

# Saint Benedict's

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2009

Bennies share  
their **passion** for  
**public service**



COLLEGE OF  
Saint Benedict



## contributors



Collegeville native Julianne O'Connell Restani '88 worked as an English teacher at St. John's Prep and Hill Murray High School, taught ESL at Hamline University and at the Nicolson Institute in Rome, Italy. Various other jobs included a week-long stint with Vatican Radio, nannying, managing an Italian restaurant, writing advertising copy, working in a photo studio and as a librarian. Now she is a freelance writer, a contributor to A Prairie Home Companion Radio Hour and is helping to research West Nile virus by trapping/studying Chihuahuan ravens in New Mexico with her husband, Dr. Marco Restani.



Shaina Anderson will graduate in May from Saint Ben's with a double major in Communications and English. Originally from Plymouth, she lives in a Saint Joe apartment and misses the hustle of city life.

Shaina studied abroad on the Roman-Greco program and slept on a rock in Cinque Terre, Italy. Her favorite movie is *Madagascar*, and her best friend is convinced the only reason Shaina wants to have kids is so she has an excuse to see animated movies. Not far from the truth. After graduation, Shaina's dream is to work in marketing and communications and is willing to work wherever the wind blows.

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## 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.*



# FROM THE PRESIDENT



## The year of hope

On January 20, the United States will take part in the historic swearing in of our 44th president, Barack Obama.

Why, one might wonder, in these times of global economic turmoil, war, and a general distrust in our elected officials in Washington D.C., would somebody want the job of president of the United States? Power? A place in the history books? Unlimited access to a really cool plane?

I think in President Obama's case, his reason rang loud and clear on the cover of his book, *The Audacity of Hope*. Leaders of extraordinary vision and faith can scan the seemingly most dire of circumstances and see enormous potential and worth. Further, leaders of extraordinary vision and faith restore hope and inspire us to truly believe that we can be a force for positive change, we can prevail, and we can visualize and realize a greater good for us all.

In this issue, we celebrate those among us who have chosen a life of public service. Whether elected, appointed, or simply called to lead by their internal compasses, our Bennies share what fuels their fire.

You'll also see snapshots from the conclusion of our

historic capital campaign *Our Place in the World: A Campaign to Inspire and Transform*. This is yet another example of the leadership and commitment demonstrated by our many volunteers, staff, board members, and campaign committees who boldly shared their vision of the best Saint Ben's experience and sought the resources to bring the vision to life.

Finally, you'll meet our first recipients of the *Marie and Robert Jackson Fellowships* in civic engagement. These young women and men signed up for a summer of service and received valuable life lessons in the process.

In closing, I'd like to honor our dear friend, colleague, and fearless leader Brother Dietrich Reinhart. Brother Dietrich is approaching his battle with melanoma as he did his 17-year presidency at Saint John's University, with the courage, grace, and quiet wisdom that are the hallmarks of his leadership. His passion and commitment for the students of Saint John's and Saint Ben's set a benchmark for all campus leaders to measure up to. He is continually held dear in our hearts and our prayers.

May your 2009 be filled with courage, vision, and, above all, enduring hope.

# AROUND CAMPUS



## Saint Ben's Celebrates Historic Campaign Conclusion

Hundreds of alumnae, donors, students, and friends of Saint Ben's gathered for a night of celebration and thanks Sept. 20, 2008. The event marked the successful conclusion of CSB's historic **Our Place in the World** campaign. In addition to ending the campaign a year ahead of schedule, **\$82.7 million** was raised -- nearly three times the amount of any previous campaign. Gifts will support **scholarships, campus enhancements,** and academic programs like **research, service learning, and professorships.**



## DID YOU KNOW?

CSB/SJU enrolled **3,965** students this year, just behind last year's total of 3,966.

Saint Ben's's enrollment is 2,068. First-year student enrollment at CSB is 519.

First- to second-year retention totaled 90 percent, a rate among the highest in the country.

### S. Colman O'Connell '49 honored for Outstanding Contribution to Philanthropy

In November 2008, Sister Colman O'Connell was recognized by the Association for Fundraising Professionals for her 50+ years of inspiration, leadership, and passion. More than 75 alumnae, staff, and friends of the college joined the crowd at the National Philanthropy Day celebration in Bloomington to honor Colman's commitment to women's education and the College of Saint Benedict.



## Jam the gym for Durbin's 500th Win!

On Saturday, January 31, 2009, we'll jam the gym in Claire Lynch hall to celebrate Blazer basketball coach Mike Durbin's 500th win.

Mike is in his 23rd season coaching the Blazers basketball team. He has been named Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Coach of the Year four times and has been honored as the NCAA Division III National Coach of the Year twice. His 338th victory on December 1, 2001, against Macalester College gave him the record for most overall wins in the MIAC by a women's basketball coach.

Last season, the Blazer basketball team was named to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll for NCAA Division III teams. It was the fourth time under Durbin's tenure that the Blazer basketball team received this honor.

Mike and assistant basketball coach Denny Johnson will also celebrate their 500th win together as a coaching dynamic duo.

### Celebrate with Coach Durbin and the Blazers

Saturday, January 31, 2009

3 p.m.

Cheer on the Blazers as they take on  
Saint Mary's University Cardinals in Claire Lynch Hall

5 p.m.

Pasta Buffet

Alumnae Hall in Haehn Campus Center

Tickets: \$15 per person

Get a FREE game pass for your family and purchase tickets for the dinner online at:

[www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/events/](http://www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/events/)

*Stay tuned for the May issue of Saint Benedict's magazine for a feature on Mike Durbin.*



## Four named to the College of Saint Benedict Board of Trustees

S. Mary Catherine Holicky, OSB, has been the director of vocation ministry for Saint Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph since 2002. She served as director of postulants and faith formation team at the monastery from 2003-05. Prior to that, she was director of campus ministry at Saint Ben's as well as director of faith

formation at four central Minnesota parishes. Holicky is active in regional and national vocation conferences and committees. She has a master of arts degree from Seattle University in Seattle, and a bachelor of arts from the College of St. Teresa in Winona, Minn.



Rosetta Ross is an associate professor of religion (on leave) at Spelman College, Atlanta. Prior to teaching at Spelman, she was a faculty member at the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and a faculty member at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta. She is also an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. Ross has a bachelor of arts degree from the College

of Charleston, S.C.; a master's degree from Howard University, Washington, D.C.; and a master's of divinity and doctorate degrees from Emory University, Atlanta. She wrote a book, "*Witnessing and Testifying: Black Women, Religion, and Civil Rights*," in 2003. Ross is a former scholar at the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research.



Lisa Spoden '83 has served as executive vice president and co-owner of Strategic Health Care Company in Washington, D.C., and Columbus, Ohio, since 1995. The management consulting firm specializes in government and regulatory affairs, public relationship management, association management, network development and managed care contracting for health care providers. From 1982-95, she served

in planning, marketing and business development positions at five different hospital or health care organizations in Wisconsin and Ohio. Spoden, a native of Foley, Minn., received a master's degree from Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, Wisc. and a doctorate from Columbus University, La. Spoden will serve as Saint Ben's Alumna In Residence this spring.



Stephanie Wolf '75 is CEO and owner of SportsMind, LLC, a consulting and training organization which serves Fortune 500 companies, and president of TKUU, which designs and markets a variety of products, including the high-fashion jeans of ProportionofBlu. SportsMind is one of the nation's largest organizational change management consulting practices. Wolf founded the

company in 1983 after working in executive positions with Montgomery Ward, Neiman-Marcus, NutriSystem and Jenny Craig. She is also co-author of "*40 Days to Prosperity*," a well-received guidebook to spiritual well-being. She recently served as the first Saint Ben's Alumna In Residence, conducting 13 training and coaching programs, which involved more than 500 students.





# Call to Service

by Julianne O'Connell '87

Pick a summer job from this list:

- Babysitter
- House painter
- Lawn care specialist
- Helping people better their lives and neighborhood in ways that will benefit us all.

Tough pick? Yes, tough... to narrow down the list of applicants who wanted a summer of service.

Thanks to an anonymous gift to create the Marie and Robert Jackson Fellowships in civic engagement, 10 students from Saint Ben's and Saint John's were awarded -- as Senior Ashleigh Leitch put it -- "dream situations for us all."

Jackson Fellows were selected based on their past commitment to service and high academic standing. The tough selection was done by Service-Learning Coordinator Marah Jacobson-Schulte and Dr. Matt Lindstrom, director of the Eugene McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement and associate professor of political science. These two also coordinated all site visits, workshops, and lectures for the fellows over the summer.

The hours were the same as any other summer job, but that's where the similarities end.

Ashleigh interned for Minnesota Western Legal Services; Stacey Endres '09 served at Quiet Oaks Hospice House; and Lindsey Cermak '10 spent time at the Reuben Lindh Family Services, a program that preserves and nurtures families in the context of their culture. Heather Cederholm '10 participated in RNeighbors in Rochester, a group dedicated to organizing neighborhoods into thriving and livable

communities. Katie Holt '09 immersed herself in Cedar Riverside People's Clinic, a medical care facility open to everyone regardless of income. Anna Schumacher '10 spent her time with Minnesota Campus Compact; its 50 member colleges and universities are committed to developing leadership, citizenship and academic success for all Minnesotans.

Before the summer began, they met with Maribeth Overland, Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development. She had this to say about the first group of Fellows, "In general, all of them seemed to approach this experience with great gusto and 'can-do' attitude. They blended this with a 'but-I-have-a-lot-to-learn' attitude that I find present in most exemplary leaders."

Summer jobs usually fade out of our collective memories, but for these six women, their jobs won't. Their time as the first Jackson Fellows have become life changing experiences. Katie, a future doctor, saw her plans change, "Now I want to use my medical training to do human rights work, both nationally and internationally." The same sentiment is matched by Ashleigh, a future attorney. She adds that after legal services entrusted her to research and inform a client of their legal rights, "I was honored to work so directly on this case because it showed I had earned the trust of the attorneys, and I realized how much passion I have for using the law to empower and protect marginalized people."

Lindsey, a humanities major, explains it this way, "Everyone around me, parents, children and co-workers had a positive influence on me. Their hope, compassion and determination were contagious." Anna says, "I know this experience will forever be a part of who I am, and I'll be a better person because of it."

The first Marie and Robert Jackson Fellows in civic engagement: (left photo) Lindsey Cermak, Zach Shaheen, Katie Holt; (middle photo) Stacey Endres, Joe Kane, Kurt Sorenson; (right photo) Heather Cederholm, Alex Kurt, and Ashleigh Leitch. Not pictured: Anna Schumacher, who now is studying in Chile.







# Oath of Office

by Shaina Anderson '09

Whether appointed, elected, or simply drawn to it, our Bennies in public policy and civic engagement approach their work with passion, intelligence, and a genuine care for the common good. Read what a few of them had to say about their commitment and convictions.



“I vow to provide a voice to those who may not have one.”

- Kimberly Switlick Prose '99,  
Public Health Specialist

**Kimberly Switlick Prose '99** is driven by inequities. Working in India last October, she read a story in the newspaper about a woman in labor. “The hospital denied her access because she didn’t have a slip from a doctor and the money to pay for the delivery,” she said. “The woman delivered the baby on the doorstep of the hospital. Sadly, healthcare is inaccessible to many people, particularly the poor and marginalized, many of them women.

“It is stories like this that drive me to do what I do.”

Kimberly works as a Public Health Specialist for BearingPoint Inc., a global management and technology consulting firm. BearingPoint is one of the largest contractors for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Kimberly helps developing countries improve access to health services and the health status of their population.

Stateside, she is focused on managing program work that is taking place in the field, including managing budgets and work plans and providing feedback for colleagues.

When Kimberly is in the field, she is “more focused on providing technical support to program objectives and monitoring progress that is being made. This entails visiting clients and counterparts and meeting with program beneficiaries to see program/policy impact.”

During her time at Saint Ben’s, Kimberly was involved in social justice organizations and tried to have many international experiences. After graduating with a degree in Chemistry, she spent a year volunteering in the West Bank and traveled in the Middle East. “It was there I gained a great appreciation for public policy and the impact that has on quality of living,” she said.

She returned to the U.S. to pursue a graduate degree in Public Health Policy at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and traveled to Bangladesh for her thesis work looking at reproductive health policy and gender and health issues.

Her work isn’t glamorous. “People consider the travel to be exciting and exotic,” she said. “Many times it is, but it’s also quite exhausting (jet lag), lonely (eating meals alone in hotels), and frustrating (spending a lot of time in airports and immigration lines).”

Her work has obstacles as well. “There are a lot of politics in international development. There is substantial donor financing that originates from government agencies. These institutions are highly political by nature, which has an effect on the types of programming and policy work that you can do.”

Yet, she values her work. “Public policy and civic engagement allow us to advocate for our community,

providing a voice to those who may not have one,” Kimberly said. “It allows us to create an environment that is more equitable and one where people’s needs are met, regardless of discriminating factors, such as education, socio-economic status or gender.”

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What is a typical day like for **Honorable Elizabeth Hayden '68?**

“As varied as the personalities who appear before me and the nature of their legal issues,” she said.

Elizabeth is a District Court Judge in Stearns County. After graduating from Saint Ben’s with a degree in Social Work, she held positions “which allowed me the opportunity to work with lawyers, and those experiences piqued my interest in the law.” She decided to go to law school after she was the main witness for the state in a case.

“Having been subjected to a half day of ill-prepared cross-examination, I decided that I could do what that lawyer was doing - except that I would do it better because I would do my homework,” she said.

After law school, Elizabeth spent six years as a prosecutor in the Stearns County Attorney’s Office. In 1986, she was appointed to the bench by Governor Rudy Perpich.

Some days, Judge Hayden presides over 75 or more cases in a single day. “In a given week I may preside over serious criminal mat-

“I vow to show compassion to those who have been wronged, hurt, or may just be overwhelmed with life.”

- Elizabeth Hayden '68,  
District Court Judge



ters, complex civil litigation, family cases, probate, traffic and conciliation court cases in addition to other miscellaneous matters,” she said.

The schedule is often so busy that she calls her scheduling clerk “to ask when it would be convenient for me to go to the dentist.

“What makes the work so challenging, satisfying, surprising and often sad is the people who are appearing before me with problems that need to be solved,” Elizabeth said. “I have always enjoyed people, even during their most trying times.”

Recently at the conclusion of a jury trial, as the jurors were leaving the courthouse, a woman approached Elizabeth. The woman said that several years ago she appeared with her son in a juvenile court case. She said Elizabeth had questioned and lectured her son. “As a result of my discussion with her son, he turned to his mom on the courthouse steps, hugged her and thanked her for all she did for him.

“I’ve had people stop me in public places to thank me for helping them through their divorce by getting their case settled without the need for a trial,” she said.

It is stories like this that show why Elizabeth is passionate about her work and helping people. “If I can help them sort through their problems and bring some peace of mind or hope for their future, then it has been a good day.”

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Wish you could have stayed on a college campus after graduation? **Sarah Mechtenberg '99** gets to do just that, while improving the lives of poor youth in Bolivia.

Sarah works with the Carmen Pampa Fund, a non-governmental fund-raising organization in St. Paul, Minn. Carmen Pampa supports the Unidad Academia Campesina de Carmen Pampa (UAC-CP), a college in rural Bolivia that provides higher education and leadership opportunities for indigenous youth.

“There is so much energy, excite-

ment, enthusiasm, and idealism,” Sarah says of college campuses. “Here, that is compounded by the fact that I work with students who face challenges related to poverty in a developing country.

“For that reason, I’m even more inspired by the hope that students have here—their belief that they can go out and make a difference in the world.”

Sarah graduated from Saint Ben’s with a degree in peace studies. From there, she says she didn’t follow a path so much as ride a wave, accepting jobs throughout her career that came about at the right time. She volunteered at the UAC-CP for a few years. Then, Sarah returned to work in Minneapolis, until the Carmen Pampa Fund contacted her to see if she would like to return to the UAC-CP on their behalf.

As the communications liaison between the UAC-CP and the Carmen Pampa Fund, Sarah said, “I share the challenges, successes, and every day stories of our students, faculty, staff, volunteers, and lo-

“I vow to help young people become who they can be and should be.”

- Sarah Mechtenberg '99  
Communication Liaison





cal community members who are dedicated to improving the lives of indigenous youth.”

Sarah is constantly talking with students and graduates -- learning about their lives, their families, and their dreams.

Recently, she attended a dinner with members of the Carmen Pampa Fund and UAC-CP student body council. The student body president of the Agronomy department spoke about how the school has made a difference in his life.

Sarah saw it first hand. “I was there when he arrived as a first-year student. As the oldest child of a poor, single-parent family, he came to the college with little money. He talked to me about work to pay his \$12 monthly food fee,” she said. “I remember asking him to speak up.

He was so shy. I had a hard time understanding him.

“Today, he’s a different person. It’s phenomenal for me to be able to see this fundamental change in his character.”

Every day is different for Sarah working in Bolivia. Because she is responsible for sharing the UAC-CP story, she spends time interviewing students, writing stories for the Carmen Pampa Fund newsletter, and sharing her experiences on her personal blog – [www.uchumachi.blogspot.com](http://www.uchumachi.blogspot.com).

Sarah adds, “For a reason that I honestly can’t explain, I feel called to help the young people of the UAC-CP who, with so few resources to raise themselves out of poverty, have entrusted us to educate them and prepare them and help them improve not only their own lives and the lives of their families, but the lives of the people who live in their hometowns and local communities.”

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“I stand on the achievements of every previous generation, and these have all granted me life opportunities unparalleled in human history.” This is **Colleen Gross Ebinger’s** ’01 motivation for being involved in public policy. “We’re facing enormous challenges that we have to solve,” she said, including a ballooning federal debt, educational inequities, climate change, and global poverty.

“I want my generation to be remembered for having contributed something big to the world.”

At Root Cause, a Boston-based non-profit consulting firm and think tank on social innovation, Colleen directs the organization’s Public Innovators initiative that works directly with government leaders to identify and significantly scale up the most effective solutions to social problems.

One of their main projects has been supporting the Louisiana Lieutenant Governor’s Office in building a statewide, coordinated approach to solving social problems. “As the state rebuilds after recent hurricanes, it doesn’t want to simply replace the systems that were there before because many didn’t work,” she explains. “They want better solutions.”

Take ITNAmerica as an example. The founder’s 3-year-old son was hit by a car, which was operated by an aging driver who was no longer safe behind the wheel. Instead of the vengeful response many would have had, she set out to solve this man’s problem of mobility. Without a car, he was homebound.

“Her approach includes seniors as part of the solution, rather than as ‘clients who need help’. They have choices, and they can prepare for this stage of life in a dignified manner. In truth, they are in the driver’s seat...even if only figuratively. Now imagine if the number of these kinds of effective models doubled, tripled, grew exponentially? We have the ability and the knowledge to make real progress on so many fronts – all we need is the will.”

After graduating with degrees in political science and Spanish,

“I vow to pursue the most effective solutions to the challenging social problems of today.”

- Colleen Gross Ebinger '01  
Program director



Colleen joined the Peace Corps in Honduras where she worked with her local municipality to modernize its accounting and tax departments and open a nonprofit, self-sustaining satellite Internet center.

“With Internet and cell phones, the area could skip whole steps in the development process. School children who previously didn’t have access to a library and had never even been out of their town now had access to the globe,” she said.

Back in the U.S., Colleen launched a statewide civic engagement and advocacy program for Latino immigrants and worked on state and local immigration policy. She then earned a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.

Colleen sees involvement in public policy as far-reaching. “If we are to solve the big problems of our day, we need to have the conversations with people who are different from us with a sincere desire to understand their life experience and point of view,” she said. “Now more than ever it’s crucial that we stay engaged with the world. On an increasingly inter-connected planet, civic and policy engagement shouldn’t end at the border.”

**Diane Swanson '88** has first-hand experience with the stress and difficulty of having a sick child. “I know how much the support of the family by the hospital staff means to the welfare of that child,” she said. After the death of her child, “it was important to me to continue to do what I could to help other families keep their heads above water during one of the most stressful times in their lives.”

As volunteer president of the Children’s Hospital Association (CHA), Diane runs the single largest philanthropy fund for Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota. CHA works to provide economic assistance for the care and well-being of sick children with financial need, support education and research programs that benefit children’s health, and support health-related programs that contribute to the well-being of children and their families within the community.

Without the support of CHA, many programs would not be able to continue due to lack of funding within a traditional hospital budget. Diane said, “CHA has supported many groundbreaking programs over the years, including immunizations, to child abuse treatments, to

music therapy.”

Diane graduated with a degree in Business and Organizational Leadership. Her desire to volunteer was developed during her time at Saint Ben’s. Diane said, “Saint Ben’s taught me that we need to be selfless in our volunteering. That is what volunteering is all about.”

For Diane, being involved in public policy through volunteering is a responsibility. “We have responsibilities to our children and to our communities. We need to be involved in our children’s lives by being interested in what they do,” she said.

“We also have a responsibility to our community, volunteering to do something that is for the greater good, not something that is driven by how it will affect us personally,” Diane said.

Diane finds her reward in knowing she is helping families. “Because our focus is on programs and direct patient care, it really makes a difference in the lives of children every single day. When a child is sick, hurt, or troubled, the entire family is affected,” Diane said. “Even though I am one person, my work DOES make a difference because it is part of something so grand.”

“I vow to advance the outreach of Children’s Hospital Association to serve children at risk within our community.”

-Diane Swanson '88  
President, Children’s Hospital Association



# ALUMNAE MILESTONES

For complete news and notes from classmates, log on to [www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/news](http://www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/news)

The Alumnae Class Notes section has undergone some changes which will affect future submissions. Depending on space availability, the class notes section will only contain alumnae milestones or professional advancement updates. Personal announcements of marriages, births and deaths will get printed if they have taken place in the past 12 months from the date of the magazine.

For a full version of class notes, please check [www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/classpages](http://www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/classpages)

For current updates from classmates and to post your notes go to the online community: [www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/community](http://www.csbsju.edu/csbalum/community)

## 1946

**Lois Levasseur Liners** was the recipient of the Mother Benedicta Riepp Award for her lifetime commitment to Benedictine values. She established, with her husband Bob, dental clinics in numerous international locations for people who would otherwise receive no dental care.

## 1965

**Phyllis Fox Plum**, Director of the Minnesota chapter of the Parents Television Council, was awarded the Ambassador Award at the 2008 Grassroots Conference in Los Angeles, for her work with Dr. Gyorgy Mohay, a Judge of Capital Court in Budapest, Hungary. Due to the quickly expanding media in the new, free nation of Hungary, new challenges are presented to the Court, and Dr. Mohay came to America to research how our laws maintain the airwaves and what role the parents play.

## 1973

**Mary Halek Cherrico** was a member of the first graduating class of the College of Saint Benedict nursing program. She has recently been named Clinic Manager of the Preventive Intervention Center in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Iowa. The Preventive Intervention Center is an academic resource to facilitate studies that evaluate the effectiveness of new

modalities designed to prevent occurrence and progression of disease.

## 1976

The UW-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences presented **Shaun Judge DuVall** with the 2008 Wisconsin Distinguished Agriculturalist Award. This award is given to an individual in the agricultural field who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the agricultural community.

## 1981

**Mary Sapa** was awarded the designation of "Super Agent" by *Mpls/St Paul Magazine* and *Twin Cities Business* for 2008.

## 1986

**Amy Kuebelbeck's** second book, "*A Gift of Time: Continuing Your Pregnancy with a Terminal Prenatal Diagnosis*," is being published by Johns Hopkins University Press. She edits the website [www.perinatalhospice.org](http://www.perinatalhospice.org), speaks at medical conferences around the country, and has been interviewed by media including *The New York Times* and *MSNBC.com*. She also is a part-time liturgical music director at Nativity of Our Lord parish in St. Paul and recently released a CD, *Spiritu*, featuring acoustic worship music ranging from traditional gospel a cappella to contemporary praise and worship. For sound clips and more info, visit [www.spiritumusic.com](http://www.spiritumusic.com).

**Juanita Bauer Ikuta** has earned a doctoral degree with a specialization in instructional design for online learning from Capella University, an accredited, fully online university headquartered in Minneapolis.

## 1989

**Robyn Corcoran Wallner** is now working for The Hartford in Woodbury, MN as the Director of Technical Underwriting.

**Mary Doyscher** received her MA in Education from the College of St. Catherine in May 2008. She is living and teaching high school English at Sibley East High School in Arlington, MN.

## 1997

**Rachel Green Rebman** received a Masters in Teaching from University of St. Thomas on December 15, 2006.

## 1998

**Stephanie Tripp Gholam** won a 2008 Emmy award for her work as a producer of the TV show "Rachael Ray."

## 1999

**Sarah Mechtenberg** accepted a position in Bolivia with the Carmen Pampa Fund. Read about her experiences on her blog: [www.uchumachi.blogspot.com](http://www.uchumachi.blogspot.com).

## 2000

**Laura Bruzek Meiners** recently accepted a position at Mayo Clinic located in Rochester, MN as Research Operations Manager.

## 2001

**Karine Nelson Lewandowski** and her husband Tom Lewandowski '01 are living in La Ceiba, Honduras working at Mazapan School, a bi-lingual 1-12 school. Karine is teaching 4th grade, and Tom is the school Librarian.

**Kathryn Rothstein Minnich** graduated magna cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in May 2008. She accepted a position with Rinke Noonan Attorneys at Law in St. Cloud.

## 2002

**Tiffany Ogle** is filming an episode of "Made" on MTV. Air date will be in August. Keep updated with info at [www.TiffanyOgle.com](http://www.TiffanyOgle.com)

**Megan Enninga Gilles** received a Masters of Arts degree in Liturgical Studies from St. John's University School of Theology on May 11, 2008.

**Anna Selmecki** completed a Ph.D. program at the University of Minnesota for Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology and Genetics. Part of her research used a highly sensitive assay to compare the genomes of drug resistant strains to drug sensitive strains. Selmecki found that a common genomic alteration, an isochromosome, was present in many drug resistant strains and conferred resistance to these strains. This work was published in the journal *Science* (2006). Her research and collaborations have also been published in *Molecular Microbiology* (2005, 2008), *Genetics* (2006), *PLoS Genetics* (2008), and *Eukaryotic Cell* (2007). She was recently awarded the "Outstanding Young Investigator" award from *Eukaryotic Cell* (2008). Selmecki accepted a research position at the



Could 80 be the new 60?, she asks. Eileen Opatz Berger '48 and Dotte Berg Kelm '48 play tennis together twice a week at the Saint Paul Indoor Tennis Club.

Rachel Elisabeth Welle arrived Oct. 8 to proud parents Nicole Needham Welle '98 & Andy Welle. Proud big brother, Nathaniel, and big sister, Abigail, don't even want to go to school or Grandma and Grandpa's because they'll miss her.



Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Harvard Medical School. Her project will use the simplicity of yeast evolution to better understand genomic changes that occur during cancer development and progression.

**Monica Haller** has a BA in peace and conflict studies from Saint Ben's and a MFA in Visual Studies from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. She has received the Upper Midwest Human Right Fellowship, for her collaborative work with Latina youth in Minneapolis and the Jerome Foundation Fellowship for Emerging Artists. She has exhibited in the Twin Cities at The Soap Factory, Soo Visual Art Center, Intermedia Arts and nationally at the University of Notre Dame (South Bend, Ind.) and the Washington Street Art Center (Cambridge, Mass.). She has lectured, taught courses and workshops at Macalester College, the Walker Art Center, the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and the Notre Dame Peace Conference.

**Stephanie Lee**, marketing director for Travel-Quest in Albertville, MN, was awarded ASTA's Young Professional Award during its annual meeting in Orlando. "Stephanie is an excellent example of how the new generation of travel agents is invigorating the industry, bringing with them new ideas and a fresh perspective," said Cheryl Hudak, ASTA president and CEO. Lee began her professional career as a field instructor for Alternative Youth Adventures in Montrose, CO. From there, she was an instructor for Crested Butte Ski Resort and Desert Sun Science Center in Idyllwild, CA. She also taught environmental education for Walden West Outdoor Science School (Saratoga, CA) and then spent time in Uganda, teaching at CALM Orphanage. Since joining TravelQuest in 2007, she has initiated several programs to conserve energy and give back to the global community. Among these programs are: the purchase of wind power from the Wright-Hennepin Cooperative in Minnesota; joining Responsible Minnesota Businesses and Climate Savers Computer Initiative; seeking certification from the Women's Business Enterprise as a company with more than half female ownership; and teaming with Lomas Travel (Cancun, Mexico) to bring school supplies to Cancun's children.

## 2003

**Jennie Scott Lanz** received a Master of Arts in Political Science from University of Colorado in May 2008.

## 2004

**Heidi Ramler** recently accepted a position at the office of Dr. Sieben and Dr. Hedglin located in Melrose MN as a Dentist.

## 2005

**Christine Johnson** writes, "I recently moved to Edinburgh, Scotland, to begin my MSc in Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh."

**Eli Becker Condor** accepted a position at Minnesota Waters ([www.mnwaters.org](http://www.mnwaters.org)) as program coordinator in St. Paul, Minn. Eli organizes events and helps citizens protect and improve Minnesota's lakes and rivers.

## 2007

**Heather Johnson Kruk** recently accepted a position at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center located in Lubbock, TX as a Senior Admissions Evaluator for the School of Nursing.

## 2008

**Rena Rolfsen** recently graduated from the MBA program at Lynn University, Boca Raton, FL and accepted a position as a Graduate Admissions Counselor in the Admissions Office at Lynn University.

## Marriages

- 1986 **Lori Lundstrom** to Eric Pierson, Sept. '08
- 1987 **Kelly Rasmussen** to Eric White, Dec. '07
- 1989 **Stef Meyer** to Eric Frickey, Aug. '08
- 1992 **Christie Rock** to Robert Hantge, March '07
- 1995 **Tori Lee** to Karl Makela, May '08
- 1997 **Rachel Green** to Ryan Rebman, Dec. '07
- 1999 **Anne Rohe** to Jeff Holmberg, June '08
- 2000 **Amy Bowen** to **Mike Halverson** '01, June '08
- 2000 **Jennifer Beech** to David Lohse, May '08
- 2000 **Nicole Kluzak** to Matthew Szbnski, June '08
- 2000 **Jeanne Bonine** to Jordan Wittmayer, March '08
- 2000 **Laura Bruzek** to Mike Meiners, July '07
- 2001 **Sarah Jost** to **Jeremy Sutton** '01, May '08
- 2001 **Heather Hinnenkamp** to Chris Stanley '02, June '07
- 2001 **Karine Nelson** to **Tom Lewandowski** '01, July '07

- 2001 **Anne Dotson** to Aaron Doepner, Aug. '08
- 2001 **Renae Moxey** to Samuel Rolle, March '08
- 2002 **Taryn Good** to **Adam Randall** '00, Oct. '07
- 2002 **Megan Enninga** to Doug Gilles, June '08
- 2002 **Amber Wegwerth** to Dan Ross, Dec. '07
- 2002 **Julie Schilmoeller** to Brian Hickock, July '08
- 2002 **Kara Kuznia** to Shane Nelson, June '07
- 2002 **Jessica Manthie** to Michael Woods, Aug. '08
- 2002 **Becca Pryor** to Phil Jenkins, Oct. '08
- 2002 **Megan Morris** to Zach Bisek, Sept. '08
- 2003 **Kristen Patton** to Josh Bauer, June '08
- 2003 **Laurinda Showen** to Nicholas Brown, May '08
- 2003 **Heidi Schmitz** to Ben Goodreau, Aug. '08
- 2003 **Sarah Hayes** to John Ebeling, Feb. '08
- 2004 **Laura Grote** to Bill Norton, May '08
- 2004 **Jenessa Benke** to Mathew Kraus, June '08
- 2004 **Stephanie Schirmers** to Ben Iverson, July '08
- 2004 **Anne Yager** to Jeff Pogatchnik, July '08
- 2004 **Alissa Keene** to Joshua Theis '04, July '08
- 2004 **Danielle Kelly** to Brodie McKeown, Sept. '08
- 2004 **Kristen Westlund** to Jay Hanson, Sept. '08
- 2004 **Patricia Canik** to **Damien Dumonceaux** '05, July '08
- 2004 **Catherine Brownell** to William Bud Wykoff, Aug. '08
- 2005 **Cassie Benson** to **Maxwell Smith** '06, June '08
- 2005 **Tara Boyer** to **Andrew Brigham** '05, June '08
- 2005 **Marie Vallez** to Ron Reszel, July '08
- 2005 **Mary Weinauer** to Soren Madsen, July '08
- 2005 **Aliesha Dehmer** to Rory Geissler, June '08
- 2005 **Katie Mueller** to **Eric Stinson** '06, Aug. '08
- 2005 **Leah Sinkel** to Mark Petersen, July '08
- 2005 **Maria Salo** to B. P. Jurgens, Sept. '08
- 2005 **Meghan Scully** to Dylan Bindman, July '08

# ALUMNAE MILESTONES

2005 graduates  
Theresa Guentzel and  
T. Matthew Reichert  
married Aug. '08



- 2005 **Ashley Bean** to Mary Lykins, Sept. '08
- 2005 **Lisa Bernardy** to Andy Brown, Oct. '08
- 2005 **Amy Glaeser** to Kyle Hedtke, Sept. '08
- 2005 **Diana Pelant** to **Brian Connelly** '03, Aug. '08
- 2005 **Tamy Yost** to **Eric Anderson** '05, Sept. '08
- 2005 **Meghan Marrinan** to Garrett Feliciano, Aug. '08
- 2006 **Megan Sand** to **Charlie Carr** '03, July '08
- 2006 **Andrea Jurek** to Travis Dahlstrom, July '08
- 2006 **Krysta Arnold** to Jesse Schultz, July '08
- 2006 **Amanda Scholz** to **Bob Willenbring** '05, July '08
- 2006 **Megan Kuhl** to **Seth Stennes** '06, Aug. '08
- 2006 **Tricia Nolan** to **Shaun Meling** '05, Oct. '07
- 2007 **Heather Johnson** to **Michael Kruk** '06, May '08
- 2007 **Kristen Johnson** to **Andy Keegan** '06, June '08
- 2007 **Anna Scheil** to **Morgan Skidmore** '07, June '08
- 2007 **Kaitlin Carr** to Barret Anderson, May '08
- 2007 **Erin Saupe** to **Brian Finley** '06, July '08
- 2007 **Kelly Webster** to **Terrell Ormson** '06, July '08
- 2007 **Kellie McQuade** to **Todd Perry** '07, July '08
- 2007 **Rachel Gerads** to Joseph Melendez, Aug. '08
- 2007 **Elizabeth Donovan** to Eric Meichsner, July '08
- 2007 **Erin Fogle** to **Ben Lauer** '07, Aug. '08
- 2007 **Megan Tiegs** to Nick Forliti '07, Sept. '08
- 2008 **Anna Boevers** to Brett Willhite, Sept. '08
- 2008 **Amy Theisen** to Dan Stang, Sept. '08



## Births

- 1971 **Patricia Sullivan** adopted a girl, Maria Estela, from Guatamala, July '07
- 1989 **Gorette Sloot Hu** & Wilson Hu, Girl, Yvonne, May '08
- 1989 **Pam Landsteiner-de Looze** & G. Jan de Looze, Girl, Ria, Nov. '07
- 1989 **Cathy Diekmann** & Brian Polkinghorn, Boy, Nathan, Oct. '07
- 1990 **Renee Jaspers Anderson** & Paul Anderson, Girl, Erin, March '08
- 1990 **Kelly Connelly Welch** & Dan Welch, Boy, Finnegan, March '08
- 1991 **Suzanne Otte Allen** & Kevin Allen, Girl, Natalie, June '07
- 1991 **Lisa Klaphake Zipp** & Scott Zipp '89, Girl, Hannah, July '08
- 1992 **Erin O'Toole-Tomczik** & Stephen Tomczik, Boy, Jacob, Sept. '08
- 1992 **Christie Rock Hantge** & Robert Hantge, Boy, Jack Finn, July '08
- 1993 **Leslie Drahozal Page** & **Daniel Page** '93, Girl, Flannery, May '08
- 1993 **Kathy Smith Keefe** & Brian Keefe, Boy, Declan, Jan. '08
- 1993 **Molly Quinlivan Schmitz** & Paul Schmitz, Twin Boys, Liam & Brennan, June '08
- 1993 **Heidi Moulzolf Ruth** & **Peter Ruth** '95, Boy, Henry, May '08
- 1993 **Kate Halverson O'Connell** & **Matt O'Connell** '93, Girl, Hanorah, May '08
- 1994 **Sheila Konz Puylear** & Todd Puylear, Girl, Naomi, Jan. '08
- 1994 **Joy Hanson Fischer** & **Chris Fischer** '94, Girl, Evelyn, Sept. '08
- 1995 **Megan Kuznik Anderson** & John Anderson, Twins, Adelyn & Emmett, Sept. '07
- 1995 **Emily Fischer Roering** & **Jason Roering** '95, Girl, Claire, Aug. '08
- 1996 **Maren Bassett** & **Bill Farniok** '94, Girl, Avery, June '08
- 1996 **"Lola" Tanya Olmscheid Johnson** & Dale Johnson, Boy, Davis, June '07
- 1996 **Kay Kofstad Bruni** & **David Bruni** '96, Girl, Sienna, Aug. '08
- 1997 **Angie Schmidt Whitney** & Nate Whitney, Girl, Saeran, June '08
- 1997 **Jill Westhoff Lageson** & Scott Lageson, Boy, Zachary, July '08

- 1997 **Stacy Opatz Ensweiler** & Mike Ensweiler, Boy, Brett, May '08
- 1997 **Linnea Louis Finney** & Curtis Finney, Boy, Rowan, July '08
- 1998 **Mary VanTassel Williams** & **David Williams** '98, Girl, Brynn, June '08
- 1998 **Kristin Koos Olson** & Michael Olson, Girl, Anya, June '08
- 1998 **Heidi Mies Kelly** & Matthew Kelly, Girl, Irelynn, May '08
- 1998 **Angela Broskoff Klemmensen** & Cory Klemmensen, Girl, Attley, April '08
- 1998 **Julie Willard Shannon** & Chad Shannon, Girl, Avery, July '08
- 1998 **Katie Hagen Cheney** & John Cheney, Girl, Lily, Nov. '07
- 1998 **Jennifer Siebenaler Metz** & Joel Metz, Girl, Lucy, Feb. '08
- 1998 **Jeanette Miranowski Burke** & Troy Burke, Boy, Nathaniel, Oct. '08
- 1999 **Jody Peterson Manderfeld** & Anthony Manderfeld, Girl, Allison, Jan '08
- 1999 **Rebecca Maly Schimming** & **Chris Schimming** '99, Girl, Sadie, July '08
- 1999 **Rebecca Hulm Kassekert** & Kevin Kassekert, Girl, Sydney, Jan. '08
- 1999 **Bobbi Stotz Scherping** & Alvin Scherping, Girl, Danielle, July '08
- 1999 **Michelle Williams Kramer** & Norb Kramer, Girl, Emily, June '08
- 1999 **Jennifer Sexton Miller** & **Aaron Miller** '01, Boy, Isaac, December '07
- 1999 **Leah Huesing Anklam** & Robert Anklam, Boy, Owen, June '08
- 1999 **Elise Gentz Wercinski** & Darren Wercinski, Boy, Brody, Feb. '08
- 1999 **Melissa Prom Passe** & **Chad Passe** '96, Girl, Audrina, Feb. '08
- 2000 **Kristi Merten** & Steve Merten, Girl, Jackie, July '08
- 2000 **Jessica Fena Koland** & Brian Koland, Girl, Kenedi, July '08
- 2000 **Mara Mohs Stelzer** & Troy Stelzer, Girl, Rowan, June '08
- 2000 **Katrina Lusty Buetow** & **Daniel Buetow** '99, Boy, Trey, Aug. '08
- 2000 **Heather Schmitt Johnson** & **Michael Johnson** '00, girl, Hallie, June '08
- 2000 **Jennifer Kraker Harris** & Richard Harris, Boy, Walker, Aug. '08

Heidi Hoeschen Jackson '93 & Keith Jackson welcomed Elizabeth, April '08



In August, Bennies, their Moms, and staff members from the college joined forces on a Habitat for Humanity project. Back row: Emilie Poindexter '05, Andrea Schlenner Friend '04, Ranette Holmseth of CSB, Angela Wiering Kaczrowski '04, Kenna Caughey '04. Front row: Terri Poindexter (mom of '05), Kelila Kasim '03, Heidi Everett, CSB, and Jenny Caughey (mom of '04).

In addition to skillfully wielding power tools, the team raised \$2,850.



- 2000 **Colleen Coleman Dickie** & Paul Dickie, Boy, Theodore, Aug. '08
- 2000 **Nancy Dahlheimer Hardy** & Mike Hardy, Boy, Alexander, June '08
- 2000 **Chrissy Lee Baune** & Chris Baune, Boy, Niklas, June '08
- 2000 **Melissa Menke Belling & Chad Belling** '00, Girl, Zoe, May '08
- 2001 **Ann Sahr Woltman** & Troy Woltman, Boy, Myles, June '08
- 2001 **Katie Rothstein Minnich & Tony Minnich** '00, Boy, Oliver, June '08
- 2001 **Kara Richter Lomen & Adam Lomen** '02, Girl, Lauren, May '08
- 2001 **Kim Klecker Porter** & Sean Porter, Boy, Nolan, Nov. '07
- 2001 **Rebecca Larson Gierok** & Daniel Gierok, Girl, Eva, June '08
- 2001 **Elaine Keppers Thelen** & Jason Thelen, Boy, August '08
- 2001 **Jessie Ahlschlager Sandoval** & Jesus Sandoval, Boy, Andres, July '08
- 2001 **Emily Yanez Suedbeck & Chris Suedbeck** '01, Boy, Anthony, Nov. '07
- 2002 **Lora Harris Smith & Brandon Smith** '02, Girl, Addie, Jan. '08
- 2002 **Katie Studer Roers & Brian Roers** '01, Boy, Charlie, Feb. '08
- 2002 **Allison Notermann Mertz** & Christian Mertz, Girl, Keira, March '07
- 2002 **Theresa Brine Hennis** & Scott Hennis, Girl, Cecelia, August '08
- 2002 **Kim Lendway McKenzie** & Josh McKenzie, Boy, Caden, Sept. '08
- 2002 **Sally Gillson Reinitz** & Josh Reinitz, Boy, Miles, July '08
- 2002 **Jennifer Bernardy Sylvester** & Tim Sylvester, Boy, Alexander, July '08
- 2002 **Michelle Kelash Hemmesch & Michael Hemmesch** '97, Boy, William, Aug. '08
- 2003 **Beth Patefield Willenbring** & Henry Willenbring, Boy, Matthew, July '08
- 2003 **Sarah Hayes** & John Ibeling, Girl, Lorelei, July '08
- 2003 **Angie Niehaus Mareck** & Gary Mareck, Girl, Katelyn, March '07
- 2003 **Sara Larson Sawdey & Charlie Sawdey** '04, Boy, Sawyer, Aug. '08
- 2003 **Ann Cushman Berendes & Gabriel Berendes** '03, Boy, Edward, July '08

- 2004 **Alison Boser Posch** & Keith Posch, Boy, Nathan, July '08
- 2004 **Bridget Mursu Weller** & Brad Weller, Girl, Audrey, April '08
- 2004 **Ellen Link Jewison** & Davis Jewison, Girl, Lauren, August '08
- 2004 **Emily Tesch Doehling** & Nathaniel Doehling, Girl, Ella, April '08
- 2004 **Katie Taber Nadeau** & Joshua Nadeau, Boy, Benaiah, April '08
- 2004 **Ann Gunville Singewald** & Phil Singewald, Boy, John, Sept. '08
- 2005 **Jen Hitzemann Thamert & Gerald Thamert** '04, Girl, Audrey, April '08
- 2005 **Heather Parker Plumski** & Jamie Plumski, Boy, Connor, Sept. '08
- 2006 **Laura Krippner Gorder** & John Gorder, Girl, Gabrielle, July '08
- 2006 **Tricia Nolan Meling & Shaun Meling** '05, Boy, Nolan, July '08
- 2007 **Rachel Gerads Melendez** & Joseph Melendez, Girl, Layla, July '08

### In memoriam

- 1938 Jean Peters Bergquist, May '08
- 1941 Margaret Smart, July '08
- 1942 Helen Summers Rausch, June '08
- 1945 Lloyd "Bud" Johnson, spouse of M. Maxine Binek Johnson, Sept. '08
- 1948 Muriel Bergeron Harrison, June '08
- 1949 Raymond Shirley, spouse of Charlotte Brantl Shirley, July '08
- 1951 Christopher Colby, son of Naida Thul Colby '51, March. '08
- 1952 Elaine Bergeron Grossman, Jan. 03
- 1954 Everett Kulas '43, brother of Luanne Kulas Coy, Sept. '08
- 1954 Connie Thelen, sister of Lorraine Fenno Wieser, Sept. '08
- 1959 Wilma Bormann, mother of Dianne Bormann Mahoney, Aug. '08
- 1961 Bertrum McCarthy, brother of Briana McCarthy, June '08
- 1961 Mary Frank Thomas, June '08
- 1962 Lucy Steiner, sister of Mary Steiner Graf, Sept. '08
- 1962 Emma Schweighofer, mother of Jeanette Schweighofer Ollig, Aug. '08
- 1963 Wilma Bormann, mother of Rosemary Bormann Froehle, Aug. '08
- 1963 John Weis, brother of Marcia Weis

- Pletcher, Aug. '08
- 1964 Sr. Delise Bialke, July '08
- 1964 Emma Schweighofer, mother of Maryterese Schweighofer Synsteliem, Aug. '08
- 1965 Richard Quatralo, husband of Diane (Riesgraf) Quatralo, May '08
- 1967 Paul Hemmelgarn '58, brother of Rita Hemmelgarn Deutsch, June '08
- 1967 Paul Hemmelgarn '58, spouse of Mildred Brennan Hemmelgarn, June '08
- 1968 Patricia Willmert, mother of Mary Jane Willmert Farley, May '08
- 1968 Rebecca Komarek Gurdak, Aug. '08
- 1969 Florence Crawford, mother of Kathy Crawford Roberts, June '08
- 1969 Ethel Boller, mother of Yvonne Boller Nelson, Aug. '08
- 1969 Jerry Boller, brother of Yvonne Boller Nelson, Feb. '08
- 1970 Terry Herzog Anderson, Dec. '07
- 1971 Betty Giebenhain, mother of Cathy Giebenhain Pazandak, Sept. '08
- 1972 Dorothy Ciernia, mother of Karen Ciernai McKenzie, June '08
- 1972 Wilma Bormann, mother of Carol Bormann Kapsen, Aug. '08
- 1973 Patricia Willmert, mother of Bridget Willmert Boik, May '08
- 1973 Joseph Dolezal, father of Sharon Dolezal Klinkhammer, June '08
- 1973 Leona Landwehr, mother of Ann Landwehr Wilson, June '08
- 1973 Enoch Dillon, father of M. Christine Dillon McConnell, Aug. '08
- 1973 Charlotte Ries, mother of Catherine Ries Connoley, Sept. '08
- 1974 Virginia Peick, mother of Paula Peick Barry, Aug. '08
- 1974 Claire Stangler, mother of Maureen Stangler Skramstad, Aug. '08
- 1975 Robert Stringer, father of Mary Beth Stringer Hughes, Sept. '08
- 1977 James Lause, father of Reta Lause Anderson, April '08
- 1977 James O'Toole, father of Peggy O'Toole-Martin, July '08
- 1977 Earl Kaufman, father of Susan Kaufman Utecht, Sept. '08
- 1977 Blanche Butler, mother of Emily Butler Lockhart, Sept. '08

# ALUMNAE MILESTONES

1977	Phyllis Griffin, mother of Norine Griffin Hartman, Dec. '07	1986	Jean Kershner, mother of Anne Tollefson Korsen, Aug. '08
1978	Joseph Dolezal, father of Darlene Dolezal Helker, June '78	1987	David Fischer, brother of Paula Fischer Zilka, July '08
1978	Theresa Person, mother of Deborah Schultz-Fidali, June '08	1987	William Kelner, father of Janis Kelner Wassmund, Sept. '08
1978	David Hylla, brother of Michelle Hylla Eggan, Aug. '08	1988	Beatrice Goossen, mother of Sharon Goossen Munter, July '08
1979	Alice Leach, mother of Theresa Leach Hamer, July '08	1988	David Roth, brother of Jennifer Roth Ashwill, Aug. '08
1979	Charles Keenan '44, father of Mary Keenan Miller, Sept. '08	1989	Barbara Turner, mother of Catherine Turner Dwyer, June '08
1979	Robert Stringer, father of Ann Stringer Roth, Sept. '08	1989	Loretta Weske, mother of Ann Weske Thiel, May '08
1980	Aaron Kelzer, son of Colleen Boll Kelzer, July '08	1989	Margaret Rosenberger, mother of Rita Rosenberger, Sept.'08
1980	Phyllis Griffin, mother of Joanie Griffin Nordin, Dec. '07	1989	Bernie Archbold, father of Jane Archbold Bock, Sept. '08
1981	Michael Gerdts, father of Diane Gerdts Hovey, June '08	1990	Theresa Person, mother of Colleen Schultz Hamilton, June '08
1981	Maureen Stocker, mother of Kathy Scheffler Witherow, July '08	1990	Michael Olson, father of Lori Olson Ellena, July '08
1981	David Roth, brother of Gretchen Roth Kittok, Aug. '08	1990	Eugene Froehling, father of Lisa Froehling, Aug. '08
1982	David Fischer, brother of Lynn Fischer Tchida, July '08	1990	Sara Stich DeKoster, Aug. '08
1982	Charles Krump, father of Sharon Krump Litch, Nov. '07	1991	Elizabeth Hope Reichert, daughter of Tracey Gels Reichert, July '08
1982	Mary Krump, mother of Sharon Krump Litch, July '08	1991	Kathleen Gels, mother of Tracey Gels Reichert, July '08
1983	Mickey Remitz, mother of Colleen Remitz Grant, July '08	1991	Dorothy Sellner, mother of Lori Sellner, Sept. '08
1984	Norman Meyer, father of Mary Meyer Scafidi, June '08	1992	James O'Toole, father of Erin O'Toole-Tomczik, July '08
1984	Eugene Long, father of Joan Long Frerich, July '08	1994	Joseph Lieser, father of Tina Lieser Burbach, June '08
1984	John Hoffner, father of Julie Hoffner Meyer, July '08	1996	Walter Guzik, father of Catherine Jo Guzik, July '08
1984	Richard Bastien, father of Joan Bastien, July '08	1997	Michael Johnson, father of Jill Johnson Schroepfer, July '08
1984	Bernie Archbold, father of Pam Archbold Kuhr, Sept. '08	1998	Rhall Pope, father of Michaela Pope Henkelmann, Aug. '08
1985	Margaret Rosenberger, mother of Susan Rosenberger Ingebrigtsen, Sept. '08	1998	Joseph Hoffmann, brother of Jill Hoffmann Fussy, Aug. '08
1985	James Seykora, father of Anna Seykora Riester, March '08	1998	Nathaniel Burke, infant son of Jeanette Miranowski Burke, Oct. '08
1986	Deborah Curry	1999	Mike Pawlyshyn, father of Sarah Pawlyshyn, June '08
1986	Patricia Kucera, mother of Joanne Kucera Pinsonneault, July '08	2001	Mary Maurer, mother of Katy Maurer, July '08
1986	Claire Stangler, mother of Carol Stangler, Aug. '08	2002	Michael Olson, father of Susie Olson Sivongsay, July '08
1986	James Seykora, father of Mary Sykora Drew, March '08	2003	Gary Webb, father of Jenna Webb Pulley, Sept. '08

# "I'M A BENNIE"

## Risky business

### Please describe your work:

I am in the business of selecting and pricing risk. Everybody does this on a daily basis without recognizing it as "underwriting." Consider decisions we make on where to live, the work we do, and how we allocate money and free time. Consciously or not, we are making choices based on the strengths and risks associated with each choice.

In my work, I am choosing which companies to insure based upon answers to questions, Does the business idea make sense and do I trust the company will execute their plans? Do they have the financial strength for the long haul? What is the experience and track record of the senior management team?

After deciding if it makes sense to insure a company, I make a recommendation or a decision on how much coverage Chubb should provide, and at what price. At that point we negotiate, and the end product is a contract that fulfills the needs of all parties.

### How did you end up doing what you are doing?

I wanted to work for a company with a great reputation, and in a capacity that allowed me to utilize the analytical skills I developed in

# for this Bennie Underwriter



Gregor Nelson '04  
Underwriter, San Francisco

college. I knew of Chubb's reputation as a large insurer with an international presence, and one that had a strong set of values with a commitment to quality, service, and ethics. I secured an interview at the Minnesota Private College Job Fair. After my initial interview, I was referred to a position in Chubb's Chicago office.

The timing of the interview was concurrent with finals week, so I was concerned about whether I should go. I shared my concerns with Economics Professor Louis Johnston, and he was supportive and encouraging.

I felt energized by the people I met at Chubb, and with all of the support I had from my family, friends, and professors, it felt like the right decision to accept the job offer.

## **Which aspects of your CSB experience have helped you in your achievements?**

I really enjoyed working in Career Services for four years. It was a great group of people, and having so much exposure to the tools of the Career Resource Center was invaluable.

The broad liberal arts education gave me opportunities to learn

about subjects outside of my major, and the respect for community is a value that I frequently reflect upon and try to integrate into my life. I also appreciate that I keep in touch with professors and administrators who I worked with; I find that is unique even among people I know who went to smaller colleges/universities.

## **What is rewarding about your work?**

I love the intellectual challenge of working with our clients, product managers, claims examiners, and general counsel to craft contract wording that addresses exposures that are unique to each customer.

I also love meeting with clients and asking the right questions to get the information I need to deliver a proposal that is mutually satisfying to the customer and to Chubb. There are many steps to the process, and it's exciting to see all the pieces come together.

## **What does the public typically misunderstand about your work?**

Before my current role, I did not know the different types of insurance that are available. One of the first questions I usually get is

whether I sell auto or health insurance because these are the types of insurance that consumers deal with frequently. Working in this industry has helped me to understand what an important role insurance plays on many levels in society.

The primary type of insurance that I underwrite is Directors and Officers insurance for privately held companies and not-for-profit organizations. When individuals serve as Directors or Officers of an organization, their personal assets can be exposed in a lawsuit brought against them by shareholders, employees, regulators, or competitors. The products that I offer give these people the peace of mind to perform their duties. Without that level of protection, it could be difficult for organizations to attract and retain the most talented individuals to serve on their board of directors.

## **Do you have any advice for current students?**

Advice that I have received and found helpful is to ask a lot of questions and to read as much as you can. The internet makes so much information available to us, so I try to take advantage of learning as much as possible.



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"A headlong explosion of poetry, percussion, and multi-culti musical exploration that absolutely demands to be seen."

– *Village Voice*



## Universes

Saturday, January 24, 7:30 p.m.

Benedicta Arts Center of the  
College of Saint Benedict

Live from the Edge: Universes, a Bronx-based ensemble, pioneered the hip-hop theater movement - fusing poetry, theater, jazz, hip-hop, social issues, down-home blues, and Spanish boleros to create provocative, entertaining theater. This "best of" performance showcases the ensemble's special brand of fusion theater.

*Note: this performance contains adult language.*

**Get your tickets: [www.csbsju.edu/finearts](http://www.csbsju.edu/finearts) or 320.363.5777**