock Watson, Mary Lefrous Weitzel, Sandy
Stotko Lommel, Lois Lommel, Pat Rengel, Carolyn Moosbrugger Lyfogt, Arlene Inderrieden Opstad, and Judy Varner Nelson celebrated our 70th birthdays in Arizona. Jane Opatz Lynch and husband went to the Caribbean and Mediterranean. Barb Twomey Wolfe toured Europe and met up with her son Tim. Irene Bates Sullivan and husband Ed, son Alex and girlfriend flew to Washington D.C. She is involved in church committees and her love of quilting. Lois Lommel has identical twin granddaughters, Sephora and Maia to daughter Nina (age 43).

1961
Arlo Lincoln Hobbs requests prayers for her son, John Reineke. He suffers from TIA's and severe migraines. St. Benedict's Monastery named the new Oblate Library in honor of Mary Frank Thomas.

1967
Ginny Blomme Bisek and Jim '67 traveled to Russia for 3 weeks. Yvette Lebrun Krech completed a bike/barge trip to Belgium and Netherlands. They, too, completed bike trips in Austria and Italy. Jane Charrier Robinson took in SJU’s homecoming and met up with Marilyn Maus Anthoney and Mary Brua Noack. Ruth Krech Degen continues as an account manager for Oracle USA and has joined the CSB Campaign Leadership and Steering Committee. Mark and Eleanor (Georgi) Betting Maauquise have just completed “Families of Costa Rica”, part of their ongoing Families of the World programs for children. They are downsizing and will be renting a smaller house in Wilmington, Delaware. Our condolences go out to Bernie Reardon who lost her sister-in-law Patricia in May, brother Dennis in July and sister Anita in October. Irma Thies retired, for the second time, from the Allina Office of Philanthropy. She is finding a rhythm to her retirement. All advice is welcome. Ruth Krech Degen retired from Oracle. She now has time for cooking classes, skiing and travel.

1968
Mary Ellen McGraw Kenney is now at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton as Director of Faith Formation.

1972
Mary Patnode retired as Special Education Program Coordinator for a self-contained program for adolescents with emotional behavioral disabilities.

1974
Andrea Klaazy Jekes accepted a position at Concordia Dental in Winnipeg, Manitoba as Manager. Mary Kay Schanhaar Welle is a Professor of Nursing at Saint Mary’s in Notre Dame, IN.

1975
Nancy Sauer and Bobaczrowski ’74 became grandparents to Tyler James Kaczrowski and Bob aczrowski ’74.

1977
Deborah Roshaven Overholzer is principal at St. Francis Catholic School in Brainerd, MN.

1978
Laurie Norton writes, “I have been a flight attendant for NWA since graduation. I was able to hook up with Tim ’78 and Sun Heberlein in Hong Kong and Beijing. I spend a month each winter in Puerto Vallarta, MX, where I lived for 8 years. I now live on Music Row in Nashville, with my songwriter fiancé. I spent several months in East Grand Forks caring for my mother. Gloriann Zimmer, who passed away last November. Theresa Keaveny flew in from Billings to sing at the funeral.” Nancy Lautenbach Kerestes accepted a position at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, MN as Registered Nurse.

1979
Jane Pollock Johnson is a Cardiopulmonary Supervisor at Fairview Northland Medical Center in Princeton, MN.

1980
Marianne Pattee accepted a position at Bumby and Associates as Director of Business Associates.

1981
Cathy Super Buggy and husband Jon have 3 Sophomores: Emily (Spanish) & Laura (Math) are at Saint Ben’s and Saint John’s, and Patrick is at Hopkins High School in Minnesota, MN. After 20 years of volunteer work and doing the Mom job, Cathy is career searching! “I’m not sure where my path is leading, but I’m excited to explore and find out. I enjoy being on CSB and SJU campuses. Greetings to all my Bennie and Johnnie friends!”

1982
Debbie Kowalczyk Holland is an accountant at Orion Associates.

1983
Lori Meyer accepted a position at Michigan Corrections as Food Service Supervisor. Linda Robinson Wipperfing is a Special Education Teacher at Rochester Public Schools.

1984
Laurie Lynne Cross died on January 21, 2008 after a valiant fight with cancer. Her memory is with those who knew and loved her. On behalf of her fellow classmates at CSB we send our condolences and support to her family.

1985
Kathy Lowe Zappa is at Ingenuity Marketing as Communication Consultant.

1986
Ranette Sindorm Fischer accepted a position at Life Plan Trust as a Family Service Coordinator. Carol Mueller-Leavitt is a physical therapist at Fairview Lakes Medical Center in Wyoming, MN.

1987
Wendy Kandenbauer Borgen accepted a position at University of Minnesota as Marketing Manager for Academic Health Services.

1988
Mary Pat Reimer Sueker is a Human Resource Manager at Ingersoll Rand in Bloomington, MN. She was employed at Fish and Richardson.

1989
Laura Imdieke accepted a position at Todd County Social Services in Long Prairie. Teresa Lamusga Hunt accepted a position at Broadway Animal Hospital. Lisa Lent started her own business. Catherine Frye accepted a position at Sygenta in Durham, IN as a Patent Agent. Karen Conrey Harthorn writes, “I’ve been working as the Director of Purchasing Services for the University of St. Thomas for the last year and I love it. My husband, David, and I have 5 children (ages 3-13) and live in Lino Lakes, MN. Our oldest son has cerebral palsy and my husband has multiple sclerosis. We’ve been very involved with his therapies and Gillette Children’s Hospital. If anyone would like to connect on these topics (or others), please do! You can also visit our Caring Bridge site at http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/davidandconnorharthorn.”

1990
Maggi Moettell accepted a position at Open Systems Accounting Software in Shakopee, MN as Senior Program Analyst.

1991
Aimee Steck Bush accepted a position at a Pharmaceutical Company in Sales and Marketing.

1992
Theresa Bubak is Sales Manager at Stitch-It.

1993
Sandra Longhorn received Arkansas Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship for demonstrating her career commitment to poetry and creating a substantial body of work. She received $4,000 for her accomplishment.

1994
Melissa Clarke Schonecker accepted a position at Fairisc as an Accounts Manager.

1995
Pamela Zimetz Bowman accepted a position at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN as a Supervisor. Tracy Gappa writes, “I live in Parker, Arizona where I am a School Psychologist for students with academic, behavior and mental health issues. This year, I have been able to work with students who have autism. Parker School District is a public system serving a reservation. The Colorado River Indian Tribe consists of Mohave, Hopi, Navajo and Chemehuevi tribes. The poverty rate in Parker is high, as is fetal alcohol syndrome and drug exposure which impacts many of the students. My family consists of me and my Weimaraner, Major.”

1996
Michelle Weber Bayer accepted a position at Optum Health as Marketing Manager. Andrea Williams Wan is an Attorney at Gilbert and Greif, PA.

1997
Brandi Swanson Bresnahan is a Second Grade Teacher at Howard Lake Waverly Winsted.
1998

Liz Fogarty is an Assistant Professor at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC.

1999

Maggie Miller was named Marketing Communications Manager for The Saint Paul Foundation and Minnesota Community Foundation. She will be responsible for publications and media relations.

2000

Michelle Gricus continues to work as a Program Manager for Mental Health Resources in Minneapolis. She lives in South St. Paul and completed her greatest accomplishment—remodeling her basement using her own (and friends’) two hands! She is looking forward to showing it off at her 30th birthday party in July. Dawn Anderson Hill accepted a position at St. Cloud Hospital in MN as a Nurse. Janelle Juennen Kelly accepted a position at Durango High School as a Counselor.

2002

In September 2008, several Bennie Alums will walk miles in the Breast Cancer 3-Day as part of Team Bust-A-Move. Colleen Frank, Meaghan VanderSanden, Angela Broadwater, Katie Goracke, Moira Forsbury ’04 and Becky Fitch (Bennie Friend) came together in 2005 when Meaghan, Moira and Colleen’s mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. Each walker has committed to raise $2,200. For information about the 3-Day and Team Bust-A-Move: http://08.th3day.org/goto/bustamove. Tiffany Ogle was named the new Entertainment Personality for Atomic Deals TV (www.AtomicDeals.com). This summer she will be hosting her 2nd season of “GoldBound” on KARE 11 on Sunday. Visit www.TiffanyOgle.com for more information. Sue Wimmer Sexton accepted a Post-Degree Fellowship Position with Hamm Memorial Psychiatric Clinic, in St. Paul. Sarah Miller accepted a position at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, MN as the Assistant Director of Grad Business Alum Relations. In addition, Sarah launched a new personal coaching business called Envision Life Coaching. She completed her MBA in May 2007 and will finish her Life Coaching certification by the end of Summer 2008.

2003

Nicole Lucas relocated to San Diego. She is currently working in Marketing and Public Relations at California Western School of Law. She is living on Coronado Island with her sister Melissa. Nicole can be contacted at nucas10@gmail.com.

2004

Katherine Beech received a Masters Degree in TESOL from New York University in August. She resides in New York City and per a partnership for teacher excellence scholarship is employed in the Bronx as an ESL department chair and teacher. Samantha Henningson accepted a position at City of St Paul as Ward 4 Legislative Aide. She is looking forward to showing it off at her basement using her own (and friends’) two hands! She is looking forward to showing it off at her 30th birthday party in July. Dawn Anderson Hill accepted a position at St. Cloud Hospital in MN as a Nurse. Janelle Juennen Kelly accepted a position at Durango High School as a Counselor.

2005

Tiffany Taylor earned her Master’s Degree in December 2007 and will serve as a Residential Life Coordinator (RLC) for 3 first year buildings at San Jose State University. Mary Goege Zenzen accepted a position at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal in Minneapolis, MN as a Researcher. Christina Hylden has matriculated into the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in Bethesda, Md., as a medical student and a graduate of the Class of 2011. She will be trained and prepared to serve as a physician in the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Public Health Service to meet the wartime and peacetime medical needs of the U.S. Armed Forces, at home and abroad. Angela Haen and Ari Paiczewski are engaged. The wedding is October 18, 2008.

2006

Krista Matefy accepted a position at Bridal Accents in Savage, MN. Bri Kendall accepted a position at St. Paul Public Schools in St. Paul, MN as a Bilingual Aid. Molly Laatsch Wurm accepted a position at VA Hospital in St. Cloud, MN as a Registered Nurse. Kat Pfannenstein accepted a position at SDAR in Dubois, WY as a Wellness Instructor. Laura Wilant writes, “I am running the 2008 Edinburgh Marathon for Breast Cancer Care Scotland. I am running on behalf of all of the women in my life, living and in memory. Of my inspirations are women I have met through the women in my life, living and in memory. Most of my inspirations are women I have met through the women in my life, living and in memory. Most of my inspirations are women I have met through the women in my life, living and in memory. Most of my inspirations are women I have met through the women in my life, living and in memory. Most of my inspirations are women I have met through the women in my life, living and in memory.”

2007

Eleanor Sequeira accepted a position at Moley Law Firm as a Marketing Coordinator. Jacqueline Hlavka accepted a position at Hutchinsong Technology Inc. in Human Resources. Teresa Knapper and Zach Johnson are engaged. The wedding is in September 2009. Clarey McKeown and Brendan McInerney ’07 will marry in June 2009.

In Memoriam (Sept. 2007 to Feb. 2008)

1926 Norbert Lang ’37, brother of Margo Lange Wilde
1933 Hildegard Schwinghammer Nett
1937 Gerald Beaudy, brother of Lillian Beaudy Zeiner
1937 Giselle Welegleiter Bachman ’37
1939 John Kuefier ’39, brother of Wivina Kuefler Malveaux
1940 Lorayne Kelb Cummings
1940 LeRoy Bergen, spouse of Martha Tembrock Bergen

In 2007, Kimberly Blaeser ’77 released the book, Apprenticed to Justice.
Jennifer Nord Mallard ’94 and husband Jay welcomed Elizabeth Ellen. She has bright blonde hair, just like her big sister Lainey!!

Bennies in the Bahamas

On January 15, alumnae, family, and friends gathered to reminisce and celebrate the first 4-year degree program in the Bahamas that was pioneered by Saint Ben’s alumna, Telzena Coakley ‘62. Since 1974, more than 2,200 Bahamian women have attended Saint Ben’s in Minnesota and the campus in Nassau.

In 1983, Telzena Coakley and her sisters flew to Saint Ben’s for the graduation of their fourth sibling from the college. From left to right: the late Pandora Sands, Pamrica Ferguson, Telzena, and Dorothy Bain.

Anishka Adderley, Mrs. Judith Adderley, Hiltina Adderley-Scott

Ampusam Symonette and President Baenninger

Mrs. Emily Osadabey, Allyson Mycklewhye, and Jacqueline Mycklewhye

Pamela Woods

Janet Lundy, Natasha Austin, Marjorie Ramsey, and Deborah Garland

Kira Styles

College of the Bahamas President Janyme Hodder welcomed a delegation from Saint Ben’s. Dr. Linda Davis ’77 (far left) is a vice president for the College of Bahamas.

S. Annie Thompson, Jacqueline Bethel, S. Mary Benedict Pratt OSB Prioress, Telzena Coakley

Faculty and Staff

John Hassler

Art Spring

Nicholas Zaczkowski

Connie Zierdan

Jennifer Nord Mallard ’94 and husband Jay welcomed Elizabeth Ellen. She has bright blonde hair, just like her big sister Lainey!!

1974  Ann Shiely, mother of Mary Shiely Turbak
1974  Victor Stein, father of Mary Stein Brachman
1974  Kathleen Merz, mother of Mary Merz Maginnis
1974  Giselle Wendlmair Bachman ’37, mother of Shelley Bachman Delong
1975  Elmer Wolfsinkel, father of Stephanie Wolf
1975  Barbara Engel Lodin
1976  Myrtle Carlson, mother of Josephine Carlson Englund
1976  William Plantenberg, father of Dorothea Plantenberg Stockinger
1976  Ronald Blenkush, brother of Jeanne Blenkush Warren
1976  Wilfred Blenkush, father of Jeanne Blenkush Warren, July ’06
1976  Harold Boquist, father of Sharon Boquist
1977  Florentine Roelike, mother of Mary Jane Roelike Blonigen
1977  William Nilles, father of Patricia Nilles Clark
1977  Frank Schloemer, father of Connie Schloemer Gerster
1977  Jerome Pratt, father of Barbara Pratt
1978  Susan Kuhl, mother of Delphine Kuhl Sexton
1978  Richard Dunsmore, Sr., father of Carol Dunsmore
1978  Gladys Ardoil, mother of Doris Ardoil Thompson
1978  Brian Schroder, spouse of Geralyn Olive Schroder
1978  William Nilles, father of Catherine Nilles
1978  Fred Baker, father of Katherine Baker Lauer
1978  Fred Baker, father of Barbara Baker
1978  Alvina Kutzman, mother of Linda Lutman Leedahl
1978  Kathleen Merz, mother of Marcia Merz Dreis
1979  Bernard Wilhelm, father of Ann Wilhelm Schleper
1979  Eileen Bortolussi, mother of Patricia Bortolussi Raine
1979  Timothy Stovern ’78, spouse of Susan Olsen Stovern
1979  Richard Dunsmore, Sr., father of Deb orah Dunsmore Meyer
1979  Marilyn Gengler, mother of Sandra Gengler Nilges
1979  Marilyn Gengler, mother of Susan Gengler Carroll
1979  Ronald Blenkush, brother of Collette Blenkush Traut
1980  Sylvester Hauser, father of Laurie Hauser Tauer
1980  Ann Shiely, mother of Jane Shiely Powell
1980  Harlan Waterhouse, father of Gloria Waterhouse Young
1980  Mike Cowley, brother of Catherine Cowley
1980  Steven McDowall, brother of Mary McDowall
1980  George McDowall, father of Mary McDowall
1980  Elizabeth Routsen, sister of Deb Routsen Hudson
1980  Arthur Peabody, father of Amy Peabody Carr
1981  Mickey Lenzmeier, father of Linda Lenzmeier Kunkel
1981  Kathleen Theisen, mother of Darla Theisen and Lisa Theisen Germsehld
1981  Patrick Donnelly, step-father to Patricia Regnell Hamling
1981  Alvina Blatz Kell, mother of Janice Kell Foley
1981  Dolores Slater, mother of Pamela SlaterSchultz
1982  Charles Kump, father of Sharon Kump Litch
1982  Bernard Bot ’42, father of Lois Bot Spaton
1983  Kathleen Foley, sister of Lisa Reuder
1983  Nick Zaczkowski ’47, father of Barbara Zaczkowski Klockier
1983  Mary Leason, mother of Karla Leason Winkelman
1984  Patrick Donnelly, step-father to Julie Regnell Wiltzacher
1984  James Henry, father of Jeanine Henry Dimerplo
1984  Bernard Wilhelm, father of Mary Wilhelm Anderson
1984  Fred Baker, father of Monica Baker McMahon
1984  Laurie Cross
1985  Sylvester Hauser, father of Mary Hauser Schmitt
1985  Richard Dunsmore, Sr., father of Patricia Dunsmore Gill
1986  Joseph Delaney, father of Dianne Delaney
1986  Ronald Blenkush, brother of Jacqueline Blenkush Fladung
1986  Maximus Spanier-Stinnett, son of Maria Spanier
1987  Bud Ruprecht, father of Linda Ruprecht Fry
1987  Fred Baker, father of Jeanne Baker Meyer
1987  Laurie Cross, sister of Debra Cross
1988  James Gergen, father of Sue Gergen
1988  Virginia Kramer, mother of Jean Kramer Lacey
1988  Kristine Fontaine, sister of Laurie Fontaine Junker
1988  Barbara Fitzpatrick ’91, sister of Catherine Fitzpatrick
1988  Bernard Bot ’42, father of Rita Bot Masat
1989  Marjorie Hogan, mother of Amy Hogan Nelson
1989  Donald Katchmark, father of Janelle Katchmark Petrusa
1989  DeLores Absey, mother of Diane Absey Gennaro
1990  Donald Lipinski, father of Cathy Lipinski Olson
1990  Dr. David Judge ’58, father of Anne Judge Bowling
1991  Kristine Cunningham Rose
1991  Barbara Fitzpatrick
1991  Kristine Cunningham Rose, sister of Colleen Cunningham Orne
1991  Kenneth Jackson, father of Lynn Jackson Ocoma
1992  Mickey Lenzmeier, father of Lois Lenzmeier
1992  Oda Phillips, father of Laena Phillips Pfeiffer
1992  William Juneau, brother of Bridget Juneau Sura
1993  Judith Metting Coplan, sister of S. Janine Metting
1993  Layla Ehlers, daughter of Melissa Hergen Ehlers
1995  Kathie Davis, mother of Marcia Davis Timlin
1997  Gary Stotz, father of Billie Stotz Kimman
1997  Jack Alimom, step-father of Gina Claussen
1997  Vera Stahl, mother of Brenda Stahl Escamilla
1998  Dean Trutnau, father of Angela Trutnau
1999  Gary Stotz, father of Bobbi Stotz Scherpung
2000  Bernice Masberg, mother of Kristine Masberg
2003  David Marrone, brother of Deborah Marrone
2004  Jeff Wolnik, father of Jackie Wolnik
2005  Lawrence Hladky, father of Lacy Hladky
2005  Timothy Stovern ’78, father of Lindsay Stovern
2005  Lawrence Hladky, father of Lacy Hladky
2005  Timothy Stovern ’78, father of Lindsay Stovern
2001  Bernice Masberg, mother of Kristine Masberg
2003  David Marrone, brother of Deborah Marrone
2004  Jeff Wolnik, father of Jackie Wolnik
2005  Lawrence Hladky, father of Lacy Hladky
2005  Timothy Stovern ’78, father of Lindsay Stovern
There are, no doubt, many alumnae whose work involves keeping the public safe. Alexis Brunner Puerta ’96 works in an industry that we rarely, if ever, appreciate for its public safety aspect. Her work involves the metallurgical, mechanical and chemical analysis of materials and products that, if unsafe or unanalyzed, we all hear about.

Alexis analyzes alloy composition in such products as:
- kitchen supplies – certain materials cause adverse reactions with food;
- automotive and aerospace industry samples from structural components (frames, casings, nuts, bolts) as well as engine components – they all require certain chemistries to perform their functions without rusting, wearing, or cracking;
- tools, including drill bits, saw blades and teeth, hammers, and pliers – for the purpose of product improvement and comparison with competitors.

Alexis’ workplace, IMR Test labs, in Lansing, New York, also does a tremendous amount of testing for lead in toys, jewelry and ceramics that are sold in the U.S.

American industries that manufacture or distribute electronic components globally must rely on companies like IMR Labs to test for limits of such “declarable” substances as lead, mercury, and brominated flame retardants in their products. This is especially important for exports to Europe, where standards can be much stricter than in the U.S.

How did Alexis end up as the lead chemist in a test lab?
She was committed to chemistry as an undergraduate – although she also found time to break some records on the track team, serve as an elected representative on the Student Administrative Board (now called the Senate), and work as a resident assistant in the student development program and, later, as a teaching assistant in the chemistry department. She participated in a summer research program after her junior year at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center and, returned to CSB to complete an honors thesis with Dr. Richard White.

Her study of the temperature dependence of ultra-violet absorption of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) interested NASA because, at some wavelengths, SO₂ overlaps with the absorption of ozone. Ozone, of course, is of great interest to our atmospheric environment. At Goddard, Alexis attempted to set up a temperature controlled SO₂ cell with UV lamp and detector to collect data. (Without a lot of luck, she says.) At Saint Ben’s she looked at the theoretical concepts behind the temperature dependence.

Alexis believes that the combination of her summer project and her honors thesis played a direct role in her acceptance into graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania. She earned her Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry there and then accepted a 2-year teaching fellowship at Hobart and Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York. Although she enjoyed her fellowship tremendously, she was eager to do something outside of academia and decided to try.

“I am proud that the work I do makes the world a safer place. Not only because we can keep people informed about potentially dangerous elements present in materials, but, because without the correct alloy composition, structural materials can fail,” she says. Since none of us wants jet engine components to fail, for example, it is imperative that there are chemists who are committed to materials testing.

Her advice for chemistry majors is good advice for all of us. “Be open to new industries that you might not have heard a lot about; you just might discover a new area that is interesting and fulfilling.”
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