

community

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

Campus Talks Focus on Future

prepared by Glenda Isaacs Burgeson
Community editor

Campus discussions are under way focusing on the strategic direction of CSB/SJU for 2010. The conversations are an elaboration of the Fall Workshop on Building an Academic Ethos, the Presidents' Forum last month which outlined strategic directions, and the discussion document, "Strategic Directions 2010: Creating a Position of Direction and Distinction," which can be accessed in the public folder "Strategic Directions 2010" in Outlook.

As directed by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents, the presidents are seeking input from the campus communities through these conversations as they prepare a more detailed strategic directions framework to prepare our institutions for the realities of a new marketplace. That framework will be submitted to the boards for consideration at their Dec. 3 meeting.

Changing demographics and changing

economics are key factors that require new strategies for how our institutions recruit and retain students and prepare them for leadership within a changing world. Research indicates that colleges can anticipate a decline in the number of high school graduates in Minnesota and the region, and an increasingly diverse college-age population that will require more financial assistance. These changes will intensify competition among institutions of higher education for both students and resources.

In keeping with the CSB/SJU aspiration to provide a premier Catholic, undergraduate, liberal arts experience, the strategic agenda has identified the key components that as a whole comprise the distinctive CSB/SJU undergraduate experience. These components — liberal learning, residential learning, gender development, and spiritual development — and, by implication, the policy directions they require will help CSB/SJU secure recognition in a national market.

The discussion document, "Strategic Directions 2010," presents each of these components as an overall design detailing the context for strategic action, key issues and implications. As discussions about these designs continue, community participants are asked to brainstorm about how to strengthen and streamline each design and identify specific priorities for action.

Participants also are discussing a student composition design, which addresses the admission outlook for private colleges within a highly competitive, and shrinking, state and regional enrollment environment, and a financial design to accommodate growing financial pressures.

Ideas, comments, insights from these campus conversations will be used to articulate the strategic directions framework which will be presented for board action in December.

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Inspired Learning. Inspiring Lives.

Marketing and Communications Consultant Receives Saint John's Alumni's Highest Honor

Bob Wicker, a 1964 graduate of SJU, received the Fr. Walter Reger Distinguished Alumnus Award at the SJU Alumni Association Homecoming Banquet on Sept. 24. The award recognizes outstanding service to the Saint John's community and is the highest honor given by the Alumni Association.

Wicker, 62, who held various marketing positions at H.B. Fuller Company for 15 years, has been principal of a marketing communications consultancy and broker of creative services at Wicker & Company Creative in St. Paul for 22 years. Additionally, for the past four years he has been affiliated with Morris & Company Advertising of Minneapolis.

He has held the position of class agent at SJU for several terms over 40 years as an alumnus. He has written articles for the *Saint John's Magazine*, enthusiastically worked on fund-raising drives, was active in reunion planning and capital campaigns and served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

For more than a decade, Wicker has been writing, editing and publishing the e-mailed *Unofficial Unauthorized Underground SJU Newsletter*. These witty, endearing and informative reports may be Wicker's most widely-known service to Saint John's.

The Fr. Walter Reger Award is named after the longtime secretary of the Saint John's Alumni Association. Known as "Mr. Saint John's," Fr. Walter Reger, OSB, was a dean, history professor, prefect, member of the University orchestra and purveyor of Johnnie Bread. He befriended hundreds of Saint John's students and kept up personal correspondence with many of them after they graduated. Reger died in 1971, and the Alumni Association Board of Directors launched the award program later that year. Wicker is the 35th alumnus to receive the award.

CSB Begins 'Politics vs. Religion' Discussion Series

The Koch Chair in Catholic Thought and Culture and CSB Campus Ministry initiated a discussion series, "Politics vs. Religion," on Sept. 22, with a panel discussion titled "Church, Mosque and Temple — Inter-religious Voices," on the CSB campus. During the discussion, representatives of the Muslim, Jewish, Catholic and Episcopalian traditions addressed the question "How does your faith influence your political decisions?"

Future topics in the series include "The Vital Vote? Catholics and the 2004 Election," featuring Joe Feuerherd, a Washington correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter, on Oct. 28; and "Beyond the Election — What Now?" presented on April 14, speaker to be announced.

These events will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Alumnae Hall in the Haehn Campus Center on the CSB campus and are free and open to the public.

This series will provide principles, ethical values and dialogue from different faith perspectives, which can help inform and form individual conscience to make an educated decision during the election process and beyond.

For more information, contact Patricia Cespedes-Schueller at 363-5806 or at pcespedes@csbsju.edu.

Faculty/Staff News

Academic Advising welcomes **Amy VanSurksum** to their team. She will serve all students and faculty as a general academic advisor, and her focus area is with CSB and SJU international students. Her office is in the SJU Academic Advising Office in Quad 155. Please refer any academic concerns with regard to our international students directly to her.



VanSurksum

She brings six years of experience with international students to her present position. She received her bachelor's degree in Russian studies and international relations from Concordia College in Moorhead in 1997. While serving as international student adviser/admission specialist at North Dakota State University, she completed coursework for a master's degree in social and behavioral sciences with an anthropology emphasis at NDSU. Her pending thesis titled "Public School Education and the Preservation of Russian Old Believer Culture in North-western Minnesota" is in progress. In addition to active membership in NAFSA, she has had a number of travel abroad experiences and conference presentations on a variety of topics related to international students.

MPR Economics Correspondent Visits Campus

Chris Farrell, chief economics correspondent for Minnesota Public Radio, visited CSB/SJU last month for two days, speaking with students in classes taught by Louis Johnston, assistant professor of economics, and giving a public lecture. His visit was arranged by Johnston. Farrell hosts a public television show on personal finance and writes for the online edition of Business Week. He is a graduate of Stanford University and The London School of Economics.

Anna Thompson, CSB/SJU executive director of Fine Arts was part of Dance/USA's delegation to the International Dance Festival, "Tanzmesse," in Dusseldorf, Germany, and the Netherlands Dance Days in Maastricht. Her attendance was funded by a Jerome Foundation administrative travel grant, and the NEA. Thompson was elected to the national board of directors of DANCE/USA this past June.

Thorpe Running, Regents Professor, modern and classical languages, presented a paper, "Humor en la poesia de Alfredo Veiravé," at the Encuentro Nacional de Poesia (National Poetry Convention) in Buenos Aires in August. The paper was about humor as a poetic strategy to avoid the doldrums of postmodern poetry.

Herb Trenz, CSB/SJU director of human resources, has been elected the 2004 -05 board chairperson for the Midwest Region of CUPA-HR, an organization of higher education human resource professionals. The Midwest Region represents approximately 400 higher education institutions with 1,700 individual members in 12 states.

Stuart Perry, director of financial aid for SJU, presented a session titled "Teaching Students about Money Management" at the annual conference of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. The conference took place in July at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Along with the directors of financial aid from St. Olaf College and Metropolitan Community College of Kansas City (Mo.), Perry shared strategies he employs when conducting money management presentations for soon-to-be college graduates. Over the past three years at SJU, he has teamed up with the Personal and Professional Development Center to offer sessions on basic money management for seniors preparing to enter the work force.

Theresa Vann, the Joseph S. Micallef Curator of the Malta Study Center (HMML), presented a paper titled "The Language of Holy War" at the meeting of the Society for the Study of the Crusades in the Latin East in Istanbul, Turkey, Aug. 27. Last month, she left on a Fulbright Fellowship to the University of Malta, where she will spend five months teaching archival research, organization and preservation while advising on the creation of a diploma course in archival preservation.

Rick Saucier, assistant professor of management, presented a paper titled "The Application of Experiential Learning in Marketing Courses" at the 2004 Marketing Management Fall Educators' Conference in St. Louis on Sept. 17. He also coordinated and facilitated a panel session on implementing experiential learning in marketing courses with five senior colleagues from campuses around the country at the same conference.

The Welcome Mat:

We welcome the following to the CSB/SJU community:

Kori Fitschen, Psychology

Brian Schreiner, Physical Plant

John Adix, Personal and Professional

Development

Sarah Gainey, Arboretum

Christopher Hausmann, Service Learning

Cristina Castro, Modern and Classical

Languages

Miguel Diaz, Theology

Margrette Newhouse, Management

Sylvia Parsons, Modern and Classical

Languages

Amy Vansurksun, Academic Advising

Zora Gobatz, Dining Service

Amanda Murphy, Athletics

Rhonda Mielke, Food Service

Jennifer Alexander, Residential Life

Jon Anderson, Transportation

Laura Lyndgaard, Theater

Marsha Woolcott, Food Service

Jon Armajani, Theology

Kevin Barber, Economics

Warren Bostrom, Accounting

Kari-Shane Davis, Theology

Janelle Hinchley, Social Work

Thomas Nicolas Jones, Chemistry

Teri Larson Krubsack, Music

Basel Saleh, Economics

Caroline Singler, Geology

Chis Stangl, Political Science

Julie Strelow, Nursing

Farewell to Friends:

Willie Marthaler, Food Service

Jean Schwegel, Food Service

Bill Weiss Jr., Security

Michelle Kluge, Development

Annette Auer, Dining Service

Marco Lara, Dining Service

Daniel Bruemmer, Custodial Services

Clayton Jacobson, Physical Plant

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Deadline for November issue is October 24.

To share your information and story ideas, simply
e-mail them directly to Community at: community
@csbsju.edu.

Cancer Awareness Month

by Diane Veale Jones, director, Healthy Learning Community, and professor of nutrition

According to the American Cancer Society, in 2003, there were an estimated 21,900 new cases of cancer in Minnesota. Fortunately, there are preventive actions that people can take to lower the risk of cancer.

The Harvard Center for Cancer Prevention offers an interactive Web site that helps people identify their risk for cancer, but, more importantly, provides ways to reduce the risk of 12 types of cancer. For each type of cancer, the individual completes a brief online questionnaire, receives an assessment of risk level, and views individualized suggestions to reduce the risk of that cancer. The information provided at the site indicates that "Anyone can use it, but it's most accurate for people age 40 and over who have never had any type of cancer."

The types of cancers included at the Web site are:

- Bladder
- Breast
- Cervical
- Colon
- Kidney
- Lung
- Melanoma
- Ovarian
- Pancreatic
- Prostate
- Stomach
- Uterine

Steps:

1. Click on one of the 12 cancers.

For example, clicking on "Colon Cancer" reveals a brief online questionnaire that asks about gender, age, height and weight, medical history, diet, alcohol consumption, physical activity and family history.

2. Answer the questionnaire.

The questionnaire takes under five minutes to complete.

3. Receive a risk assessment compared to other women or me.

Risk levels are identified as low, average or high, with three degrees of risk indicated for both the low and high categories. A color-coded bar graph indicates the individual's risk and the lowest possible risk.

4. Read suggestions to help reduce the risk of the cancer

One suggestion was to take an aspirin 4-6 times a week after checking with one's health professional.

5. Read practical tips to implement the suggestions

The tips are referenced and linked to the appropriate source for additional information.

Visit the Harvard Center for Cancer Prevention at <http://www.yourdisease.risk.harvard.edu/> [The site also provides the same information for Diabetes, Heart Disease, Osteoporosis and Stroke]

Other sources for cancer prevention suggestions:

American Cancer Society
<http://www.cancer.org/docroot/home/index.asp>

The MayoClinic.com
<http://www.mayoclinic.com/>

Editor's note: Each month, the Healthy Learning Community and the Partners for Healthy Learning promote a health theme to the CSB and SJU campuses. These groups are involved in the promotion of physical, intellectual, emotional, social, occupational and spiritual health. To learn more about the Healthy Learning Community and the Partners for Healthy Learning, please visit the Web site at <http://www.csbsju.edu/extending/projects.htm>